

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRAS OF GREAT BRITAIN

England & Wales · Charity number 803026

Details

Other names THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [02471385](#)

Registered 1990-03-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND IN PARTICULAR TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN MUSIC AND ORCHESTRAL PLAYING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS THROUGH THE FORMATION OF AN ORCHESTRA OR ORCHESTRAS COMPOSED OF SUCH PERSONS.

Activities: To advance education and in particular to advance the education and training in music and orchestral playing of children and young persons

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£1,672,179	£1,694,890	£1,110,975	15
2024-12-31	£2,000,813	£1,570,064	£1,133,686	15
2023-12-31	£1,546,483	£1,517,339	£702,937	15
2022-12-31	£1,322,878	£1,355,321	£672,440	12
2021-12-31	£741,840	£735,852	£639,263	8
2020-12-31	£382,797	£555,827	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Mears Esswood		2024-12-12
Alistair Butt		2025-05-06
Bethany Anne Higham-Edwards		2021-07-02
Charlotte Moar		2026-05-07
Christine Wu		2021-07-02
Christopher Ladkin		2026-05-07
Clare Jack		2025-05-06
Dr Chinyereugo Uchenna Ngwe		2022-06-06
Dr Kadiatu Gwyneth Kanneh-Mason		2021-07-02
Laetitia Stott		2022-06-06
Lucy Wolcott Maguire		2021-07-02
Mark Swift		2026-05-07
Michael Eakin		2026-05-07
Roger Tomlinson		2024-12-12
Sophie Jerrold		2025-05-06
Stuart Burns		2024-12-12

Accounts



National
Children's
Orchestras



Annual report 2025

Play together.
Be unstoppable.

contents

About National Children's Orchestras	04
Trustee Annual Report 2025	
Introduction	06
2025 highlights	07
NCO Young Musicians 2025	09
Auditioned Activities	11
Non-Auditioned Activities	15
Artistic Development	18
Wellbeing and Environmental	28
Communications	32
Fundraising	34
Future Plans	37
Statement of Public Benefit	39
Governance Structure and Management and risk	40
Financial Sustainability	43
Financial Review	46
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	49
Independent Auditors Report	50
Annual Accounts 2025	55
Thanks yous	80
Charity information	87

"I never thought I could play Jupiter, but now I can, and my Dad is going to be so proud."

Orchestral Weeks member, aged 13

"Thank you so much, if ever your job feels difficult, just know that yesterday was possibly one of his favourite in his almost 12 years. He has waited so long to be involved at a level like this, and absolutely loved his experience with you all."

Parent of an Orchestral Days young musician

"I can't thank you enough for the enormous part you and the NCO team have played in the musical journey of our family over the past 6 years. They have played phenomenal music and made friends for life."

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member

About NCO

Vision

To be a household name, known for inspiring children nationwide through a vibrant music community that nurtures potential and opens doors.

Purpose

To champion the life-changing power of music.

Mission

Together, we are using the power of music to create a supportive community that enriches lives.



Our Values

Dare to Dream

We believe no dream is too big.

When we're free to dream, explore, create and play, the world opens up. In music and in life, dream big – you never know what incredible things you'll discover along the way.

Strength of Spirit

We believe orchestral music shapes skills and hearts.

Orchestral music is a wondrous world that nurtures empathy, resilience, and the courage to face whatever life throws our way. It builds strength of spirit, deepening connections to ourselves and the world around us.

Every Voice Matters

We believe everyone has their own brilliance.

Everyone has a unique potential waiting to shine. In a supportive, inclusive environment, we can discover our own brilliance, find our voice, and grow in confidence and creativity.

The Power of Us

We believe in the power of community.

Our power lies in our unity; we grow together, support each other, and become something greater as one.

Trustee Annual report 2025

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the National Children's Orchestras **Trustees Annual Report 2025**. This year has been extraordinary in both scale and spirit, as more children than ever discovered the joy, challenge and transformative power of making music together. Across our auditioned and non-auditioned programmes, 2025 has shown us—again—that when children are given space to explore their creativity, surrounded by support and inspiration, they achieve remarkable things.

We are immensely proud to have reached 2,240 children through our activities this year, with a 37% increase in those experiencing our free, non-auditioned opportunities. Their energy and curiosity filled rehearsal rooms, concert and school halls across the UK, from first-time ensemble players to young musicians shaping ambitious orchestral performances.

Our commitment to equity and inclusion continues to deepen, reflected in our new strategy to nearly double the number of children we reach by 2028 – especially those in state education and through our partnership work to widen access for disabled young musicians.

Musically, 2025 has been a vibrant celebration of imagination and diversity. With 72 works performed, two new commissions, and programming that spanned environmental themes, film music, new arrangements and orchestral masterpieces, our young musicians embraced every moment with courage and creativity.

We are grateful for the continued trust and generosity of Arts Council England, our supporters, partners, families and the many individuals who make NCO's work possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive musical future—one where every child can dream big, find their voice, and be unstoppable.

– Louise Mitchell – Chair of Trustees

2025 highlights



2025 highlights

- 1** 2,240 children in total engaged in NCO activities during the year, an increase of 37% compared to 2024.
- 2** Of these, 1,574 children aged 4-16 years took part in NCO's free, non-auditioned activities including schools' concerts, workshops and Orchestral Days delivered in partnership with Music Hubs and other music education providers.
- 3** 1,068 online auditions were submitted for 2026 Orchestral Weeks and Weekends, the highest number of total applicants in over a decade, demonstrating the increasing need and value placed on NCO's programmes by children, parents and teachers across the UK.
- 4** Our EDI Action Plan is now fully embedded in our new 3-year growth strategy (2026-2028), prioritising opportunity and diversity with pledges to nearly double the number of children reached by 2028 and increase representation from children in state school in auditioned programmes.
- 5** Our team completed the Accessible Musical Progression Toolkit as a test partner, co-designed with Open Up Music, aiming to increase access for more young disabled musicians to take part in mainstream orchestral experiences.
- 6** A huge range and diversity of music was performed across all activities – 72 pieces including two new commissions (*Bang & Bhumi*) by four composers as part of the diversity-led ABRSM composers' scheme as well as new orchestral arrangements and body percussion pieces.
- 7** Increased focus on environmental responsibility through programming across the year, including *There's No Planet B* concert presented by TV personality and environmentalist Naomi Wilkinson at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, four themed concerts by Weekend Orchestras based on *Our Universe, Our Planet, Our World* featuring a new body percussion piece by Greg Beardsell – *Rethink, Reduce, Recycle, Repair, Reuse*.
- 8** 12 students took part in NCO's Tutor Experience Placements and 25 took part as Insights Placements, demonstrating NCO's commitment to supporting the next generation of music educators and enhancing its partnerships across Higher Education.
- 9** 7 NCO Orchestras performed 15 concerts, in Basingstoke, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Portsmouth, Manchester, Shrewsbury and London, to 4,500 audience members and our first pre-concert workshop at The Anvil, Basingstoke, sold out.
- 10** Successful launch of our new brand and website, the culmination of a yearlong consultation project with all stakeholders resulting in invitation to present our case study in brand co-creation with Morris Hargreaves Mclntyre at the Arts Marketing Association Annual Conference in Edinburgh.

NCO young Musicians 2025



664

children aged 8-14 years were part of NCO's auditioned Orchestral Weeks (previously National programme) and auditioned Orchestral Weekends (previously Projects programme) in 2025.

We celebrate the diversity of our membership because it makes our orchestras and organisation better. In our 2025 auditioned orchestras (Orchestral Weeks and Orchestral Weekends):

59%

392 (59%) are from a global majority background.

68

We supported 68 children through our Financial Support programme who otherwise would not have been able to take part.

1,574

1,574 children aged 4–16 years and 37 students took part in NCO's non-auditioned activities in 2025 including Orchestral Days, Schools Concerts, partner projects and student placements.

"He has had such an amazing time away with the team... I have never been able to afford to send him to any music residential but you gave him that chance and he has enjoyed every second."

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member



Children across all our activities in 2025 come from a wide range of schools including home schooling. They might already attend their local music education hub, or a specialist school or junior conservatoire, or they might be brand new to making music in ensembles and orchestras.

We welcome and support children with neurodiversity and those who require additional support, and continually improve our expertise to enable these children to thrive. In 2025 we completed our work with Open Up Music in their development of the AMP toolkit and now have a 3-year plan to improve accessibility at NCO to enable more disabled musicians to take part in the future.

Auditioned activities



Orchestral Weeks

Our Weeks programme (previously named the National programme) consists of three age-banded orchestras for children in school years 7, 8 and 9.

Through residential activity and public performances, children exceed all musical expectations whilst exploring their creativity and discovering their identity, learning how to support their wellbeing and making lifelong memories and friendships.

319 children **aged 11-14** took part in our residential Orchestral Weeks.

They formed **3 orchestras**, taking part in:

6 orchestral residencies lasting a week each including **more than 200 hours** of sectional and orchestral rehearsals.

6 public concerts and 1 family sharing concert.

1 weekend showcase.

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) told us that their favourite parts of the residential were spending time with their friends and learning new things.

As part of our rebrand, we commissioned new photography to showcase the different angles of the NCO experience, celebrating inspiration and creativity, vibrancy and boldness and inclusivity and collaboration.

“According to my daughter, the entire experience was truly fantastic and exceeded all her expectations. The organisation, the guidance from the tutors, and the overall atmosphere were exceptional.”

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member

“My son feels very lucky and proud to be part of NCO, with lots of happy memories of making wonderful orchestral music together! It was a great sense of achievement performing after weeks, months of preparation and dedication!”

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member



Orchestral Weekends

Our Weekends programme (previously named the Projects programme) is designed for children from a wider age range to explore large scale orchestral playing, some of whom are taking part in these activities for the first time.

345 children **aged 8-14** took part in our non-residential Orchestral Weekends.

They formed **4 orchestras** in Bolton,

Birmingham and London, taking part in:

8 orchestral weekends including

68 hours of sectional and orchestral rehearsals

8 family sharing concerts

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) told us that their favourite parts of the weekends were meeting new people and learning new things in sectionals.

"The staff were friendly, helpful and if I was stuck on something, they always helped by explaining it to me in a way that I understood. Being part of the orchestra made me feel like I am part of a community."

Orchestral Weekends member

"I just wanted to feed back what an amazing time my son had! Things can be difficult for him to access due to his Special Educational Needs/disability so I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for a great weekend and for making him so comfortable."

Parent of Orchestral Weekends member

online

All NCO 2025 members of our Weeks and Weekends activities took part in our online programme, which helps children prepare musically and feel more confident when they join our in-person activities. Resources and online events also supported musical learning, creativity and wellbeing.

There were:

5 hours of inspiring webinars featuring BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalists; musical presenters and content creators Anna Lapwood and Linton Stephens; TV personality

and presenter Naomi Wilkinson and musician Simmy Singh talking everything environment; stars of sport and wellbeing Claire Bennett & Katy Jones; and guest artists Carol Jarvis & Chris Augustine.

14 orchestra meet ups featuring getting to know each other games, quizzes, musical learning and more.

Children told us that their favourite parts of the online programmes were getting to meet their peers and playing games.



Auditions for Weeks and Weekends

Every year hundreds of children submit a free audition to take part in NCO's auditioned orchestral programmes. In 2025, we had 1,068 auditions from children interested in taking part in our 2026 Orchestral Weeks

and Orchestral Weekends. Every audition celebrates the joy of playing and love for music from children and young people from all corners of the United Kingdom.

Non – auditioned Activities

Our expanding non-auditioned activity developed in 2025, and we made plans for growth over three years.

Orchestral Days

Our new and expanding Orchestral Days programme is designed to support young musicians in the earlier stages of their playing, who are not already part of our auditioned orchestras. They often include children who are taking part in large ensemble activities for the first time.



80 children aged 8-14 took part in our one-off Orchestral Days.

They took place in Dorset in partnership with Wessex Music, and Devon in partnership with Devon Music Education Hub.

children took part in:

Confidence building games and activities that helped them get to know each other and the NCO team.

Rehearsals exploring a specially arranged multi-level ensemble piece to support children at the level they are playing.

An improvisation-based composition workshop to create their own soundtrack to short film clips.

A family sharing concert.

“He had an amazing day. The energy and enthusiasm from the conductor and tutors was palpable and the atmosphere was electric! There was a real warmth in the room and the performances were fantastic. I loved the improvisation as well.”

Parent of an Orchestral Days
young musician



“I already felt confident playing in an ensemble but was a bit nervous about it beforehand because I did not know anyone else. It helped me be more confident playing with people I did not know.”

Young musician after an Orchestral Day



Our 'What Happens at an Orchestral Day' film brings these activities to life.

[Watch on YouTube now](#)

Workshops

NCO was invited to take part in a skills-building Folk Music Day led by Future Talent and in partnership with West of England Music & Arts. We jointly welcomed **17** children to the workshop in Bristol where they explored folk music repertoire and techniques with Tamsin Elliott.

Our Partner Workshop with Young Sounds Connect programme ran alongside NCO North

Orchestra's summer Weekend activity at Stoller Hall and welcomed **44** children (from Bradford Music & Arts Service, Bolton Music Service and One Education Manchester) and 2 NCO Alumni (now ambassadors with National Youth Orchestra). They took part in a Breathing Techniques workshop with Guest Artist Katy Jones and performed Greg Beardsell's 's body percussion piece *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* side by side with NCO North Orchestra.

Schools concerts

1,293 children engaged with our in-school interactive concerts at Newhall Park Primary School and Silsden Primary School in Bradford, St. Mary's Primary School in Bury and Manley Park Junior School in Manchester.

Based on the Building Blocks of Ensemble Music Making, the children were treated to a performance by NCO Tutors and students from the Royal Northern College of Music. Engagingly presented by Jessie Maryon-Davies, the children enjoyed learning about

dynamics, tempo and teamwork through call and response, graphic scores and careful listening. **123** whole-class string learners from these schools were led in a joyful 30 minute workshop by Veronica Urrego supporting their musical progression and experiences of performance.

Our schools concerts were delivered in partnership with Bradford Music & Arts and Greater Manchester Music Hub.

Oak Academy

Members of our Under 14 Orchestra were filmed playing as a continuation of our collaboration with Bristol Beacon and Cathedral Schools Trust and their involvement in the writing of a new innovative primary

music curriculum, accessible for thousands of children across England. The resources launched in November 2025 and NCO's involvement provides a valuable peer-to-peer learning opportunity.

Artistic development

Big, brave & bold

NCO children are incredible! Their innate curiosity and joyful enthusiasm bring a freshness to performance that is truly special. After all, making music together means everything to them in that moment.

"I am so grateful for your choosing repertoire that inspired and challenged them and that they had these opportunities with such care and fun along the way."

Parent of NCO Orchestral Weeks
member



In 2025, we showcased a diverse range of repertoire reflecting musical ambition and our commitment to creative thematic programming.

Young musicians performed everything from classic orchestral masterpieces - from Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, William Walton's *Henry V* Suite, and Erich Korngold's *The Sea Hawk* - to Bernard Herrmann's *Vertigo* Suite and Nino Rota's *La Strada*.

Our programming also explored environmental and nature inspired themes. Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, Gustav Holst's 'Jupiter' from *The*

Planets, and contemporary pieces such as Debbie Wiseman's *Carnival of the Endangered Animals* and Rachel Portman's *Endangered* formed the heart of our *There's No Planet B* programme.

Combined with family-friendly concerts that featured everything from Benjamin Britten's *Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra*, Leonard Bernstein and Perez Prado's *Mambos* through to *Captain Marvel*, *Ghostbusters* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*, our 2025 programmes demonstrated the vibrancy of orchestral music balancing tradition, storytelling, innovation and accessibility for performers and audiences alike.

creative children

We create a supportive environment where every child can explore their creativity, experiment freely, and take artistic risks.

Through musical activities such as composition, improvisation, body percussion, and spoken word, they are encouraged to express themselves in new and imaginative ways. This creative practice not only nurtures artistic excellence but also builds critical thinking, giving quieter children the space to shine and allowing fresh ideas and bold experimentation to bubble to the surface.



In 2025:

NCO's Surround Sound programme brought children taking part in Orchestral Weeks together in **42** mixed instrument groups (14 per Orchestra), to improvise, compose and collaborate during in-person sessions, to create and perform new music that they can be proud of having created themselves.

The creative compositions for each orchestra were inspired by the themes of each concert programme – one orchestra explored the storytelling techniques central to film music and another expressed musically their fictional escape from Earth to refuge on Jupiter following environmental apocalypse.

Our online programme gave children access to introductory videos by each of our Creative Leads – Jonathan James, Delia Stevens, Georgina Aasgaard, Raph Clarkson and Ed Babar, as well as creative activities including Listening Tasks and Musical Postcards.

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) scored Creativity as 4.1 out of 5 and enjoyed the opportunities to create new music in Surround Sound and interpret pieces in new ways.

We prioritise children having a voice at NCO – we encourage them to speak up and we respond to them and this dialogue informs change.

child voice

104 children were young presenters at our concerts, including 6 who spoke about what the environment means to them at our *There's No Planet B* concert.

Members of our residential weeks orchestras expressed themselves through their creative ideas and composition in their Surround Sound programmes (See 'Creative children'). All children had multiple opportunities to give feedback about our programmes.

There were:

14 interactive polls during online Orchestra Meet Ups.

35 Changemakers who spent more than 10 hours reflecting on their year at NCO through focus groups at activity and completion of journals at home.

6 orchestra councils at Weeks orchestra residencies.

471 children expressed an interest in being a Creative Ambassador, with many of those then responding to given themes by creating video content for our social media channels across the year.

NCO Changemakers told us that their favourite parts of being a member of NCO were meeting like-minded people and making new friends, learning from our tutors and the help and support they received from the Support Team. They felt welcomed and happy to be a member of NCO's orchestras and we motivated to play their instruments more.

NCO Changemakers also expressed that they felt more confident now and many are looking to audition for other programmes and ensembles that they would not have before.

Industry leaders

In 2025, NCO engaged 121 creative freelancers as tutors, conductors, guest artists, creative and wellbeing leads and instrument support. 37 students also took part in student placement programmes.

Bringing this number of people together through NCO activity is a unique opportunity to support the UK's freelance creative workforce and inform the future of orchestral training for young musicians. Each person brings their expert knowledge, skills and perspective as well as the curiosity and generosity to learn and share best practice with their peers.

During the year, music tutors and conductors benefited from wellbeing sessions led by experts in performance anxiety and mindfulness, the ergonomics of instrumental playing, injury prevention, physical fitness and team building. Our brilliant creative leads support tutors through in-person training and resources so that they develop their own creative practice and the skills required to facilitate child-led creativity.



Our activity teams in 2025 included:

86 music tutors
59 support team
37 student placements

10 creative and wellbeing leads
4 guest artists
12 conductors
6 composers/arrangers
4 nurses
9 orchestra/instrument support

“My NCO weeks really are a highlight in my year. You are all a really wonderful team to work for and be around, both tutors and management alike. I am always so inspired and uplifted by you all.”

Tutor

“I truly look forward to it every year. Everything is very well organised and prepared so that we can get through the music in detail and efficiently, and I feel very well supported both by tutors and support team/management.”

Conductor

Student placements

Our student placements gave career-defining opportunities for students to gain experience and connections in music education and classical music.

12 students took part in our Tutor Experience placements at our Weeks residentials. They shadowed NCO tutors to gain experience in rehearsal planning, coaching styles, engagement and wellbeing, group dynamics and behaviour and creative composition.

25 students took part in our Insights placements, playing in our Weekends orchestras, to provide support and role-modelling, lead some sectionals, assist with child engagement, and manage group dynamics.



Musical diversity

We seek the best representation we can in the artists and musicians we work with and the music we play, to enable a greater diversity of experiences and perspectives in our programmes.

In 2025 there were:

- 5** female conductors
- 8** female composers
- 21** living composers
- 9** global majority composers
- 2** female guest artists (of 4)
- 2** global majority guest artists (of 4)
- 6** new commissions
- 1** new full orchestral arrangement



We want to remove barriers for children and adults under-represented at NCO to take part in our activities and be part of our teams. We worked with Open Up Music on their pilot of AMP Toolkit in 2025 to audit NCO's accessibility and feed into our new 3-year organisational strategy.

Audiences

A wide-angle photograph of a large orchestra performing in a modern concert hall. The hall's interior is characterized by a curved, warm-toned wooden wall and ceiling. The orchestra, consisting of many musicians in red uniforms, is seated on a raised platform. In the foreground, the audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the stage. The lighting is warm and focused on the performers.

**7 NCO orchestras performed
15 concerts, in Basingstoke,
Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol,
Portsmouth, Manchester,
Shrewsbury and London to
4,500 audience members.**

“The two girls at the front who were lead violinists in the first half (and one girl in the second half) were absolutely out of this world – totally sublime.”

Audience Member at
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Our first pre-concert workshop at The Anvil, Basingstoke sold out.

Open, excited and welcoming audiences rewarded the remarkable playing from young musicians with applause and standing ovations.

Our child-centred and child-led social media content exposed the creativity, vibrancy and inclusivity of NCO young musicians and activities.

Our most engaging piece of content was our Under 13 *Star Wars* Bassoon reel achieving 14.8K views, engaging 5,121 accounts and receiving 180 likes.

We had 6.9% more Facebook followers and 17.9% more followers on Instagram, in 2025, than in 2024.

Our YouTube channel was viewed 43,143 times in 2025, with 2,560 hours of NCO footage watched.

What do NCO musicians do next

We believe orchestral music shapes skills and hearts and we use the power of music to create supportive communities that enrich lives. The confidence, resilience and teamwork learned through music become skills for life, whether children go on to pursue a music career or to take the transferable skills into other careers and enjoy music as a hobby.

Former members of NCO have progressed on to lots of musical opportunities including that NCO alumni make up **51 out of 158** players in National Youth Orchestra 2026.

Wellbeing & environmental

Happy and healthy children

We believe everyone has their own brilliance and we craft supportive, inclusive environments in all our activities to enable them to discover their unique potential, find their voice and grow in confidence and creativity.

We also know NCO power lies in our unity – children (and grown-ups!) grow together, support each other and become something greater through the power of community.



“He had a brilliant, brilliant time on the residential. Thank you so much for helping him to feel safe and secure.”

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member

In 2025 our programmes included:

25 hours of wellbeing sessions at residential.

This included physical fitness with Ninja Warrior **Henry Cookey**; teamwork with Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist Fencer **Claire Bennett**; injury prevention and posture with physiotherapist **Sarah Upjohn**; ergonomic use of our bodies with **Sophie Till**; mindfulness and performance coaching with **Tom Taffinder**; and connectivity with nature, movement and the world around us with **Simmy Singh**.

There were:

Online resources including **11** wellbeing videos, **2** guides and **1** webinar on looking after

body and mind, as well as **8** familiarisation documents with photos as an introduction to activity venues, and **14** online meet ups (see Online) to meet fellow orchestra members and our Support Team.

6 appreciation boxes, one for each residential, to celebrate each other, the activity or the team.

36 moments to experience an inspiring Thought for the Day.

Children told us they felt happy and encouraged by the team during their time at NCO, and that they had someone they could easily turn to if they needed support.



"Thank you for your emails before the NCO residential and for keeping an eye out for my daughter - I felt a lot more relaxed knowing she would be so well taken care of. She had an absolutely brilliant time!"

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member

Environmental

We are committed to limiting the negative impact of our activities on our natural environment and to empowering the young people we work with to be part of making meaningful change.

We developed our *There's No Planet B* programme further this year. **10** children from our Under 13 Orchestra volunteered to do an environmental project with musician and environmentalist Simmy Singh. In the spring they took part in a mindfulness session where they explored the sounds of their natural world and how human impact changes these sounds change over time. In the summer they thought about the connection between their musical repertoire and the environment and considered how music can open up conversations. Simmy also worked with the whole orchestra during an interactive Thought for the Day.

We welcomed presenter and environmentalist Naomi Wilkinson for our *There's No Planet B* concert. Naomi worked closely with **6** musicians from the orchestra to co-present the concert for audiences at Bridgewater Hall, with Young Presenters preparing their own introductions to the pieces.

The concert programme included music from Debbie Wiseman (*Carnival of the Endangered Animals*), Rachel Portman (*Endangered*), along with Leonard Bernstein's *Slava* and Jean Sibelius' *Finlandia*.

In the interval, children from the audience created brilliant drawings inspired by what they had heard on stage.

All our Weeks and Weekends members had the opportunity to attend and interact with our *There's No Planet B* webinar (see 'Online programme') presented by Catherine Arlidge in conversation with Naomi Wilkinson and Simmy Singh.

We focussed on digital marketing wherever possible again this year and launched our new website which is hosted by B Corp and 1% for the Planet member Krystal, whose hosting is 100% renewably powered.



communications

This year, we crafted a new visual brand, new language and messaging, and developed a new website for NCO. This has given our charity a vibrant, confident and creative new identity to reflect the organisation's purpose – to champion the life-changing power of music.

Crafted with The Yard Creative, following substantial stakeholder feedback and the articulation of a new brand framework with Morris Hargreaves McIntyre, the new brand has been created by the young musicians, teams and donors at the heart of NCO. It reflects what NCO means to them and proudly states our ambition for a future where we provide more opportunities to more children, welcoming young musicians into supportive communities that enrich their lives and give them skills that endure.

Not only does the new website better reflect the full range of opportunities to get involved with NCO, but a log in area of the website for young musicians is easier to navigate, presenting resources and events to prepare for in-person activity and engage more deeply in musical learning, creativity and wellbeing.

You can read more about how our physical and digital audiences developed this year in the 'Audiences' section.

Fundraising

We were grateful to continue receiving multi-year public funding from Arts Council England in 2025 as a National Youth Music Organisation, alongside support from trusts and foundations, corporate partners and individual donors.



A significant milestone this year was the launch of NCO's rebrand and new website, which strengthened supporter communications and helped us better articulate our impact and charitable mission. Fundraising activity focused on deepening relationships and building sustainable income. Total income included £304,826 in statutory Arts Council funding, £111,300 from trusts and foundations, £25,000 in corporate sponsorship, and £24,447 in individual giving. We were grateful to receive legacy gifts from the late Margaret Gilding, a longstanding friend of NCO, and from the late Mary Cordall whose gift will be used in 2026 to support NCO percussionists as per her wishes.

In-person engagement remained a key priority, with flagship events at the Reform Club, London, and Bristol Beacon introducing NCO to new audiences, generating valuable follow-up conversations and securing new Friends. Donor receptions at concerts further supported stewardship by thanking

supporters and deepening relationships. Our trusts and foundations strategy remained rooted in the generous support of a wide range of small trusts and foundations, while beginning to explore larger, multi-year and unrestricted opportunities aligned with NCO's growth plans. We would particularly like to extend our thanks to the Cecil King Memorial Foundation for their longstanding support of our activities and public concerts and The Leverhulme Trust for their multi-year grant towards Financial Support. ABRSM renewed its corporate partnership, including the valued composer mentor programme. During the year, NCO also joined the Fundraising Regulator scheme, reinforcing our commitment to transparency, accountability and best practice.

Together, these developments provide strong foundations for the future, while continued diversification and growth of fundraising income will remain a key priority in the years ahead.

"My daughter was quite nervous going into the workshop but she came out saying that if there is ever another opportunity to attend NCO she would love to go and that it was amazing!!!"

Parent of Orchestral Days young musician

"NCO is a dream come true."

Orchestral Weeks Member

"Absolutely cannot thank the staff enough, so welcoming and encouraging of two very nervous kids who'd never participated in anything similar before. So positive, encouraging and friendly, definitely inspiring for my young musicians. Really amazing opportunity cannot recommend highly enough."

Parent of an Orchestral Days young musician



Future plans



2026 will mark the first year of NCO's 3-year growth strategy. During this period, NCO will prioritise children in state education and aims to double the number of children engaged annually by 2028.

Key developments for 2026

- Total confirmed membership for auditioned programmes in 2026 is 725, the largest number of children since 2020 and with increased representation from children in state education.
- Free, non-auditioned Orchestral Days will expand from 2 (2025) to 7 and take place in Dorset, Devon, Wiltshire, NE Somerset, Hull, Lincoln and Lancashire, in partnership with music hubs.
- Continued focus on opening access for disabled young musicians – further work to be carried out in relation to venues, communications and the role of youth voice to fully embed changes identified through the AMP toolkit research partner project with Open Up Music.
- Organist Anna Lapwood will perform as guest artist and present NCO's Under 14 Orchestra concert at Bristol Beacon on 12th April 2026 including a performance of *How to Train Your Dragon*. Wraparound concert day activity includes a 'Make your Own Dragon' Art Workshop with a Bristol artist to support family audiences in engaging with the programme.
- Audience Development project working with Horfield Primary School on Creative Composition project linking to Under 13 Orchestra *There's No Planet B* performance in Summer 2026 at Bristol Beacon.
- Side by Side performance with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's In Harmony musicians at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall as integral part of Under 14 Orchestra concert on Saturday 1st August.
- Musical performance by 6 NCO alumni at an event at 11 Downing Street hosted by the Association of British Orchestras, raising NCO's profile and the important role of youth music in the orchestral sector.

Statement of public benefit

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain (NCO) provides high quality orchestral training and creative musical opportunities for children aged 8–14, supporting their personal, social and musical development. Our programmes – auditioned and non auditioned – enable young people from across the UK to develop confidence, teamwork, wellbeing and artistic skills through inclusive, inspiring music making.

We ensure public benefit by offering free and/or subsidised activities, financial support schemes, and accessible pathways designed to remove barriers for children from backgrounds currently under-represented in classical music, including those from state schools, disabled young musicians and those at an early stage of their musical development. Through partnerships with schools, music hubs and music education organisations, we extend opportunities to children who might not otherwise access orchestral experiences.

The Trustees confirm that, in delivering NCO's charitable purposes during the year, they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, as required for charities in England and Wales.

Governance structure and management

Governance framework

National Children's Orchestras is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16th August 1978. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14th August 2019. The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

The Trustees (who are also the charity's members) meet quarterly to receive management information from various areas of organisational governance and operations and to agree the strategic direction of the charity. Members meet once annually for the AGM. The Finance Committee also meet at least four times a year, prior to each Full Board Meeting, to approve and monitor financial control, reporting and authorisation systems to secure best practice standards of

project control, financial forecasting, annual budgeting and quarterly financial reporting.

During 2025 the Board reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Trust Board and the Finance Committee and the Scheme of Delegation from the Trustees to the Executive Team. Management grades reflect levels of delegated responsibility and accountability throughout the organisation. All are reviewed annually.

The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Executive Team. However, there are clear areas of decision making retained by the Board (which are outlined in the charity's governance framework and policies) and established reporting frameworks to allow the Board to make these decisions effectively. NCO's policies also contain clear thresholds for reporting to the Board in areas such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, Finance and Safeguarding to facilitate robust monitoring by the charity's Trustees.

Remuneration

NCO has a remuneration policy and a set of clear pay bands for staff which is reviewed annually by the board. A review of pay levels and bands was carried out and approved by the Board in December 2025.

Alongside policy review, the Board reviews salaries on recommendation from the Chief Executive and Finance Committee in relation to % increases to be implemented from 1st January each year. The amount of any increase will be guided by CPI inflation, informal benchmarking with other arts organisations and Real Living Wage guidelines. NCO is a Real Living Wage employer.

Trustee induction and training

As with staff recruitment, National Children's Orchestras require references and DBS checks for new Trustees, in line with the charity's Safeguarding Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy. New Trustees are provided with the Safeguarding Policy, Articles of Association and Code of Conduct upon appointment.

There is a Code of Conduct specifically for Trustees. Trustee induction includes a meeting with both the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board and the assignment of a buddy from the group of existing Trustees.

A Trustee audit was conducted in 2025. The data was used to inform a recruitment process for new Trustees following the retirement of two Trustees. This resulted in 3 new appointments to be approved at the 2026 AGM. NCO's Chair, Louise Mitchell CBE, is due to retire after 6 years service in May 2026. NCO undertook a recruitment process for her successor and a new Chair, Michael Eakin OBE, will be appointed at the 2026 AGM in May.

Risk management

The organisational risk register is reviewed quarterly by the Senior Management Team and is a standing item at each Board meeting. A specific financial risk register is similarly updated quarterly by the Finance Director and is a standing item at each Finance Committee meeting.

A Risk Management Policy collates and clarifies the charity's approach to risk management and the levels of delegated responsibility in relation to risk.

At the close of 2025 these were the four most significant risk areas:

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The Risk Management Policy cemented that the most important risk area for NCO is in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two Trustees have specific safeguarding responsibility. The Safeguarding Policy details appropriate levels of training provided to those who work with NCO.

A Safer Recruitment Policy was adopted by the Board in 2023. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The Head of Safeguarding and Support maintains exceptional safeguarding of children and supports their wellbeing and happiness through dynamic pastoral care.

Health and Safety

There is a Health and Safety Policy in place which details control mitigations in this

area, including specifying the use of Risk Assessments and processes to be followed to ensure the safety of adults and children during activity and of staff and visitors to the office.

The Health and Safety Policy was reviewed in 2025 and the amendments were approved by the Board. A health and safety policy compliance audit was also conducted and shared with NCO's Health and Safety Lead Trustee.

Orchestra Tax Relief

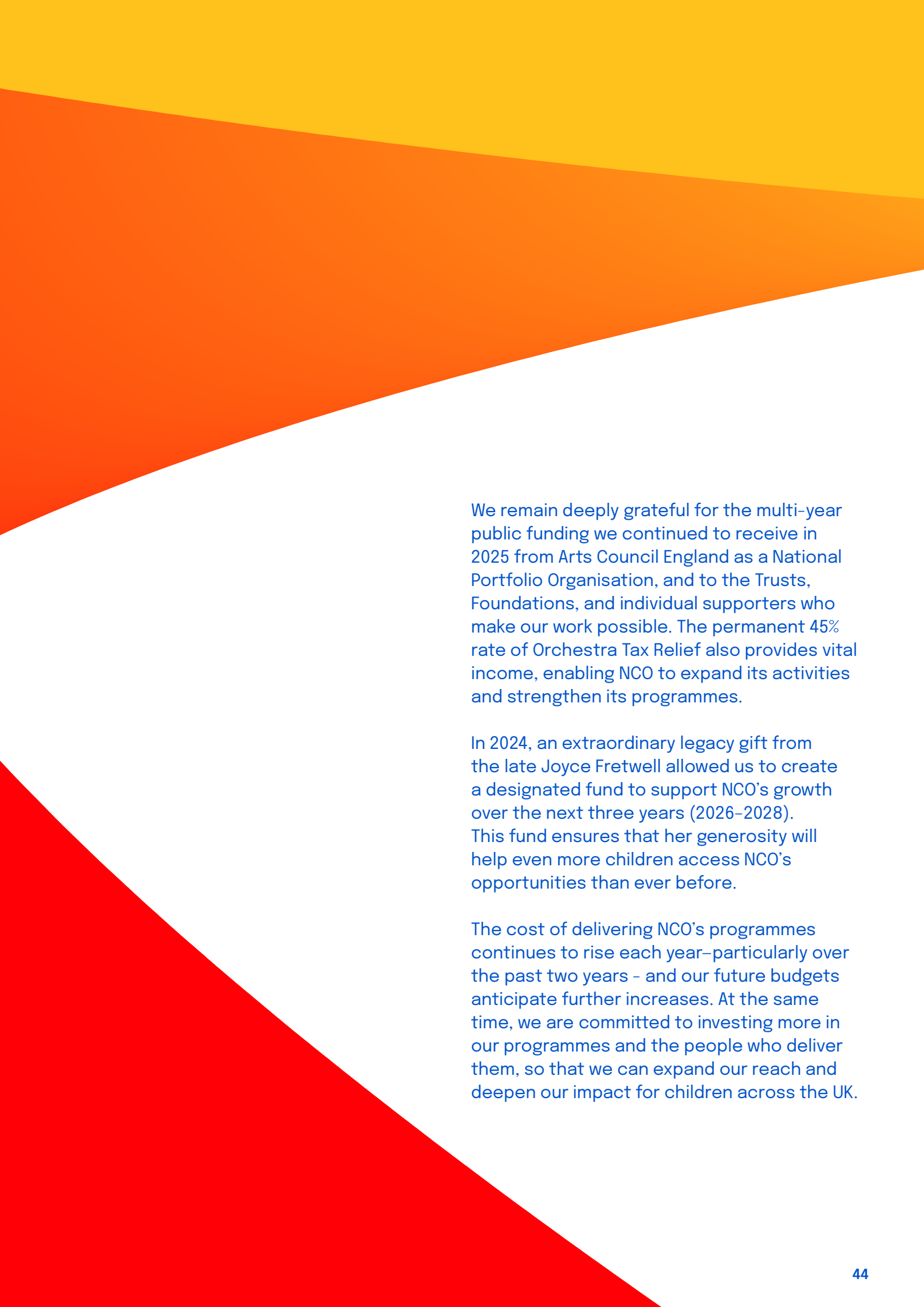
Uncertainty about the level of Orchestra Tax Relief was partly mitigated through HMT's decision in 2024 to set the level of relief at 45% permanently. This does not however guarantee this income source in the future. Financial forecasting and budgeting were completed with this risk area in mind.

Economic Factors

Inflation costs continued to be a risk area for 2025. Again, rising costs were anticipated in forward budgets and regular reforecasting exercises were undertaken by budget holders throughout the year to closely monitor the real impact of the economic landscape on the agreed budget.



Financial sustainability



We remain deeply grateful for the multi-year public funding we continued to receive in 2025 from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, and to the Trusts, Foundations, and individual supporters who make our work possible. The permanent 45% rate of Orchestra Tax Relief also provides vital income, enabling NCO to expand its activities and strengthen its programmes.

In 2024, an extraordinary legacy gift from the late Joyce Fretwell allowed us to create a designated fund to support NCO's growth over the next three years (2026-2028). This fund ensures that her generosity will help even more children access NCO's opportunities than ever before.

The cost of delivering NCO's programmes continues to rise each year—particularly over the past two years - and our future budgets anticipate further increases. At the same time, we are committed to investing more in our programmes and the people who deliver them, so that we can expand our reach and deepen our impact for children across the UK.

Raised Income: This is the money we raise from public and private funders consisting of Arts Council England, Trusts and Foundations, sponsorship and donations from individuals.

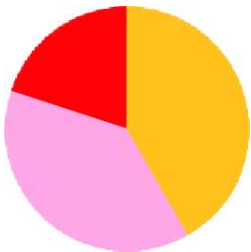
Earned Income: This is the money we receive in membership fees and concert tickets.

Interest and OTR: This is the money we receive from interest and Orchestra Tax Relief.

Charitable Activities: This is the money we spend on running our activities.

Financial Support: This is the money we spend covering all or some of the fees for families who need support.

**Income
2024**

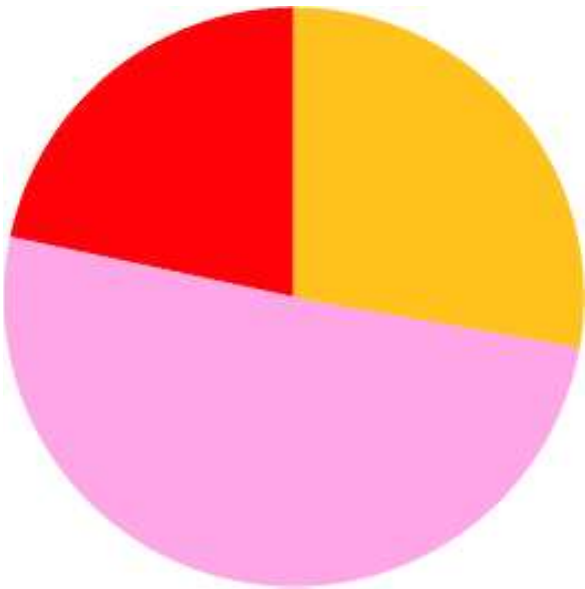


	Raised income	£836,058
	Earned income	£768,335
	Interest and OTR	£396,420
Total		£2,000,813

**Expenditure
2024**

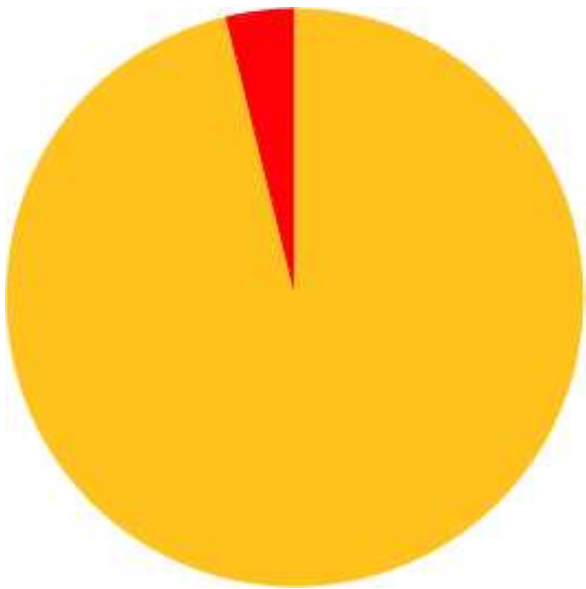


	Charitable Activities	£1,480,719
	Financial Support	£89,345
Total		£1,570,064



Income 2025

	Raised income	£469,497
	Earned income	£845,618
	Interest and OTR	£357,064
Total		£1,672,179



Expenditure 2025

	Charitable Activities	£1,631,770
	Financial Support	£63,120
Total		£1,694,890

Financial review

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out from page 55.

Total income comprised £1,599,076 for unrestricted funds (2024: £1,918,113), £73,103 for restricted funds (2024: £82,700).

Total expenditure was £1,624,731 in unrestricted expenditure (2024: £1,471,289) and £70,159 in restricted expenditure (2024: £98,775).

As at 31st December 2025 the reserves of the charity were £1,110,975 (2024: £1,133,686) of which £280,000 are designated (2024: £446,680) and £22,425 are restricted (2024: £19,481).

Income

Total income was down by £328,634 compared to the previous year due to the large legacy gift in 2024.

NCO received £304,826 in statutory funding as a National Portfolio Organisation with support from the Arts Council of England. £111,300 was achieved through Trusts and Foundations, £23,948 in Individual Giving, and £25,000 in corporate sponsorship.

Earned income also increased by £76,357, achieved through a minimal increase in fee levels for members and box office income. The Charity benefited from £322,433 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £4,423 claim for the year in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by £124,826 compared to the previous year. This is due to increasing costs in relation to activity and overheads and investment in NCO's new brand and website.

Reserves policy

Unrestricted Reserves

Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in March 2026, Trustees identified and agreed that **£700,000** should be retained in unrestricted reserves in line with expenditure and to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries through sufficient cash reserves in line with cashflow forecasts. Future planning is fundamental to the charity's operation, combining the seasonal nature of annual activities with the necessity of planning programmes more than one year ahead. The reserves

policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support advance planning over longer timescales, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that plans are soundly based and funded.

Total unrestricted funds are **£737,319**, after excluding tangible assets of **£71,231**.

A further **£280,000** is held in designated funds to ensure NCO's growth strategy, designed to increase access for young musicians to take part.

Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in Section 20 below. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

Going Concern

The board is mindful that NCO may continue to deploy some financial reserves to meet the challenges of the ongoing economic situation. This relates to increased costs associated with venues and suppliers driven by the inflationary pressures that continue to affect the UK economy, negatively affecting the charity's expenditure and income streams. The board expects this to

have an impact on both raised income for 2026 and programme expenditure. NCO's Board and Finance Committee will convene quarterly to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The Arts Council of England will also review any financial risk to the charity as a mandatory requirement of the NPO funding arrangement.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company

and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Following a procurement process, BHP will be proposed for appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

2025 accounts

The 2025 accounts will be approved by the board of Trustees on Thursday 7th May and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Mitchell

L Mitchell

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and Trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain For the year ended 31st December 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31st December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in

accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 49, the Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the Trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with Trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

In addition, the charity is subject to other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to its ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These include health and safety and safeguarding for children.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery LLP, Statutory Auditor

Michael Strong

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Date: 14/05/26
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Annual Accounts 2025

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	£396,394	£73,103	£469,497	£836,058
Charitable activities	4				
Concerts		£42,239		£42,239	£42,921
Projects		£137,652		£137,652	£120,148
Membership fees		£662,119		£662,119	£602,584
Other trading activities	5	£3,608		£3,608	£2,682
Investments	6	£34,631		£34,631	£29,896
Other	7	£322,433		£322,433	£366,524
Total income		£1,599,076	£73,103	£1,672,179	£2,000,813

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	8	£125,791		£125,791	£102,256
Charitable activities	9				
Programmes (including online)		£1,311,369		£1,311,369	£1,212,521
Auditions		£31,053	£7,539	£38,592	£24,440
Concerts		£156,018		£156,018	£141,502
Bursaries and Scholarships		£500	£62,620	£63,120	£89,345
Total expenditure		£1,624,731	£70,159	£1,694,890	£1,570,064
Net income / (expenditure)		(£25,655)	£2,944	(£22,711)	£430,749
Transfer between funds	20				
Net movement in funds	20	(£25,655)	£2,944	(£22,711)	£430,749
Total Funds brought forward		£1,114,205	£19,481	£1,133,686	£702,937
Total funds carried forward	20	£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686

Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds as Restated
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	15	£71,231		£71,231	£69,448
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	£369,421		£369,421	£418,863
Investments	17	£702,579		£702,579	£448,411
Cash at Bank and in Hand		£730,885	£22,425	£753,310	£911,135
Total		£1,802,885	£22,425	£1,825,310	£1,778,409
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	18	(£785,566)		(£785,566)	(£714,171)
Net Current Assets		£1,017,319	£22,425	£1,039,744	£1,064,238
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686
Net assets		£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686
Restricted Funds	20			£22,425	£19,481
Unrestricted Funds	20			£1,088,550	£1,114,205
Total Charity Funds				£1,110,975	£1,133,686

The notes at pages 65 to 79 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 7th May 2026

and signed on their behalf by:

Louise Mitchell

L Mitchell – Trustee

Cash flow

	Notes	2025	2024 As Restated
Cash Generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	£64,736	£321,539
Net cash provided by operating activities		£64,736	£321,539
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(£3,024)	
Proceeds from Disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets			
Proceeds from Disposal of Investments			£15,838
Increase in Current Asset Investments		(£254,168)	(£448,411)
Interest Received		£34,631	£29,896
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		(£222,561)	(£402,677)
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period	2	(£157,825)	(£81,138)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		£911,135	£992,273
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period		£753,310	£911,135

Notes to the cash flow statement

1. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

		2025	2024
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(£22,711)	£430,749
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation Charges		£1,241	£772
Interest Received		(£34,631)	(£29,896)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		£49,442	(£101,797)
Increase in Creditors		£71,395	£21,711
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		£64,736	£321,539

2. Analysis of changes in net funds

		At 1st January 2025 As Restated	Cash Flow	At 31st December 2025
Net Cash				
Cash at Bank and in Hand		£911,135	(£157,825)	£753,310
Total		£911,135	(£157,825)	£753,310

Accounting policies

1. Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office and principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol, BS4 3AS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 8 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments and musical instruments which are included at market value. 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 £1.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Valuation of musical instruments

Musical instruments are carried at an estimation of their market value, based upon external valuations and the judgement of the Trustees.

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

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 charitable entity 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. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable entity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties. The charitable entity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions are met, the amount can be measured reliably, and in line with the timing implied by any multi-period grant agreements.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Income from Concerts and Projects is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Music – 20% on cost

Fixtures and fittings – 20% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Musical instruments

Musical instruments are held at valuation and are not depreciated. These are revalued every five years with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of revaluation. Individual instruments valued at less than £200 each are written off.

Taxation

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise demand deposits with banks with maturities of over three months.

Notes

3	Donations and Legacies		2025	2024
	Donations		£159,203	£193,814
	Legacy Income		£1,045	£337,308
	Government Grants		£304,826	£300,002
	Tax Recovered		£4,423	£4,934
			£469,497	£836,058
	The charity received government grants, defined as funding from Arts Council England (and in 2024 also the Department for Education) to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the year ended 31st December 2025 was £304,826 (2024: £300,002). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants.			
4	Income from Charitable Activities		2025	2024
	Concert Income		£42,239	£42,921
	Projects Income		£137,652	£120,148
	Membership Fees		£662,119	£602,584
			£842,010	£765,653
5	Other Trading Activities		2025	2024
	Other Revenue		£3,608	£2,682
			£3,608	£2,682
6	Investment Income		2025	2024
	Investment Income		£34,631	£29,896
			£34,631	£29,896

Notes

7	Other Income		2025	2024
	Orchestra Tax Relief		£322,433	£366,524
			£322,433	£366,524
8	Raising Funds		2025	2024
	Raising Donations and Legacies			
	Staff Costs		£111,860	£91,501
	Other Costs		£13,931	£10,755
			£125,791	£102,256

9	Charitable Activities Costs	Direct Costs	Grant Funding of Activities (See note 10)	Support Costs (See note 11)	Totals 2025
	Programmes (including online)	£650,625		£660,744	1,311,369
	Auditions	£38,592			£38,592
	Concerts	£156,018			£156,018
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£700.00	£62,420		£63,120
		£845,935	£62,420	£660,744	£1,569,099
	Prior Year	Direct Costs	Grant Funding of Activities (See note 10)	Support Costs (See note 11)	Totals 2024
	Programmes (including online)	£619,370		£593,151	£1,212,521
	Auditions	£24,440			£24,440
	Concerts	£141,502			£141,502
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£701	£88,644		£89,345
		£786,013	£88,644	£593,151	£1,467,808

Notes

10	Grants Payable		2025	2024
	Bursaries and Scholarships		£62,420	£88,644
	The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:			
	Grant		£62,420	£88,644
	All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.			

11	Support Costs		Management	Governance	Totals 2025
	Programmes (including online)		£604,801	£55,943	£660,744
			£604,801	£55,943	£660,744
			Management	Governance	Totals 2024
	Programmes (including online)		£542,726	£50,425	£593,151
			£542,726	£50,425	£593,151

12	Net Income/Expenditure		2025	2024
	Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after charging:			
	Auditor' Remuneration		£12,960	£11,640
	Auditor's Remuneration for non audit work		£3,360	£3,180
	Depreciation - Owned Assets		£1,214	£772

Notes

13	Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits			
	There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2025 nor for the year ended 31st December 2024, except as disclosed in Note 23.			
	Trustees' Expenses			
	Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the year totalled £162 (2024: £186).			
14	Staff Costs		2025	2024
	Wages and Salaries		£454,671	£417,361
	Social Security Costs		£42,993	£34,482
	Pension Costs		£10,309	£8,877
			£507,973	£460,720
	The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		2025	2024
			15	15
	There was one employee whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) were between £60,000 – £70,000 (2024: one).			
	The Orchestras employed 193 freelancers during the year (2024: 183), who worked a total of 2,100 days (2024: 1,863 days).			
	The support team provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These freelancers are paid on a per session basis.			

Notes

15	Tangible Fixed Assets		Music	Instruments	Fixtures and Fittings	Totals
	Cost					
	At 1st January 2025		£21,720	£169,850	£75,453	£267,023
	Additions				£3,024	£3,024
	Disposals					
	At 31st December 2025		£21,720	£169,850	£78,477	£270,047
	Depreciation & Impairment					
	At 1st January 2025		£21,720	£102,325	£73,530	£197,575
	Charge for the Year				£1,241	£1,241
	Eliminated on Disposals					
	At 31st December 2025		£21,720	£102,325	£74,771	£198,816
	Net Book Value					
	At 31st December 2025			£67,525	£3,706	£71,231
	At 31st December 2024			£67,525	£1,923	£69,448
	External valuations were obtained for the musical instruments in 2021, that totalled £67,525. It is the opinion of the Trustees that there has been no material movement to the value of the instruments since the external valuations were obtained, up to the 31st December 2025 year end.					

Notes

16	Debtors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		2025	2024
	Trade Debtors		£5,646	£4,797
	Prepayments and Accrued Income		£37,134	£38,247
	Tax Recoverable		£326,641	£375,819
			£369,421	£418,863
17	Current Asset Investments		2025	2024 As Restated
	Amounts Held on Deposit with Maturities Over 3 Months		£702,579	£448,411
			£702,579	£448,411
18	Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year		2025	2024
	Trade Creditors		£21,689	£3,190
	Social Security and Other Taxes		£2,014	£1,854
	Deferred Income		£734,749	£677,822
	Accruals		£27,114	£31,305
			£785,566	£714,171
	Further information on deferred income is provided in note 24.			
19	Leasing Agreements			
	Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:		2025	2024
	Within One Year		£8,848	£11,185
	Between One and Five Years			
			£8,848	£11,185
	Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £46,364 (2024: £45,636).			

Notes

20	Movement in Funds		At 1/1/25	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/25
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£667,525	£27,345	£113,680	£808,550
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve		£53,000	(£53,000)		
	Risk Reserve		£210,000		(£210,000)	
	Organisational Development		£183,680		£96,320	£280,000
			£1,114,205	(£25,655)		£1,088,550
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund			£13,075		£13,075
	E Rorison Winter Award		£3,631	(£200)		£3,431
	Access and Progression		£7,539	(£9,931)		(£2,392)
	Vivienne Price Memorial Fund		£8,311			£8,311
			£19,481	£2,944		£22,425
	Total Funds		£1,133,686	(£22,711)		£1,110,975
	Net Movement in Funds, included in the above are as follows:					
			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£1,599,076	(£1,571,731)		£27,345
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve			(£53,000)		(£53,000)

Notes

			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Risk Reserve					
	Organisational Development					
			£1,599,076	(£1,624,731)		(£25,655)
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund		£73,103	(£60,028)		£13,075
	E Rorison Winter Award			(£200)		(£200)
	Access and Progression			(£9,931)		(£9,931)
	Vivienne Price Memorial Fund					
			£73,103	(£70,159)		£2,944
	Total Funds		£1,672,179	(£1,694,890)		(£22,711)
	Comparatives for Movement in Funds					
			At 1/1/24	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/24
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£410,165	£467,704	(£210,344)	£667,525
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve		£47,216	(£20,880)	£26,664	£53,000
	Risk Reserve		£210,000			£210,000
	Organisational Development				183,680	£183,680
			£667,381	£446,824		£1,114,205

Notes

			At 1/1/24	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/24
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund			(£5,944)	£5,944	
	E Rorison winter award		£3,831	(£200)		£3,631
	Access and Progression		£17,470	(£9,931)		£7,539
	Vivienne Price memorial fund		£14,255		(£5,944)	£8,311
			£35,556	(£16,075)		£19,481
	Total Funds		£702,937	£430,749		£1,133,686
	Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:					
			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£1,918,113	(£1,450,409)		£467,704
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve			(£20,880)		(£20,880)
	Risk Reserve					
			£1,918,113	(£1,471,289)		£446,824
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund		£82,700	(£88,644)		(£5,944)
	E Rorison Winter Award			(£200)		(£200)
	Access and Progression			(£9,931)		(£9,931)
			£82,700	(98,775)		(16,075)
	Total Funds		£2,000,813	(1,570,064)		£430,749

Notes

Unrestricted Reserves

Please refer to P48

Restricted Funds

Please refer to P48

Bursary Fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to orchestral activities and for NCO clothing. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an internal NCO panel. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

E Rorison Winter Award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former Trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and Progression

This fund represents money received to support the engagement activities.

Notes

Vivienne Price Memorial Fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds in the prior year represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

Analysis of net assets between funds						
			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	Year to 31st December 2025					
	Tangible Fixed Assets		£71,231			£71,231
	Net Current Assets		£737,319	£280,000	£22,425	£1,039,744
	Total Funds		£808,550	£280,000	£22,425	£1,110,975

			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	Year to 31st December 2024					
	Tangible Fixed Assets		£69,448			£69,448
	Net Current Assets		£598,077	£446,680	£19,481	£1,064,238
	Total Funds		£667,525	£446,680	£19,481	£1,133,686

Notes

21	Employee Benefit Obligations				
	Pension contributions amounting to £10,309 (2024: £8,877) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.				
22	Contingent Liabilities				
	The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.				
23	Related Party Disclosures				
	During the year a number of the Trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.				
	During the year 1 Trustee, L Stott, was paid a total of £450 (2024: £313) for services as a tutor. The fees paid were in line with those paid to other tutors and freelancers providing similar services to the Charity.				

24	Deferred income		2025	2024
	Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31st December 2025:			
	Membership deferred at 1st January 2025		£677,822	£644,130
	Released to income in the year		(£677,822)	(£644,130)
	Grant funding received in advance			
	Membership deferred at 31st December 2025		£734,749	£677,822
			£734,749	£677,822
	Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.			

Notes

25	Post balance sheet events			
	The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.			
26	Prior Period Adjustments			
	Changes to the Balance Sheet	As Previously Reported	Adjustment	As Restated at 31st Dec 2024
	Current Assets			
	Current Asset Investments		£448,411	£448,411
	Cash at Bank and in Hand	£1,359,546	(£448,411)	£911,135
	Net Assets	£1,133,686		£1,133,686
	Total Charity Funds	£1,133,686		£1,133,686
	During the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025, it was identified that current asset investments amounting to £448,411 had been incorrectly classified as cash and cash equivalents in the prior year's financial statements as at 31st December 2024. This error arose due to a misclassification of asset classes.			
	The investments related to deposits held in fixed-term accounts with maturities of over 3 months. In accordance with FRS 102, such deposits do not meet the definition of cash equivalents.			
	The comparative figures have been restated accordingly. The correction has no impact on the total net assets or deficit for the year ended 31st December 2024.			

Notes

27	Comparatives for the statement of financial activities			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Income and Endowments from			
	Donations and Legacies	£753,358	£82,700	£836,058
	Charitable Activities			
	Concerts	£42,921		£42,921
	Projects	£120,148		£120,148
	Membership Fees	£602,584		£602,584
	Other Trading Activities	£2,682		£2,682
	Investment Income	£29,896		£29,896
	Other Income	£366,524		£366,524
	Total	£1,918,113	£82,700	£2,000,813
	Expenditure on			
	Raising Funds	£102,256		£102,256

Notes

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Charitable Activities			
	Programmes (including online)	£1,212,521		£1,212,521
	Auditions	£14,509	£9,931	£24,440
	Concerts	£141,502		£141,502
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£501	£88,844	£89,345
	Total	£1,471,289	£98,775	£1,570,064
	Net Income/(Expenditure)	£446,824	(£16,075)	£430,749
	Transfers Between Funds			
	Net Movement in Funds	£446,824	(£16,075)	£430,749
	Total Funds Brought Forward	£667,381	£35,556	£702,937
	Total Funds Carried Forward	£1,114,205	£19,481	£1,133,686

**Thank
yous**

Thank you

Trustees

Alison Mears
Alistair Butt
Beth Higham-Edwards
Christine Wu
Clare Jack
George Caird
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason
Letty Stott
Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Lucy Maguire
Roger Tomlinson
Sophie Jerrold
Stuart Burns
Uchenna Ngwe

Thanks also to Trustees who have retired from our board during this year:

Jonathan Mayes (Deputy Chair) and **William Norris**

Administrative Staff

Sophie Lewis
Chief Executive
Becky Cresswell
Communications Director
Charlotte Taras
Communications Manager
Abby Capern
Communications Assistant
Tammy Daly
Programme and Orchestras Director

Andrew Thompson
Programme and Orchestras Manager

Olivia Jollands
Programme and Orchestras Manager

Hannah Findlater
Programme and Orchestras Administrator

Katie Axelson
Music Librarian

Alice Morrison
Development Director

Sarah Freeman
Head of Development

Tamsin Oldham
Head of Engagement

Siobainn Chaplin
Head of Safeguarding and Support

Beth Mackenzie
Head of Business Administration

Thanks also to colleagues who have moved on to new adventures during this year:

Catherine Arlidge and **Jessica Hill.**

Freelance team

Music Tutors

Abi Hyde-Smith
Aisling Palmer
Aisling Reilly
Alex Willett

Amy Thomas
Andres Yauri
Anna Caban
Anna Vaughan
Andy Wilson
Anthony Bailey
Anton Clarke-Butler
Arlene MacFarlane
Bindi McFarlane
Bryony Mycroft
Catherine Handley
Catrin Win Morgan
Catriona McDermid
Chris Augustine
Chris Barrett
Chris Beagles
Claire Hasted
Clare Thompson
Connie Tanner
David Munn
Elen Hydref
Elfair Grug
Elsa Bradley
Emma Purslow
Francesca Moore-Bridger
Fraser Gordon
Gabi Swallow
Gabriella Dall'Olio
Hayley Wild
Heidi Bennett
Helen Brew
Helen Edgar
Helen Kuby
Henry Roberts
Ian Forgrieve
Jacqueline Phillips
Jenny Weir
Jim Maynard

Thank you

Jo Bradley

Jo Lively

Joanne Green

Jonathan Trim

Josh Salter

Julian Atkinson

Kath Gittings

Kesari Pundarika

Kirsty Matheson

Liz Fyfe

Liz Trigg

Louise Braithwaite

Lynn Henderson

Marged Hall

Meadow Brookes

Mariella Bromfield

Matt Bain

Matt Palmer

May Halyburton

Melanie Martin

Melanie Rothman

Neil Fulton

Nico Bricht

Owen Cox

Rachel Holt

Rachel Wick

Richard Shrewsbury

Richard Steggall

Robyn Lund

Roisin Ni Dhuill

Ruby Aspinall

Ruby Orłowska

Ryan Linham

Sally O'Brien

Sally-Ann Anderson

Sam Kinrade

Sophie Roper

Sophie Simpson

Sue Baxendale

Tim Barber

Tom Highnam

Veronica Urrego

Vicky Lee

Zoe Matthews

Conductors

Adam Gibbs

Andy Morley

Caroline Hobbs-Smith

Dominic Wheeler

Greg Beardsell

Helen Harrison

Jack Ridley

Jonathan Trim

Matthew Quinn

Natalia Luis-Bassa

Rebecca Miller

Veronica Urrego

Creative Leads

Delia Stevens

Ed Babar

Georgina Aasgaard

Jonathan James

Raph Clarkson

Wellbeing Leads

Claire Bennett

Henry Cooley

Sarah Upjohn

Sophie Till

Tom Taffinder

Support Managers & Assistant Support Managers

Alexander Leadbeater

Brian Weir

Charlotte Hill

Dave Muncey

Elizabeth O'Neill

Emily Stephens

James Fisher

Support Team

Aaron Pring

Adam Al-Naisiri

Aidan Campbell

Alex Boyd-Bench

Alex Gray

Anna Gambrill

Asher Penny

Benedict King

Charlie Hodge

Edward Hyde

Ee Ann Ho

Eleanor Hall

Faith Stonehewer

George Hillier

Grace Harman

Hannah Seymour

Harry Appleby-Taylor

Holly Payne

Iona Griffiths

Isabel Thompson

Jodie Mitson

Josephine Connor

Joshua Cusworth

Kathryn Titcomb

Katy Harrison

Katie Macdonald

Thank you

Kezia Elliot
Klara Sweeney
Leo Schartz
Louis Benneyworth
Lucy Heppel
Lucy Keeley
Lucy Little
Maisie Veitch
Marcus Leung
Matthew Sutton
Melissa Doody
Mikey Lowe
Nadia Wilson
Nick Williams
Rebekah Clarke
Rhiannon Bedford
Roisin Craney
Sabrina Ko
Sam Hill
Sam Holburt
Sam Middleton
Sarah Chew
Steph Yim
Susanna Alsey
Thomas Judge
Toby Johnson-Jones

Instrument Support

Callum Davis
David Wheeler
Edward Simons
George Brady
Hannah Spry
Jordan Kinsey
Milly Deering
Toby Johnson-Jones
Torbin Collier

Orchestra Managers, Assistant Orchestra Managers & Concert Managers

Alex Tighe
Liz Dixon
Mary Owens
Rebecca Coleman

Guest Artists

Chris Augustine
Carol Jarvis
Katy Jones
Nate Holder

Webinar & Concert Guests / Presenters

Alicia Li-Yan-Hui
Anna Lapwood
Carol Jarvis
Chris Augustine
Jamaal Kashim
Linton Stephens
Naomi Wilkinson
Simmy Singh

Nurses

Joanna Carnegie
Karen Lang
Kate Hollis
Sam Young

Thank you

We would like to thank our wonderful supporters, partners, and Friends and Patrons, as listed below, for their extraordinary support towards our 2025 programme. Their generous donations, grants, sponsorships and encouragement enables what we do. To each of you – we could not do it without you. Thank you.

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Families

We are so grateful for the generosity and support shown to us in donations from NCO families this year. Thank you.

Thank you

Partners

NCO is deepening existing partnerships and developing further collaborations across the UK to support a greater diversity of children, young musicians and their families to engage with NCO.

We are committed to providing and supporting access to music making and concerts and look forward to continuing existing and developing new relationships with: ABRSM, Association of British Orchestras, Birmingham Conservatoire, Bradford Music & Arts Service, Bolton Music Service (GMMH), Bristol Beacon, Devon Music Education Hub, Future Talent, In Harmony, Hull Music Hub, Lancashire Music Hub, Lincolnshire Music Hub, Music Mark, Music Masters, Music for Youth, Nucleo, our fellow National Youth Music Organisations, One Education Manchester (GMMH), Open Up Music, Royal Northern College of Music, West of England Music & Arts, Wessex Music, Wiltshire Music Centre, Young Sounds UK.

Friends and Patrons

Thank you to our dedicated supporters for their regular donations through NCO's Friends and Patrons scheme. They are:

Principal Patrons

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**Anthony &
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Special Thanks

We were touched to receive a Legacy Gift this year from **Margaret Gilding**, who was a dedicated, long-term supporter of NCO, and friend of our founder Vivienne Price. We were so sorry to hear of her passing and will be sure to put her kind gift to the best possible use in her memory. We were also so grateful to receive a legacy from the late **Mary Cordall** whose gift will be used in 2026 to support NCO percussionists as per her wishes.

Charity information

Trustees

Louise Mitchell

(Chair)

Alistair Butt

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Stuart Burns

George Caird

Beth Higham-Edwards

Clare Jack

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Sophie Jerrold

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason

Lucy Maguire

Jonathan Mayes

(Vice Chair, retired 13th Sept 2025)

Alison Mears Esswood

Uchenna Ngwe

William Norris

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

Laetitia Stott

Roger Tomlinson

Christine Wu

Finance Committee

Members

Stuart Burns

Alistair Butt

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Clare Jack

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Jonathan Mayes

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

William Norris

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

Roger Tomlinson

Christine Wu

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Executive Team

Sophie Lewis

- Chief Executive

Catherine Arlidge

- MBE Artistic and Educational Director
(resigned March 2025)

Auditors

Saffery LLP

St Catherine's Court

Berkeley Place

Clifton

Bristol

BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

64 High Street

Epsom

Surrey

KT19 8AT

Charity information

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 1st January 2019).

National Children's Orchestras

Unit 2.3, Streamline
436-441 Paintworks
Arnos Vale
Bristol
BS4 3AS

www.nco.org.uk

Registered Charity Number:

803026

Registered Company Number:

2471385 (England and Wales)



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Film by Joey Moxley

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Final Audit Report

2026-05-14

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National
Children's
Orchestras



Annual report 2025

Play together.
Be unstoppable.

contents

About National Children's Orchestras	04
Trustee Annual Report 2025	
Introduction	06
2025 highlights	07
NCO Young Musicians 2025	09
Auditioned Activities	11
Non-Auditioned Activities	15
Artistic Development	18
Wellbeing and Environmental	28
Communications	32
Fundraising	34
Future Plans	37
Statement of Public Benefit	39
Governance Structure and Management and risk	40
Financial Sustainability	43
Financial Review	46
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	49
Independent Auditors Report	50
Annual Accounts 2025	55
Thanks yous	80
Charity information	87

"I never thought I could play Jupiter, but now I can, and my Dad is going to be so proud."

Orchestral Weeks member, aged 13

"Thank you so much, if ever your job feels difficult, just know that yesterday was possibly one of his favourite in his almost 12 years. He has waited so long to be involved at a level like this, and absolutely loved his experience with you all."

Parent of an Orchestral Days young musician

"I can't thank you enough for the enormous part you and the NCO team have played in the musical journey of our family over the past 6 years. They have played phenomenal music and made friends for life."

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member

About NCO

Vision

To be a household name, known for inspiring children nationwide through a vibrant music community that nurtures potential and opens doors.

Purpose

To champion the life-changing power of music.

Mission

Together, we are using the power of music to create a supportive community that enriches lives.



Our Values

Dare to Dream

We believe no dream is too big.

When we're free to dream, explore, create and play, the world opens up. In music and in life, dream big – you never know what incredible things you'll discover along the way.

Strength of Spirit

We believe orchestral music shapes skills and hearts.

Orchestral music is a wondrous world that nurtures empathy, resilience, and the courage to face whatever life throws our way. It builds strength of spirit, deepening connections to ourselves and the world around us.

Every Voice Matters

We believe everyone has their own brilliance.

Everyone has a unique potential waiting to shine. In a supportive, inclusive environment, we can discover our own brilliance, find our voice, and grow in confidence and creativity.

The Power of Us

We believe in the power of community.

Our power lies in our unity; we grow together, support each other, and become something greater as one.

Trustee Annual report 2025

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the National Children's Orchestras **Trustees Annual Report 2025**. This year has been extraordinary in both scale and spirit, as more children than ever discovered the joy, challenge and transformative power of making music together. Across our auditioned and non-auditioned programmes, 2025 has shown us—again—that when children are given space to explore their creativity, surrounded by support and inspiration, they achieve remarkable things.

We are immensely proud to have reached 2,240 children through our activities this year, with a 37% increase in those experiencing our free, non-auditioned opportunities. Their energy and curiosity filled rehearsal rooms, concert and school halls across the UK, from first-time ensemble players to young musicians shaping ambitious orchestral performances.

Our commitment to equity and inclusion continues to deepen, reflected in our new strategy to nearly double the number of children we reach by 2028 – especially those in state education and through our partnership work to widen access for disabled young musicians.

Musically, 2025 has been a vibrant celebration of imagination and diversity. With 72 works performed, two new commissions, and programming that spanned environmental themes, film music, new arrangements and orchestral masterpieces, our young musicians embraced every moment with courage and creativity.

We are grateful for the continued trust and generosity of Arts Council England, our supporters, partners, families and the many individuals who make NCO's work possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive musical future—one where every child can dream big, find their voice, and be unstoppable.

– Louise Mitchell – Chair of Trustees

2025 highlights



2025 highlights

- 1** 2,240 children in total engaged in NCO activities during the year, an increase of 37% compared to 2024.
- 2** Of these, 1,574 children aged 4-16 years took part in NCO's free, non-auditioned activities including schools' concerts, workshops and Orchestral Days delivered in partnership with Music Hubs and other music education providers.
- 3** 1,068 online auditions were submitted for 2026 Orchestral Weeks and Weekends, the highest number of total applicants in over a decade, demonstrating the increasing need and value placed on NCO's programmes by children, parents and teachers across the UK.
- 4** Our EDI Action Plan is now fully embedded in our new 3-year growth strategy (2026-2028), prioritising opportunity and diversity with pledges to nearly double the number of children reached by 2028 and increase representation from children in state school in auditioned programmes.
- 5** Our team completed the Accessible Musical Progression Toolkit as a test partner, co-designed with Open Up Music, aiming to increase access for more young disabled musicians to take part in mainstream orchestral experiences.
- 6** A huge range and diversity of music was performed across all activities – 72 pieces including two new commissions (*Bang & Bhumi*) by four composers as part of the diversity-led ABRSM composers' scheme as well as new orchestral arrangements and body percussion pieces.
- 7** Increased focus on environmental responsibility through programming across the year, including *There's No Planet B* concert presented by TV personality and environmentalist Naomi Wilkinson at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, four themed concerts by Weekend Orchestras based on *Our Universe, Our Planet, Our World* featuring a new body percussion piece by Greg Beardsell – *Rethink, Reduce, Recycle, Repair, Reuse*.
- 8** 12 students took part in NCO's Tutor Experience Placements and 25 took part as Insights Placements, demonstrating NCO's commitment to supporting the next generation of music educators and enhancing its partnerships across Higher Education.
- 9** 7 NCO Orchestras performed 15 concerts, in Basingstoke, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Portsmouth, Manchester, Shrewsbury and London, to 4,500 audience members and our first pre-concert workshop at The Anvil, Basingstoke, sold out.
- 10** Successful launch of our new brand and website, the culmination of a yearlong consultation project with all stakeholders resulting in invitation to present our case study in brand co-creation with Morris Hargreaves Mclntyre at the Arts Marketing Association Annual Conference in Edinburgh.

NCO young Musicians 2025



664

children aged 8-14 years were part of NCO's auditioned Orchestral Weeks (previously National programme) and auditioned Orchestral Weekends (previously Projects programme) in 2025.

We celebrate the diversity of our membership because it makes our orchestras and organisation better. In our 2025 auditioned orchestras (Orchestral Weeks and Orchestral Weekends):

59%

392 (59%) are from a global majority background.

68

We supported 68 children through our Financial Support programme who otherwise would not have been able to take part.

1,574

1,574 children aged 4–16 years and 37 students took part in NCO's non-auditioned activities in 2025 including Orchestral Days, Schools Concerts, partner projects and student placements.

"He has had such an amazing time away with the team... I have never been able to afford to send him to any music residential but you gave him that chance and he has enjoyed every second."

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member



Children across all our activities in 2025 come from a wide range of schools including home schooling. They might already attend their local music education hub, or a specialist school or junior conservatoire, or they might be brand new to making music in ensembles and orchestras.

We welcome and support children with neurodiversity and those who require additional support, and continually improve our expertise to enable these children to thrive. In 2025 we completed our work with Open Up Music in their development of the AMP toolkit and now have a 3-year plan to improve accessibility at NCO to enable more disabled musicians to take part in the future.

Auditioned activities



Orchestral Weeks

Our Weeks programme (previously named the National programme) consists of three age-banded orchestras for children in school years 7, 8 and 9.

Through residential activity and public performances, children exceed all musical expectations whilst exploring their creativity and discovering their identity, learning how to support their wellbeing and making lifelong memories and friendships.

319 children **aged 11-14** took part in our residential Orchestral Weeks.

They formed **3 orchestras**, taking part in:

6 orchestral residencies lasting a week each including **more than 200 hours** of sectional and orchestral rehearsals.

6 public concerts and 1 family sharing concert.

1 weekend showcase.

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) told us that their favourite parts of the residential were spending time with their friends and learning new things.

As part of our rebrand, we commissioned new photography to showcase the different angles of the NCO experience, celebrating inspiration and creativity, vibrancy and boldness and inclusivity and collaboration.

“According to my daughter, the entire experience was truly fantastic and exceeded all her expectations. The organisation, the guidance from the tutors, and the overall atmosphere were exceptional.”

Parent of Orchestral Weeks member

“My son feels very lucky and proud to be part of NCO, with lots of happy memories of making wonderful orchestral music together! It was a great sense of achievement performing after weeks, months of preparation and dedication!”

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member



Orchestral Weekends

Our Weekends programme (previously named the Projects programme) is designed for children from a wider age range to explore large scale orchestral playing, some of whom are taking part in these activities for the first time.

345 children **aged 8-14** took part in our non-residential Orchestral Weekends.

They formed **4 orchestras** in Bolton,

Birmingham and London, taking part in:

8 orchestral weekends including

68 hours of sectional and orchestral rehearsals

8 family sharing concerts

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) told us that their favourite parts of the weekends were meeting new people and learning new things in sectionals.

"The staff were friendly, helpful and if I was stuck on something, they always helped by explaining it to me in a way that I understood. Being part of the orchestra made me feel like I am part of a community."

Orchestral Weekends member

"I just wanted to feed back what an amazing time my son had! Things can be difficult for him to access due to his Special Educational Needs/disability so I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for a great weekend and for making him so comfortable."

Parent of Orchestral Weekends member

online

All NCO 2025 members of our Weeks and Weekends activities took part in our online programme, which helps children prepare musically and feel more confident when they join our in-person activities. Resources and online events also supported musical learning, creativity and wellbeing.

There were:

5 hours of inspiring webinars featuring BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalists; musical presenters and content creators Anna Lapwood and Linton Stephens; TV personality

and presenter Naomi Wilkinson and musician Simmy Singh talking everything environment; stars of sport and wellbeing Claire Bennett & Katy Jones; and guest artists Carol Jarvis & Chris Augustine.

14 orchestra meet ups featuring getting to know each other games, quizzes, musical learning and more.

Children told us that their favourite parts of the online programmes were getting to meet their peers and playing games.



Auditions for Weeks and Weekends

Every year hundreds of children submit a free audition to take part in NCO's auditioned orchestral programmes. In 2025, we had 1,068 auditions from children interested in taking part in our 2026 Orchestral Weeks

and Orchestral Weekends. Every audition celebrates the joy of playing and love for music from children and young people from all corners of the United Kingdom.

Non – auditioned Activities

Our expanding non-auditioned activity developed in 2025, and we made plans for growth over three years.

Orchestral Days

Our new and expanding Orchestral Days programme is designed to support young musicians in the earlier stages of their playing, who are not already part of our auditioned orchestras. They often include children who are taking part in large ensemble activities for the first time.



80 children aged 8-14 took part in our one-off Orchestral Days.

They took place in Dorset in partnership with Wessex Music, and Devon in partnership with Devon Music Education Hub.

children took part in:

Confidence building games and activities that helped them get to know each other and the NCO team.

Rehearsals exploring a specially arranged multi-level ensemble piece to support children at the level they are playing.

An improvisation-based composition workshop to create their own soundtrack to short film clips.

A family sharing concert.

“He had an amazing day. The energy and enthusiasm from the conductor and tutors was palpable and the atmosphere was electric! There was a real warmth in the room and the performances were fantastic. I loved the improvisation as well.”

Parent of an Orchestral Days
young musician



“I already felt confident playing in an ensemble but was a bit nervous about it beforehand because I did not know anyone else. It helped me be more confident playing with people I did not know.”

Young musician after an Orchestral Day



Our 'What Happens at an Orchestral Day' film brings these activities to life.

[Watch on YouTube now](#)

Workshops

NCO was invited to take part in a skills-building Folk Music Day led by Future Talent and in partnership with West of England Music & Arts. We jointly welcomed **17** children to the workshop in Bristol where they explored folk music repertoire and techniques with Tamsin Elliott.

Our Partner Workshop with Young Sounds Connect programme ran alongside NCO North

Orchestra's summer Weekend activity at Stoller Hall and welcomed **44** children (from Bradford Music & Arts Service, Bolton Music Service and One Education Manchester) and 2 NCO Alumni (now ambassadors with National Youth Orchestra). They took part in a Breathing Techniques workshop with Guest Artist Katy Jones and performed Greg Beardsell's 's body percussion piece *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* side by side with NCO North Orchestra.

Schools concerts

1,293 children engaged with our in-school interactive concerts at Newhall Park Primary School and Silsden Primary School in Bradford, St. Mary's Primary School in Bury and Manley Park Junior School in Manchester.

Based on the Building Blocks of Ensemble Music Making, the children were treated to a performance by NCO Tutors and students from the Royal Northern College of Music. Engagingly presented by Jessie Maryon-Davies, the children enjoyed learning about

dynamics, tempo and teamwork through call and response, graphic scores and careful listening. **123** whole-class string learners from these schools were led in a joyful 30 minute workshop by Veronica Urrego supporting their musical progression and experiences of performance.

Our schools concerts were delivered in partnership with Bradford Music & Arts and Greater Manchester Music Hub.

Oak Academy

Members of our Under 14 Orchestra were filmed playing as a continuation of our collaboration with Bristol Beacon and Cathedral Schools Trust and their involvement in the writing of a new innovative primary

music curriculum, accessible for thousands of children across England. The resources launched in November 2025 and NCO's involvement provides a valuable peer-to-peer learning opportunity.

Artistic development

Big, brave & bold

NCO children are incredible! Their innate curiosity and joyful enthusiasm bring a freshness to performance that is truly special. After all, making music together means everything to them in that moment.

"I am so grateful for your choosing repertoire that inspired and challenged them and that they had these opportunities with such care and fun along the way."

Parent of NCO Orchestral Weeks
member



In 2025, we showcased a diverse range of repertoire reflecting musical ambition and our commitment to creative thematic programming.

Young musicians performed everything from classic orchestral masterpieces - from Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, William Walton's *Henry V* Suite, and Erich Korngold's *The Sea Hawk* - to Bernard Herrmann's *Vertigo* Suite and Nino Rota's *La Strada*.

Our programming also explored environmental and nature inspired themes. Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, Gustav Holst's 'Jupiter' from *The*

Planets, and contemporary pieces such as Debbie Wiseman's *Carnival of the Endangered Animals* and Rachel Portman's *Endangered* formed the heart of our *There's No Planet B* programme.

Combined with family-friendly concerts that featured everything from Benjamin Britten's *Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra*, Leonard Bernstein and Perez Prado's *Mambos* through to *Captain Marvel*, *Ghostbusters* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*, our 2025 programmes demonstrated the vibrancy of orchestral music balancing tradition, storytelling, innovation and accessibility for performers and audiences alike.

creative children

We create a supportive environment where every child can explore their creativity, experiment freely, and take artistic risks.

Through musical activities such as composition, improvisation, body percussion, and spoken word, they are encouraged to express themselves in new and imaginative ways. This creative practice not only nurtures artistic excellence but also builds critical thinking, giving quieter children the space to shine and allowing fresh ideas and bold experimentation to bubble to the surface.



In 2025:

NCO's Surround Sound programme brought children taking part in Orchestral Weeks together in **42** mixed instrument groups (14 per Orchestra), to improvise, compose and collaborate during in-person sessions, to create and perform new music that they can be proud of having created themselves.

The creative compositions for each orchestra were inspired by the themes of each concert programme – one orchestra explored the storytelling techniques central to film music and another expressed musically their fictional escape from Earth to refuge on Jupiter following environmental apocalypse.

Our online programme gave children access to introductory videos by each of our Creative Leads – Jonathan James, Delia Stevens, Georgina Aasgaard, Raph Clarkson and Ed Babar, as well as creative activities including Listening Tasks and Musical Postcards.

NCO Changemakers (see Child Voice) scored Creativity as 4.1 out of 5 and enjoyed the opportunities to create new music in Surround Sound and interpret pieces in new ways.

We prioritise children having a voice at NCO – we encourage them to speak up and we respond to them and this dialogue informs change.

child voice

104 children were young presenters at our concerts, including 6 who spoke about what the environment means to them at our *There's No Planet B* concert.

Members of our residential weeks orchestras expressed themselves through their creative ideas and composition in their Surround Sound programmes (See 'Creative children'). All children had multiple opportunities to give feedback about our programmes.

There were:

14 interactive polls during online Orchestra Meet Ups.

35 Changemakers who spent more than 10 hours reflecting on their year at NCO through focus groups at activity and completion of journals at home.

6 orchestra councils at Weeks orchestra residencies.

471 children expressed an interest in being a Creative Ambassador, with many of those then responding to given themes by creating video content for our social media channels across the year.

NCO Changemakers told us that their favourite parts of being a member of NCO were meeting like-minded people and making new friends, learning from our tutors and the help and support they received from the Support Team. They felt welcomed and happy to be a member of NCO's orchestras and we motivated to play their instruments more.

NCO Changemakers also expressed that they felt more confident now and many are looking to audition for other programmes and ensembles that they would not have before.

Industry leaders

In 2025, NCO engaged 121 creative freelancers as tutors, conductors, guest artists, creative and wellbeing leads and instrument support. 37 students also took part in student placement programmes.

Bringing this number of people together through NCO activity is a unique opportunity to support the UK's freelance creative workforce and inform the future of orchestral training for young musicians. Each person brings their expert knowledge, skills and perspective as well as the curiosity and generosity to learn and share best practice with their peers.

During the year, music tutors and conductors benefited from wellbeing sessions led by experts in performance anxiety and mindfulness, the ergonomics of instrumental playing, injury prevention, physical fitness and team building. Our brilliant creative leads support tutors through in-person training and resources so that they develop their own creative practice and the skills required to facilitate child-led creativity.



Our activity teams in 2025 included:

86 music tutors
59 support team
37 student placements

10 creative and wellbeing leads
4 guest artists
12 conductors
6 composers/arrangers
4 nurses
9 orchestra/instrument support

“My NCO weeks really are a highlight in my year. You are all a really wonderful team to work for and be around, both tutors and management alike. I am always so inspired and uplifted by you all.”

Tutor

“I truly look forward to it every year. Everything is very well organised and prepared so that we can get through the music in detail and efficiently, and I feel very well supported both by tutors and support team/management.”

Conductor

Student placements

Our student placements gave career-defining opportunities for students to gain experience and connections in music education and classical music.

12 students took part in our Tutor Experience placements at our Weeks residentials. They shadowed NCO tutors to gain experience in rehearsal planning, coaching styles, engagement and wellbeing, group dynamics and behaviour and creative composition.

25 students took part in our Insights placements, playing in our Weekends orchestras, to provide support and role-modelling, lead some sectionals, assist with child engagement, and manage group dynamics.



Musical diversity

We seek the best representation we can in the artists and musicians we work with and the music we play, to enable a greater diversity of experiences and perspectives in our programmes.

In 2025 there were:

- 5** female conductors
- 8** female composers
- 21** living composers
- 9** global majority composers
- 2** female guest artists (of 4)
- 2** global majority guest artists (of 4)
- 6** new commissions
- 1** new full orchestral arrangement



We want to remove barriers for children and adults under-represented at NCO to take part in our activities and be part of our teams. We worked with Open Up Music on their pilot of AMP Toolkit in 2025 to audit NCO's accessibility and feed into our new 3-year organisational strategy.

Audiences

A wide-angle photograph of a large orchestra performing in a modern concert hall. The hall's interior is characterized by a curved, warm-toned wooden wall and ceiling. The orchestra, consisting of many musicians in red uniforms, is seated on a raised platform. In the foreground, the audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the stage. The lighting is warm and focused on the performers.

**7 NCO orchestras performed
15 concerts, in Basingstoke,
Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol,
Portsmouth, Manchester,
Shrewsbury and London to
4,500 audience members.**

“The two girls at the front who were lead violinists in the first half (and one girl in the second half) were absolutely out of this world – totally sublime.”

Audience Member at
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Our first pre-concert workshop at The Anvil, Basingstoke sold out.

Open, excited and welcoming audiences rewarded the remarkable playing from young musicians with applause and standing ovations.

Our child-centred and child-led social media content exposed the creativity, vibrancy and inclusivity of NCO young musicians and activities.

Our most engaging piece of content was our Under 13 *Star Wars* Bassoon reel achieving 14.8K views, engaging 5,121 accounts and receiving 180 likes.

We had 6.9% more Facebook followers and 17.9% more followers on Instagram, in 2025, than in 2024.

Our YouTube channel was viewed 43,143 times in 2025, with 2,560 hours of NCO footage watched.

What do NCO musicians do next

We believe orchestral music shapes skills and hearts and we use the power of music to create supportive communities that enrich lives. The confidence, resilience and teamwork learned through music become skills for life, whether children go on to pursue a music career or to take the transferable skills into other careers and enjoy music as a hobby.

Former members of NCO have progressed on to lots of musical opportunities including that NCO alumni make up **51 out of 158** players in National Youth Orchestra 2026.

Wellbeing & environmental

Happy and healthy children

We believe everyone has their own brilliance and we craft supportive, inclusive environments in all our activities to enable them to discover their unique potential, find their voice and grow in confidence and creativity.

We also know NCO power lies in our unity – children (and grown-ups!) grow together, support each other and become something greater through the power of community.



“He had a brilliant, brilliant time on the residential. Thank you so much for helping him to feel safe and secure.”

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member

In 2025 our programmes included:

25 hours of wellbeing sessions at residential.

This included physical fitness with Ninja Warrior **Henry Cookey**; teamwork with Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist Fencer **Claire Bennett**; injury prevention and posture with physiotherapist **Sarah Upjohn**; ergonomic use of our bodies with **Sophie Till**; mindfulness and performance coaching with **Tom Taffinder**; and connectivity with nature, movement and the world around us with **Simmy Singh**.

There were:

Online resources including **11** wellbeing videos, **2** guides and **1** webinar on looking after

body and mind, as well as **8** familiarisation documents with photos as an introduction to activity venues, and **14** online meet ups (see Online) to meet fellow orchestra members and our Support Team.

6 appreciation boxes, one for each residential, to celebrate each other, the activity or the team.

36 moments to experience an inspiring Thought for the Day.

Children told us they felt happy and encouraged by the team during their time at NCO, and that they had someone they could easily turn to if they needed support.



"Thank you for your emails before the NCO residential and for keeping an eye out for my daughter - I felt a lot more relaxed knowing she would be so well taken care of. She had an absolutely brilliant time!"

Parent of an Orchestral Weeks member

Environmental

We are committed to limiting the negative impact of our activities on our natural environment and to empowering the young people we work with to be part of making meaningful change.

We developed our *There's No Planet B* programme further this year. **10** children from our Under 13 Orchestra volunteered to do an environmental project with musician and environmentalist Simmy Singh. In the spring they took part in a mindfulness session where they explored the sounds of their natural world and how human impact changes these sounds change over time. In the summer they thought about the connection between their musical repertoire and the environment and considered how music can open up conversations. Simmy also worked with the whole orchestra during an interactive Thought for the Day.

We welcomed presenter and environmentalist Naomi Wilkinson for our *There's No Planet B* concert. Naomi worked closely with **6** musicians from the orchestra to co-present the concert for audiences at Bridgewater Hall, with Young Presenters preparing their own introductions to the pieces.

The concert programme included music from Debbie Wiseman (*Carnival of the Endangered Animals*), Rachel Portman (*Endangered*), along with Leonard Bernstein's *Slava* and Jean Sibelius' *Finlandia*.

In the interval, children from the audience created brilliant drawings inspired by what they had heard on stage.

All our Weeks and Weekends members had the opportunity to attend and interact with our *There's No Planet B* webinar (see 'Online programme') presented by Catherine Arlidge in conversation with Naomi Wilkinson and Simmy Singh.

We focussed on digital marketing wherever possible again this year and launched our new website which is hosted by B Corp and 1% for the Planet member Krystal, whose hosting is 100% renewably powered.



communications

This year, we crafted a new visual brand, new language and messaging, and developed a new website for NCO. This has given our charity a vibrant, confident and creative new identity to reflect the organisation's purpose – to champion the life-changing power of music.

Crafted with The Yard Creative, following substantial stakeholder feedback and the articulation of a new brand framework with Morris Hargreaves McIntyre, the new brand has been created by the young musicians, teams and donors at the heart of NCO. It reflects what NCO means to them and proudly states our ambition for a future where we provide more opportunities to more children, welcoming young musicians into supportive communities that enrich their lives and give them skills that endure.

Not only does the new website better reflect the full range of opportunities to get involved with NCO, but a log in area of the website for young musicians is easier to navigate, presenting resources and events to prepare for in-person activity and engage more deeply in musical learning, creativity and wellbeing.

You can read more about how our physical and digital audiences developed this year in the 'Audiences' section.

Fundraising

We were grateful to continue receiving multi-year public funding from Arts Council England in 2025 as a National Youth Music Organisation, alongside support from trusts and foundations, corporate partners and individual donors.



A significant milestone this year was the launch of NCO's rebrand and new website, which strengthened supporter communications and helped us better articulate our impact and charitable mission. Fundraising activity focused on deepening relationships and building sustainable income. Total income included £304,826 in statutory Arts Council funding, £111,300 from trusts and foundations, £25,000 in corporate sponsorship, and £24,447 in individual giving. We were grateful to receive legacy gifts from the late Margaret Gilding, a longstanding friend of NCO, and from the late Mary Cordall whose gift will be used in 2026 to support NCO percussionists as per her wishes.

In-person engagement remained a key priority, with flagship events at the Reform Club, London, and Bristol Beacon introducing NCO to new audiences, generating valuable follow-up conversations and securing new Friends. Donor receptions at concerts further supported stewardship by thanking

supporters and deepening relationships. Our trusts and foundations strategy remained rooted in the generous support of a wide range of small trusts and foundations, while beginning to explore larger, multi-year and unrestricted opportunities aligned with NCO's growth plans. We would particularly like to extend our thanks to the Cecil King Memorial Foundation for their longstanding support of our activities and public concerts and The Leverhulme Trust for their multi-year grant towards Financial Support. ABRSM renewed its corporate partnership, including the valued composer mentor programme. During the year, NCO also joined the Fundraising Regulator scheme, reinforcing our commitment to transparency, accountability and best practice.

Together, these developments provide strong foundations for the future, while continued diversification and growth of fundraising income will remain a key priority in the years ahead.

"My daughter was quite nervous going into the workshop but she came out saying that if there is ever another opportunity to attend NCO she would love to go and that it was amazing!!!"

Parent of Orchestral Days young musician

"NCO is a dream come true."

Orchestral Weeks Member

"Absolutely cannot thank the staff enough, so welcoming and encouraging of two very nervous kids who'd never participated in anything similar before. So positive, encouraging and friendly, definitely inspiring for my young musicians. Really amazing opportunity cannot recommend highly enough."

Parent of an Orchestral Days young musician



Future plans



2026 will mark the first year of NCO's 3-year growth strategy. During this period, NCO will prioritise children in state education and aims to double the number of children engaged annually by 2028.

Key developments for 2026

- Total confirmed membership for auditioned programmes in 2026 is 725, the largest number of children since 2020 and with increased representation from children in state education.
- Free, non-auditioned Orchestral Days will expand from 2 (2025) to 7 and take place in Dorset, Devon, Wiltshire, NE Somerset, Hull, Lincoln and Lancashire, in partnership with music hubs.
- Continued focus on opening access for disabled young musicians – further work to be carried out in relation to venues, communications and the role of youth voice to fully embed changes identified through the AMP toolkit research partner project with Open Up Music.
- Organist Anna Lapwood will perform as guest artist and present NCO's Under 14 Orchestra concert at Bristol Beacon on 12th April 2026 including a performance of *How to Train Your Dragon*. Wraparound concert day activity includes a 'Make your Own Dragon' Art Workshop with a Bristol artist to support family audiences in engaging with the programme.
- Audience Development project working with Horfield Primary School on Creative Composition project linking to Under 13 Orchestra *There's No Planet B* performance in Summer 2026 at Bristol Beacon.
- Side by Side performance with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's In Harmony musicians at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall as integral part of Under 14 Orchestra concert on Saturday 1st August.
- Musical performance by 6 NCO alumni at an event at 11 Downing Street hosted by the Association of British Orchestras, raising NCO's profile and the important role of youth music in the orchestral sector.

Statement of public benefit

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain (NCO) provides high quality orchestral training and creative musical opportunities for children aged 8–14, supporting their personal, social and musical development. Our programmes – auditioned and non auditioned – enable young people from across the UK to develop confidence, teamwork, wellbeing and artistic skills through inclusive, inspiring music making.

We ensure public benefit by offering free and/or subsidised activities, financial support schemes, and accessible pathways designed to remove barriers for children from backgrounds currently under-represented in classical music, including those from state schools, disabled young musicians and those at an early stage of their musical development. Through partnerships with schools, music hubs and music education organisations, we extend opportunities to children who might not otherwise access orchestral experiences.

The Trustees confirm that, in delivering NCO's charitable purposes during the year, they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, as required for charities in England and Wales.

Governance structure and management

Governance framework

National Children's Orchestras is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16th August 1978. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14th August 2019. The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

The Trustees (who are also the charity's members) meet quarterly to receive management information from various areas of organisational governance and operations and to agree the strategic direction of the charity. Members meet once annually for the AGM. The Finance Committee also meet at least four times a year, prior to each Full Board Meeting, to approve and monitor financial control, reporting and authorisation systems to secure best practice standards of

project control, financial forecasting, annual budgeting and quarterly financial reporting.

During 2025 the Board reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Trust Board and the Finance Committee and the Scheme of Delegation from the Trustees to the Executive Team. Management grades reflect levels of delegated responsibility and accountability throughout the organisation. All are reviewed annually.

The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Executive Team. However, there are clear areas of decision making retained by the Board (which are outlined in the charity's governance framework and policies) and established reporting frameworks to allow the Board to make these decisions effectively. NCO's policies also contain clear thresholds for reporting to the Board in areas such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, Finance and Safeguarding to facilitate robust monitoring by the charity's Trustees.

Remuneration

NCO has a remuneration policy and a set of clear pay bands for staff which is reviewed annually by the board. A review of pay levels and bands was carried out and approved by the Board in December 2025.

Alongside policy review, the Board reviews salaries on recommendation from the Chief Executive and Finance Committee in relation to % increases to be implemented from 1st January each year. The amount of any increase will be guided by CPI inflation, informal benchmarking with other arts organisations and Real Living Wage guidelines. NCO is a Real Living Wage employer.

Trustee induction and training

As with staff recruitment, National Children's Orchestras require references and DBS checks for new Trustees, in line with the charity's Safeguarding Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy. New Trustees are provided with the Safeguarding Policy, Articles of Association and Code of Conduct upon appointment.

There is a Code of Conduct specifically for Trustees. Trustee induction includes a meeting with both the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board and the assignment of a buddy from the group of existing Trustees.

A Trustee audit was conducted in 2025. The data was used to inform a recruitment process for new Trustees following the retirement of two Trustees. This resulted in 3 new appointments to be approved at the 2026 AGM. NCO's Chair, Louise Mitchell CBE, is due to retire after 6 years service in May 2026. NCO undertook a recruitment process for her successor and a new Chair, Michael Eakin OBE, will be appointed at the 2026 AGM in May.

Risk management

The organisational risk register is reviewed quarterly by the Senior Management Team and is a standing item at each Board meeting. A specific financial risk register is similarly updated quarterly by the Finance Director and is a standing item at each Finance Committee meeting.

A Risk Management Policy collates and clarifies the charity's approach to risk management and the levels of delegated responsibility in relation to risk.

At the close of 2025 these were the four most significant risk areas:

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The Risk Management Policy cemented that the most important risk area for NCO is in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two Trustees have specific safeguarding responsibility. The Safeguarding Policy details appropriate levels of training provided to those who work with NCO.

A Safer Recruitment Policy was adopted by the Board in 2023. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The Head of Safeguarding and Support maintains exceptional safeguarding of children and supports their wellbeing and happiness through dynamic pastoral care.

Health and Safety

There is a Health and Safety Policy in place which details control mitigations in this

area, including specifying the use of Risk Assessments and processes to be followed to ensure the safety of adults and children during activity and of staff and visitors to the office.

The Health and Safety Policy was reviewed in 2025 and the amendments were approved by the Board. A health and safety policy compliance audit was also conducted and shared with NCO's Health and Safety Lead Trustee.

Orchestra Tax Relief

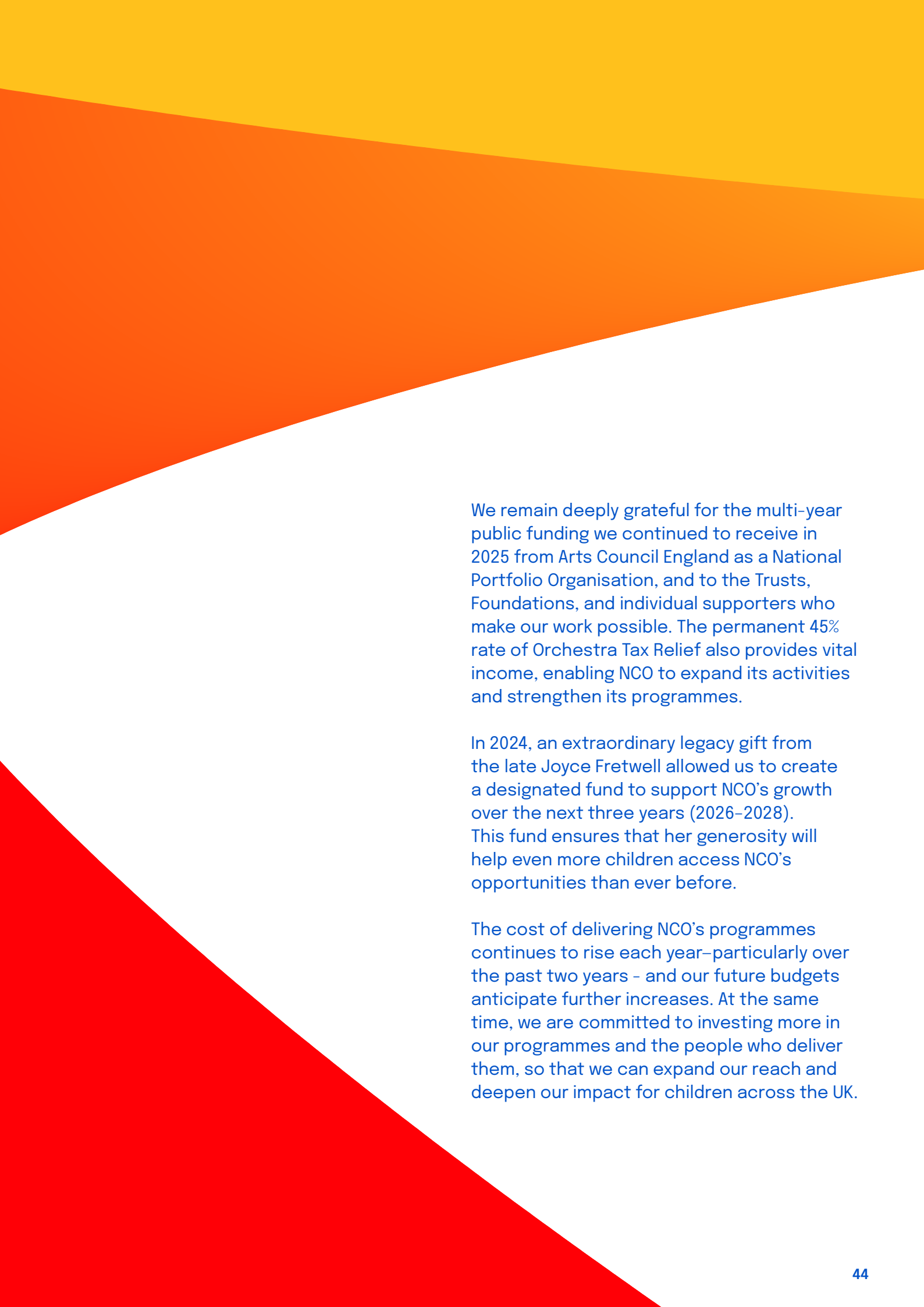
Uncertainty about the level of Orchestra Tax Relief was partly mitigated through HMT's decision in 2024 to set the level of relief at 45% permanently. This does not however guarantee this income source in the future. Financial forecasting and budgeting were completed with this risk area in mind.

Economic Factors

Inflation costs continued to be a risk area for 2025. Again, rising costs were anticipated in forward budgets and regular reforecasting exercises were undertaken by budget holders throughout the year to closely monitor the real impact of the economic landscape on the agreed budget.



Financial sustainability



We remain deeply grateful for the multi-year public funding we continued to receive in 2025 from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, and to the Trusts, Foundations, and individual supporters who make our work possible. The permanent 45% rate of Orchestra Tax Relief also provides vital income, enabling NCO to expand its activities and strengthen its programmes.

In 2024, an extraordinary legacy gift from the late Joyce Fretwell allowed us to create a designated fund to support NCO's growth over the next three years (2026-2028). This fund ensures that her generosity will help even more children access NCO's opportunities than ever before.

The cost of delivering NCO's programmes continues to rise each year—particularly over the past two years - and our future budgets anticipate further increases. At the same time, we are committed to investing more in our programmes and the people who deliver them, so that we can expand our reach and deepen our impact for children across the UK.

Raised Income: This is the money we raise from public and private funders consisting of Arts Council England, Trusts and Foundations, sponsorship and donations from individuals.

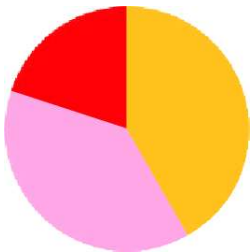
Earned Income: This is the money we receive in membership fees and concert tickets.

Interest and OTR: This is the money we receive from interest and Orchestra Tax Relief.

Charitable Activities: This is the money we spend on running our activities.

Financial Support: This is the money we spend covering all or some of the fees for families who need support.

**Income
2024**

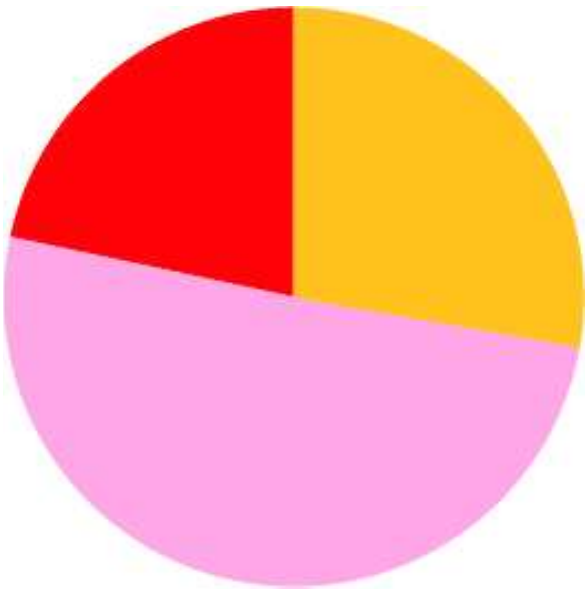


	Raised income	£836,058
	Earned income	£768,335
	Interest and OTR	£396,420
Total		£2,000,813

**Expenditure
2024**

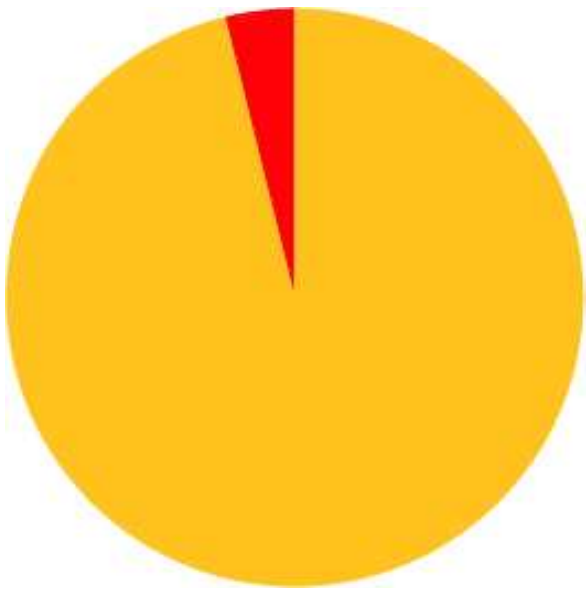


	Charitable Activities	£1,480,719
	Financial Support	£89,345
Total		£1,570,064



Income 2025

	Raised income	£469,497
	Earned income	£845,618
	Interest and OTR	£357,064
Total		£1,672,179



Expenditure 2025

	Charitable Activities	£1,631,770
	Financial Support	£63,120
Total		£1,694,890

Financial review

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out from page 55.

Total income comprised £1,599,076 for unrestricted funds (2024: £1,918,113), £73,103 for restricted funds (2024: £82,700).

Total expenditure was £1,624,731 in unrestricted expenditure (2024: £1,471,289) and £70,159 in restricted expenditure (2024: £98,775).

As at 31st December 2025 the reserves of the charity were £1,110,975 (2024: £1,133,686) of which £280,000 are designated (2024: £446,680) and £22,425 are restricted (2024: £19,481).

Income

Total income was down by £328,634 compared to the previous year due to the large legacy gift in 2024.

NCO received £304,826 in statutory funding as a National Portfolio Organisation with support from the Arts Council of England. £111,300 was achieved through Trusts and Foundations, £23,948 in Individual Giving, and £25,000 in corporate sponsorship.

Earned income also increased by £76,357, achieved through a minimal increase in fee levels for members and box office income. The Charity benefited from £322,433 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £4,423 claim for the year in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by £124,826 compared to the previous year. This is due to increasing costs in relation to activity and overheads and investment in NCO's new brand and website.

Reserves policy

Unrestricted Reserves

Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in March 2026, Trustees identified and agreed that **£700,000** should be retained in unrestricted reserves in line with expenditure and to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries through sufficient cash reserves in line with cashflow forecasts. Future planning is fundamental to the charity's operation, combining the seasonal nature of annual activities with the necessity of planning programmes more than one year ahead. The reserves

policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support advance planning over longer timescales, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that plans are soundly based and funded.

Total unrestricted funds are **£737,319**, after excluding tangible assets of **£71,231**.

A further **£280,000** is held in designated funds to ensure NCO's growth strategy, designed to increase access for young musicians to take part.

Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in Section 20 below. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

Going Concern

The board is mindful that NCO may continue to deploy some financial reserves to meet the challenges of the ongoing economic situation. This relates to increased costs associated with venues and suppliers driven by the inflationary pressures that continue to affect the UK economy, negatively affecting the charity's expenditure and income streams. The board expects this to

have an impact on both raised income for 2026 and programme expenditure. NCO's Board and Finance Committee will convene quarterly to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The Arts Council of England will also review any financial risk to the charity as a mandatory requirement of the NPO funding arrangement.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company

and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Following a procurement process, BHP will be proposed for appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

2025 accounts

The 2025 accounts will be approved by the board of Trustees on Thursday 7th May and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Mitchell

L Mitchell

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and Trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain For the year ended 31st December 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31st December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in

accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 49, the Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the Trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with Trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

In addition, the charity is subject to other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to its ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These include health and safety and safeguarding for children.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery LLP, Statutory Auditor

Michael Strong

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Date: 14/05/26
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Annual Accounts 2025

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	£396,394	£73,103	£469,497	£836,058
Charitable activities	4				
Concerts		£42,239		£42,239	£42,921
Projects		£137,652		£137,652	£120,148
Membership fees		£662,119		£662,119	£602,584
Other trading activities	5	£3,608		£3,608	£2,682
Investments	6	£34,631		£34,631	£29,896
Other	7	£322,433		£322,433	£366,524
Total income		£1,599,076	£73,103	£1,672,179	£2,000,813

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	8	£125,791		£125,791	£102,256
Charitable activities	9				
Programmes (including online)		£1,311,369		£1,311,369	£1,212,521
Auditions		£31,053	£7,539	£38,592	£24,440
Concerts		£156,018		£156,018	£141,502
Bursaries and Scholarships		£500	£62,620	£63,120	£89,345
Total expenditure		£1,624,731	£70,159	£1,694,890	£1,570,064
Net income / (expenditure)		(£25,655)	£2,944	(£22,711)	£430,749
Transfer between funds	20				
Net movement in funds	20	(£25,655)	£2,944	(£22,711)	£430,749
Total Funds brought forward		£1,114,205	£19,481	£1,133,686	£702,937
Total funds carried forward	20	£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686

Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds as Restated
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	15	£71,231		£71,231	£69,448
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	£369,421		£369,421	£418,863
Investments	17	£702,579		£702,579	£448,411
Cash at Bank and in Hand		£730,885	£22,425	£753,310	£911,135
Total		£1,802,885	£22,425	£1,825,310	£1,778,409
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	18	(£785,566)		(£785,566)	(£714,171)
Net Current Assets		£1,017,319	£22,425	£1,039,744	£1,064,238
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686
Net assets		£1,088,550	£22,425	£1,110,975	£1,133,686
Restricted Funds	20			£22,425	£19,481
Unrestricted Funds	20			£1,088,550	£1,114,205
Total Charity Funds				£1,110,975	£1,133,686

The notes at pages 65 to 79 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 7th May 2026

and signed on their behalf by:

Louise Mitchell

L Mitchell – Trustee

Cash flow

	Notes	2025	2024 As Restated
Cash Generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	£64,736	£321,539
Net cash provided by operating activities		£64,736	£321,539
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(£3,024)	
Proceeds from Disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets			
Proceeds from Disposal of Investments			£15,838
Increase in Current Asset Investments		(£254,168)	(£448,411)
Interest Received		£34,631	£29,896
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		(£222,561)	(£402,677)
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period	2	(£157,825)	(£81,138)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		£911,135	£992,273
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period		£753,310	£911,135

Notes to the cash flow statement

1. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

		2025	2024
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(£22,711)	£430,749
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation Charges		£1,241	£772
Interest Received		(£34,631)	(£29,896)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		£49,442	(£101,797)
Increase in Creditors		£71,395	£21,711
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		£64,736	£321,539

2. Analysis of changes in net funds

		At 1st January 2025 As Restated	Cash Flow	At 31st December 2025
Net Cash				
Cash at Bank and in Hand		£911,135	(£157,825)	£753,310
Total		£911,135	(£157,825)	£753,310

Accounting policies

1. Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office and principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol, BS4 3AS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 8 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments and musical instruments which are included at market value. 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 £1.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Valuation of musical instruments

Musical instruments are carried at an estimation of their market value, based upon external valuations and the judgement of the Trustees.

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

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 charitable entity 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. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable entity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties. The charitable entity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions are met, the amount can be measured reliably, and in line with the timing implied by any multi-period grant agreements.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Income from Concerts and Projects is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Music – 20% on cost

Fixtures and fittings – 20% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Musical instruments

Musical instruments are held at valuation and are not depreciated. These are revalued every five years with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of revaluation. Individual instruments valued at less than £200 each are written off.

Taxation

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise demand deposits with banks with maturities of over three months.

Notes

3	Donations and Legacies		2025	2024
	Donations		£159,203	£193,814
	Legacy Income		£1,045	£337,308
	Government Grants		£304,826	£300,002
	Tax Recovered		£4,423	£4,934
			£469,497	£836,058
	The charity received government grants, defined as funding from Arts Council England (and in 2024 also the Department for Education) to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the year ended 31st December 2025 was £304,826 (2024: £300,002). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants.			
4	Income from Charitable Activities		2025	2024
	Concert Income		£42,239	£42,921
	Projects Income		£137,652	£120,148
	Membership Fees		£662,119	£602,584
			£842,010	£765,653
5	Other Trading Activities		2025	2024
	Other Revenue		£3,608	£2,682
			£3,608	£2,682
6	Investment Income		2025	2024
	Investment Income		£34,631	£29,896
			£34,631	£29,896

Notes

7	Other Income		2025	2024
	Orchestra Tax Relief		£322,433	£366,524
			£322,433	£366,524
8	Raising Funds		2025	2024
	Raising Donations and Legacies			
	Staff Costs		£111,860	£91,501
	Other Costs		£13,931	£10,755
			£125,791	£102,256

9	Charitable Activities Costs	Direct Costs	Grant Funding of Activities (See note 10)	Support Costs (See note 11)	Totals 2025
	Programmes (including online)	£650,625		£660,744	1,311,369
	Auditions	£38,592			£38,592
	Concerts	£156,018			£156,018
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£700.00	£62,420		£63,120
		£845,935	£62,420	£660,744	£1,569,099
	Prior Year	Direct Costs	Grant Funding of Activities (See note 10)	Support Costs (See note 11)	Totals 2024
	Programmes (including online)	£619,370		£593,151	£1,212,521
	Auditions	£24,440			£24,440
	Concerts	£141,502			£141,502
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£701	£88,644		£89,345
		£786,013	£88,644	£593,151	£1,467,808

Notes

10	Grants Payable		2025	2024
	Bursaries and Scholarships		£62,420	£88,644
	The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:			
	Grant		£62,420	£88,644
	All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.			

11	Support Costs		Management	Governance	Totals 2025
	Programmes (including online)		£604,801	£55,943	£660,744
			£604,801	£55,943	£660,744
			Management	Governance	Totals 2024
	Programmes (including online)		£542,726	£50,425	£593,151
			£542,726	£50,425	£593,151

12	Net Income/Expenditure		2025	2024
	Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after charging:			
	Auditor' Remuneration		£12,960	£11,640
	Auditor's Remuneration for non audit work		£3,360	£3,180
	Depreciation - Owned Assets		£1,214	£772

Notes

13	Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits			
	There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2025 nor for the year ended 31st December 2024, except as disclosed in Note 23.			
	Trustees' Expenses			
	Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the year totalled £162 (2024: £186).			
14	Staff Costs		2025	2024
	Wages and Salaries		£454,671	£417,361
	Social Security Costs		£42,993	£34,482
	Pension Costs		£10,309	£8,877
			£507,973	£460,720
	The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		2025	2024
			15	15
	There was one employee whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) were between £60,000 – £70,000 (2024: one).			
	The Orchestras employed 193 freelancers during the year (2024: 183), who worked a total of 2,100 days (2024: 1,863 days).			
	The support team provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These freelancers are paid on a per session basis.			

Notes

15	Tangible Fixed Assets		Music	Instruments	Fixtures and Fittings	Totals
	Cost					
	At 1st January 2025		£21,720	£169,850	£75,453	£267,023
	Additions				£3,024	£3,024
	Disposals					
	At 31st December 2025		£21,720	£169,850	£78,477	£270,047
	Depreciation & Impairment					
	At 1st January 2025		£21,720	£102,325	£73,530	£197,575
	Charge for the Year				£1,241	£1,241
	Eliminated on Disposals					
	At 31st December 2025		£21,720	£102,325	£74,771	£198,816
	Net Book Value					
	At 31st December 2025			£67,525	£3,706	£71,231
	At 31st December 2024			£67,525	£1,923	£69,448
	External valuations were obtained for the musical instruments in 2021, that totalled £67,525. It is the opinion of the Trustees that there has been no material movement to the value of the instruments since the external valuations were obtained, up to the 31st December 2025 year end.					

Notes

16	Debtors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		2025	2024
	Trade Debtors		£5,646	£4,797
	Prepayments and Accrued Income		£37,134	£38,247
	Tax Recoverable		£326,641	£375,819
			£369,421	£418,863
17	Current Asset Investments		2025	2024 As Restated
	Amounts Held on Deposit with Maturities Over 3 Months		£702,579	£448,411
			£702,579	£448,411
18	Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year		2025	2024
	Trade Creditors		£21,689	£3,190
	Social Security and Other Taxes		£2,014	£1,854
	Deferred Income		£734,749	£677,822
	Accruals		£27,114	£31,305
			£785,566	£714,171
	Further information on deferred income is provided in note 24.			
19	Leasing Agreements			
	Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:		2025	2024
	Within One Year		£8,848	£11,185
	Between One and Five Years			
			£8,848	£11,185
	Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £46,364 (2024: £45,636).			

Notes

20	Movement in Funds		At 1/1/25	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/25
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£667,525	£27,345	£113,680	£808,550
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve		£53,000	(£53,000)		
	Risk Reserve		£210,000		(£210,000)	
	Organisational Development		£183,680		£96,320	£280,000
			£1,114,205	(£25,655)		£1,088,550
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund			£13,075		£13,075
	E Rorison Winter Award		£3,631	(£200)		£3,431
	Access and Progression		£7,539	(£9,931)		(£2,392)
	Vivienne Price Memorial Fund		£8,311			£8,311
			£19,481	£2,944		£22,425
	Total Funds		£1,133,686	(£22,711)		£1,110,975
	Net Movement in Funds, included in the above are as follows:					
			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£1,599,076	(£1,571,731)		£27,345
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve			(£53,000)		(£53,000)

Notes

			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Risk Reserve					
	Organisational Development					
			£1,599,076	(£1,624,731)		(£25,655)
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund		£73,103	(£60,028)		£13,075
	E Rorison Winter Award			(£200)		(£200)
	Access and Progression			(£9,931)		(£9,931)
	Vivienne Price Memorial Fund					
			£73,103	(£70,159)		£2,944
	Total Funds		£1,672,179	(£1,694,890)		(£22,711)
	Comparatives for Movement in Funds					
			At 1/1/24	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/24
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£410,165	£467,704	(£210,344)	£667,525
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve		£47,216	(£20,880)	£26,664	£53,000
	Risk Reserve		£210,000			£210,000
	Organisational Development				183,680	£183,680
			£667,381	£446,824		£1,114,205

Notes

			At 1/1/24	Net Movement in Funds	Transfers Between Funds	At 31/12/24
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund			(£5,944)	£5,944	
	E Rorison winter award		£3,831	(£200)		£3,631
	Access and Progression		£17,470	(£9,931)		£7,539
	Vivienne Price memorial fund		£14,255		(£5,944)	£8,311
			£35,556	(£16,075)		£19,481
	Total Funds		£702,937	£430,749		£1,133,686
	Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:					
			Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Losses	Movement in Funds
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund		£1,918,113	(£1,450,409)		£467,704
	Unrestricted - Designated Funds					
	Rebranding Reserve			(£20,880)		(£20,880)
	Risk Reserve					
			£1,918,113	(£1,471,289)		£446,824
	Restricted Funds					
	Bursary Fund		£82,700	(£88,644)		(£5,944)
	E Rorison Winter Award			(£200)		(£200)
	Access and Progression			(£9,931)		(£9,931)
			£82,700	(98,775)		(16,075)
	Total Funds		£2,000,813	(1,570,064)		£430,749

Notes

Unrestricted Reserves

Please refer to P48

Restricted Funds

Please refer to P48

Bursary Fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to orchestral activities and for NCO clothing. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an internal NCO panel. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

E Rorison Winter Award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former Trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and Progression

This fund represents money received to support the engagement activities.

Notes

Vivienne Price Memorial Fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds in the prior year represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

Analysis of net assets between funds						
			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	Year to 31st December 2025					
	Tangible Fixed Assets		£71,231			£71,231
	Net Current Assets		£737,319	£280,000	£22,425	£1,039,744
	Total Funds		£808,550	£280,000	£22,425	£1,110,975

			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	Year to 31st December 2024					
	Tangible Fixed Assets		£69,448			£69,448
	Net Current Assets		£598,077	£446,680	£19,481	£1,064,238
	Total Funds		£667,525	£446,680	£19,481	£1,133,686

Notes

21	Employee Benefit Obligations				
	Pension contributions amounting to £10,309 (2024: £8,877) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.				
22	Contingent Liabilities				
	The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.				
23	Related Party Disclosures				
	During the year a number of the Trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.				
	During the year 1 Trustee, L Stott, was paid a total of £450 (2024: £313) for services as a tutor. The fees paid were in line with those paid to other tutors and freelancers providing similar services to the Charity.				

24	Deferred income		2025	2024
	Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31st December 2025:			
	Membership deferred at 1st January 2025		£677,822	£644,130
	Released to income in the year		(£677,822)	(£644,130)
	Grant funding received in advance			
	Membership deferred at 31st December 2025		£734,749	£677,822
			£734,749	£677,822
	Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.			

Notes

25	Post balance sheet events			
	The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.			
26	Prior Period Adjustments			
	Changes to the Balance Sheet	As Previously Reported	Adjustment	As Restated at 31st Dec 2024
	Current Assets			
	Current Asset Investments		£448,411	£448,411
	Cash at Bank and in Hand	£1,359,546	(£448,411)	£911,135
	Net Assets	£1,133,686		£1,133,686
	Total Charity Funds	£1,133,686		£1,133,686
	During the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025, it was identified that current asset investments amounting to £448,411 had been incorrectly classified as cash and cash equivalents in the prior year's financial statements as at 31st December 2024. This error arose due to a misclassification of asset classes.			
	The investments related to deposits held in fixed-term accounts with maturities of over 3 months. In accordance with FRS 102, such deposits do not meet the definition of cash equivalents.			
	The comparative figures have been restated accordingly. The correction has no impact on the total net assets or deficit for the year ended 31st December 2024.			

Notes

27	Comparatives for the statement of financial activities			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Income and Endowments from			
	Donations and Legacies	£753,358	£82,700	£836,058
	Charitable Activities			
	Concerts	£42,921		£42,921
	Projects	£120,148		£120,148
	Membership Fees	£602,584		£602,584
	Other Trading Activities	£2,682		£2,682
	Investment Income	£29,896		£29,896
	Other Income	£366,524		£366,524
	Total	£1,918,113	£82,700	£2,000,813
	Expenditure on			
	Raising Funds	£102,256		£102,256

Notes

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Charitable Activities			
	Programmes (including online)	£1,212,521		£1,212,521
	Auditions	£14,509	£9,931	£24,440
	Concerts	£141,502		£141,502
	Bursaries and Scholarships	£501	£88,844	£89,345
	Total	£1,471,289	£98,775	£1,570,064
	Net Income/(Expenditure)	£446,824	(£16,075)	£430,749
	Transfers Between Funds			
	Net Movement in Funds	£446,824	(£16,075)	£430,749
	Total Funds Brought Forward	£667,381	£35,556	£702,937
	Total Funds Carried Forward	£1,114,205	£19,481	£1,133,686

**Thank
yous**

Thank you

Trustees

Alison Mears
Alistair Butt
Beth Higham-Edwards
Christine Wu
Clare Jack
George Caird
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason
Letty Stott
Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Lucy Maguire
Roger Tomlinson
Sophie Jerrold
Stuart Burns
Uchenna Ngwe

Thanks also to Trustees who have retired from our board during this year:

Jonathan Mayes (Deputy Chair) and **William Norris**

Administrative Staff

Sophie Lewis
Chief Executive
Becky Cresswell
Communications Director
Charlotte Taras
Communications Manager
Abby Capern
Communications Assistant
Tammy Daly
Programme and Orchestras Director

Andrew Thompson
Programme and Orchestras Manager

Olivia Jollands
Programme and Orchestras Manager

Hannah Findlater
Programme and Orchestras Administrator

Katie Axelson
Music Librarian

Alice Morrison
Development Director

Sarah Freeman
Head of Development

Tamsin Oldham
Head of Engagement

Siobainn Chaplin
Head of Safeguarding and Support

Beth Mackenzie
Head of Business Administration

Thanks also to colleagues who have moved on to new adventures during this year:

Catherine Arlidge and **Jessica Hill.**

Freelance team

Music Tutors

Abi Hyde-Smith
Aisling Palmer
Aisling Reilly
Alex Willett

Amy Thomas
Andres Yauri
Anna Caban
Anna Vaughan
Andy Wilson
Anthony Bailey
Anton Clarke-Butler
Arlene MacFarlane
Bindi McFarlane
Bryony Mycroft
Catherine Handley
Catrin Win Morgan
Catriona McDermid
Chris Augustine
Chris Barrett
Chris Beagles
Claire Hasted
Clare Thompson
Connie Tanner
David Munn
Elen Hydref
Elfair Grug
Elsa Bradley
Emma Purslow
Francesca Moore-Bridger
Fraser Gordon
Gabi Swallow
Gabriella Dall'Olio
Hayley Wild
Heidi Bennett
Helen Brew
Helen Edgar
Helen Kuby
Henry Roberts
Ian Forgrieve
Jacqueline Phillips
Jenny Weir
Jim Maynard

Thank you

Jo Bradley

Jo Lively

Joanne Green

Jonathan Trim

Josh Salter

Julian Atkinson

Kath Gittings

Kesari Pundarika

Kirsty Matheson

Liz Fyfe

Liz Trigg

Louise Braithwaite

Lynn Henderson

Marged Hall

Meadow Brookes

Mariella Bromfield

Matt Bain

Matt Palmer

May Halyburton

Melanie Martin

Melanie Rothman

Neil Fulton

Nico Bricht

Owen Cox

Rachel Holt

Rachel Wick

Richard Shrewsbury

Richard Steggall

Robyn Lund

Roisin Ni Dhuill

Ruby Aspinall

Ruby Orłowska

Ryan Linham

Sally O'Brien

Sally-Ann Anderson

Sam Kinrade

Sophie Roper

Sophie Simpson

Sue Baxendale

Tim Barber

Tom Highnam

Veronica Urrego

Vicky Lee

Zoe Matthews

Conductors

Adam Gibbs

Andy Morley

Caroline Hobbs-Smith

Dominic Wheeler

Greg Beardsell

Helen Harrison

Jack Ridley

Jonathan Trim

Matthew Quinn

Natalia Luis-Bassa

Rebecca Miller

Veronica Urrego

Creative Leads

Delia Stevens

Ed Babar

Georgina Aasgaard

Jonathan James

Raph Clarkson

Wellbeing Leads

Claire Bennett

Henry Cooley

Sarah Upjohn

Sophie Till

Tom Taffinder

Support Managers & Assistant Support Managers

Alexander Leadbeater

Brian Weir

Charlotte Hill

Dave Muncey

Elizabeth O'Neill

Emily Stephens

James Fisher

Support Team

Aaron Pring

Adam Al-Naisiri

Aidan Campbell

Alex Boyd-Bench

Alex Gray

Anna Gambrill

Asher Penny

Benedict King

Charlie Hodge

Edward Hyde

Ee Ann Ho

Eleanor Hall

Faith Stonehewer

George Hillier

Grace Harman

Hannah Seymour

Harry Appleby-Taylor

Holly Payne

Iona Griffiths

Isabel Thompson

Jodie Mitson

Josephine Connor

Joshua Cusworth

Kathryn Titcomb

Katy Harrison

Katie Macdonald

Thank you

Kezia Elliot
Klara Sweeney
Leo Schartz
Louis Benneyworth
Lucy Heppel
Lucy Keeley
Lucy Little
Maisie Veitch
Marcus Leung
Matthew Sutton
Melissa Doody
Mikey Lowe
Nadia Wilson
Nick Williams
Rebekah Clarke
Rhiannon Bedford
Roisin Craney
Sabrina Ko
Sam Hill
Sam Holburt
Sam Middleton
Sarah Chew
Steph Yim
Susanna Alsey
Thomas Judge
Toby Johnson-Jones

Instrument Support

Callum Davis
David Wheeler
Edward Simons
George Brady
Hannah Spry
Jordan Kinsey
Milly Deering
Toby Johnson-Jones
Torbin Collier

Orchestra Managers, Assistant Orchestra Managers & Concert Managers

Alex Tighe
Liz Dixon
Mary Owens
Rebecca Coleman

Guest Artists

Chris Augustine
Carol Jarvis
Katy Jones
Nate Holder

Webinar & Concert Guests / Presenters

Alicia Li-Yan-Hui
Anna Lapwood
Carol Jarvis
Chris Augustine
Jamaal Kashim
Linton Stephens
Naomi Wilkinson
Simmy Singh

Nurses

Joanna Carnegie
Karen Lang
Kate Hollis
Sam Young

Thank you

We would like to thank our wonderful supporters, partners, and Friends and Patrons, as listed below, for their extraordinary support towards our 2025 programme. Their generous donations, grants, sponsorships and encouragement enables what we do. To each of you – we could not do it without you. Thank you.

Supporters



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Sponsor

ABRSM

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Derek Hill Foundation
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust
GC Gibson Charitable Trust
The Golsoncott Foundation
Harrison-Frank Family Foundation**

John Thaw Foundation

**The Leverhulme Trust
The Marsh Trust
The Mary Robertson Trust
Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
Mrs Pat Ripley's Charitable Trust
PF Charitable Trust
Three Monkeys Trust
Universal Music Sound Foundation
Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust**

Families

We are so grateful for the generosity and support shown to us in donations from NCO families this year. Thank you.

Thank you

Partners

NCO is deepening existing partnerships and developing further collaborations across the UK to support a greater diversity of children, young musicians and their families to engage with NCO.

We are committed to providing and supporting access to music making and concerts and look forward to continuing existing and developing new relationships with: ABRSM, Association of British Orchestras, Birmingham Conservatoire, Bradford Music & Arts Service, Bolton Music Service (GMMH), Bristol Beacon, Devon Music Education Hub, Future Talent, In Harmony, Hull Music Hub, Lancashire Music Hub, Lincolnshire Music Hub, Music Mark, Music Masters, Music for Youth, Nucleo, our fellow National Youth Music Organisations, One Education Manchester (GMMH), Open Up Music, Royal Northern College of Music, West of England Music & Arts, Wessex Music, Wiltshire Music Centre, Young Sounds UK.

Friends and Patrons

Thank you to our dedicated supporters for their regular donations through NCO's Friends and Patrons scheme. They are:

Principal Patrons

Anonymous Donor

Howard & Celia Gough

Patrons

**Anthony &
Stella Capo Bianco
Louise Mitchell**

Forte Friends

**John Bradley
Nina Kaye &
Timothy Nathan
Andrew Kemble
Jean Marsh
Robert Mitchell
William O'Farrell
Paul & Alison Richards**

Crescendo Friends

**Alan Clarkson
Jonathan Dimpleby
Michael Ferraro
Melanie Haydon
Gillian Kemble
Chris Lamb
Dr Alison Leaf
Sophie & Simon Lewis
Kathy & Vince Ludlow
Jonathan Mayes
David Stride**

Clare Thompson

Moira Usher

Brian & Jennifer Weir

The Wyer Family

Pianissimo Friends

Stuart Burns

Mary Cordall

Sarah Freeman

Drs R & B Grover

Eun Jung Ha

Jane & Timothy Harries

Fiona Harvey

Beth Higham-Edwards

Geoffrey Hirst

John & Diana Lampen

J Pont

William Norris

Annabel Noton

Jenna & Hugh Robinson

Michael Ruffle

Peter Stark

Harry & Nicky Yoxall

Special Thanks

We were touched to receive a Legacy Gift this year from **Margaret Gilding**, who was a dedicated, long-term supporter of NCO, and friend of our founder Vivienne Price. We were so sorry to hear of her passing and will be sure to put her kind gift to the best possible use in her memory. We were also so grateful to receive a legacy from the late **Mary Cordall** whose gift will be used in 2026 to support NCO percussionists as per her wishes.

Charity information

Trustees

Louise Mitchell

(Chair)

Alistair Butt

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Stuart Burns

George Caird

Beth Higham-Edwards

Clare Jack

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Sophie Jerrold

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason

Lucy Maguire

Jonathan Mayes

(Vice Chair, retired 13th Sept 2025)

Alison Mears Esswood

Uchenna Ngwe

William Norris

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

Laetitia Stott

Roger Tomlinson

Christine Wu

Finance Committee

Members

Stuart Burns

Alistair Butt

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Clare Jack

(appointed 6th May 2025)

Jonathan Mayes

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

William Norris

(retired 13th Sept 2025)

Roger Tomlinson

Christine Wu

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Executive Team

Sophie Lewis

- Chief Executive

Catherine Arlidge

- MBE Artistic and Educational Director
(resigned March 2025)

Auditors

Saffery LLP

St Catherine's Court

Berkeley Place

Clifton

Bristol

BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

64 High Street

Epsom

Surrey

KT19 8AT

Charity information

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 1st January 2019).

National Children's Orchestras

Unit 2.3, Streamline
436-441 Paintworks
Arnos Vale
Bristol
BS4 3AS

www.nco.org.uk

Registered Charity Number:

803026

Registered Company Number:

2471385 (England and Wales)



@nco_gb



@ncogb



@National Childrens Orchestras

Photos by Vernon Nash, Paul Blakemore, Mark Allan, Joey Moxley and Chris Payne

Film by Joey Moxley

Report Design by The Yard Creative

Signature: Louise Mitchell
Louise Mitchell (May 8, 2026 12:06:37 GMT+1)
Email: louise@louisemitchell.org

Signature: Michael Strong
Michael Strong (May 14, 2026 14:39:45 GMT+1)
Email: alexandra.momtahan@saffery.com

260415_NCO_Trustee Annual Report_compressed

Final Audit Report

2026-05-14

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National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Audit closing report to the
Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Contents

Executive summary	1
Audit status and approach	3
Key audit risks and conclusions on key audit matters	4
Other significant audit and accounting matters	8
Evaluation of misstatements	9
Accounting and internal control systems	11
Auditor independence and objectivity	14
Consideration of fraud	15
Looking forward	16

The matters raised in this report are only those which have come to our attention arising from or relevant to our audit that we believe need to be brought to your attention. They are not a comprehensive record of all the matters arising and, in particular, we cannot be held responsible for reporting all risks in your business or all internal control weaknesses. This report has been prepared solely for your use and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared for, and is not intended for, any other purpose.

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Executive summary

This report sets out the key matters arising from the work that we have carried out in respect of the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025. This report addresses the following matters:



Audit status and approach

Our audit has been carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ('ISAs') (UK) as adopted by the Financial Reporting Council ('FRC'). The audit is complete and we have issued an unmodified audit opinion.

Key audit risks

As set out in our Audit Strategy Report we identified the following significant risks where we expected to focus our audit work:

- Risk of material misstatement arising from management override of controls
- Risk of material misstatement arising from revenue recognition

We also set out other risks we addressed as part of our audit procedures:

- Risk of going concern status from adherence to relevant laws and regulations
- Risk of material misstatement arising from the valuation of instruments

We set out in this section our conclusions regarding these key risks.

Other significant audit and accounting matters

We have also addressed the following additional matters upon which we will report:

- Review of accounting policies
- Changes to accounting policies
- Accounting for and disclosure of significant and unusual transactions
- Significant estimates and areas of judgement
- Financial statement disclosures
- Other significant matters



Evaluation of misstatements

In accordance with ISA (UK) 450 *Evaluation of misstatements identified during the audit* we are required to report all misstatements in the draft financial statements which management have not corrected, other than those that are 'clearly trivial'. We consider the impact of any identified misstatements in the financial statement disclosures.

Accounting and internal control systems

We have documented and tested the internal control systems only to the extent that it is necessary for us to complete our audit work. Our work does not constitute a full test of the controls and is not designed to identify all deficiencies or issues that may exist. However, we highlight in this report any significant deficiencies that we have noted throughout the course of our audit.

Auditor independence and objectivity

We reconfirm our assessment of the threats to our independence and that we have complied with the requirements on objectivity and independence.

Looking forward

We consider:

- Forthcoming changes to accounting and auditing standards
- Any other regulatory or legislative changes
- Planning for the next financial year
- Any other relevant issues that may affect your financial statements or business

Audit status and approach



Outstanding matters

We have completed our audit and there are no outstanding matters.

We have issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements.

Audit approach

We completed our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) as adopted by the FRC. Our audit work was carried out in accordance with our Audit Strategy Report as sent to you on 2 February 2026 and in response to the perceived audit risks, and no reasons or issues were identified which required us to change our approach and no additional risks were identified.

In our Audit Strategy Report we presented detail on our approach to setting materiality.

Planning materiality was set at £50,000 and performance materiality was set at £45,000, based upon the income levels for the year. We used draft accounts to determine these materiality levels. (Please refer to the Audit Strategy Report for description of planning and performance materiality.) We reassessed materiality at the completion stage and concluded that it remained appropriate as initially determined.

Key audit risks and conclusions on key audit matters

During our audit planning we identified the following significant risks. Significant risks are identified and assessed risks of material misstatement that, in our judgement, require special audit consideration.



Risk of material misstatement arising from management override of controls



Description and audit approach

Management override of controls and accounting records is a key consideration in all audits, and the risk of this is present in all entities. We have performed the following procedures including:

- Made inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process
- Discussed with management how they identify transactions or other events that give rise to the need for accounting estimates
- Assessed the appropriateness of journal entries testing a sample of such entries, using data analytics to identify unusual journals for further review

- Reviewed accounting estimates for susceptibility to misstatement due to management bias or fraud
- Performed a retrospective review of management judgements and assumptions relating to accounting estimates recorded in the prior year
- Evaluated the business rationale for significant transactions outside the normal course of business

Conclusion

We have not identified any material misstatement arising from management override of controls or the posting of journals.

Risk of material misstatement arising from revenue recognition



Description and audit approach

Under ISA (UK) 240 The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements revenue recognition is a presumed risk.

We have performed the following procedures including:

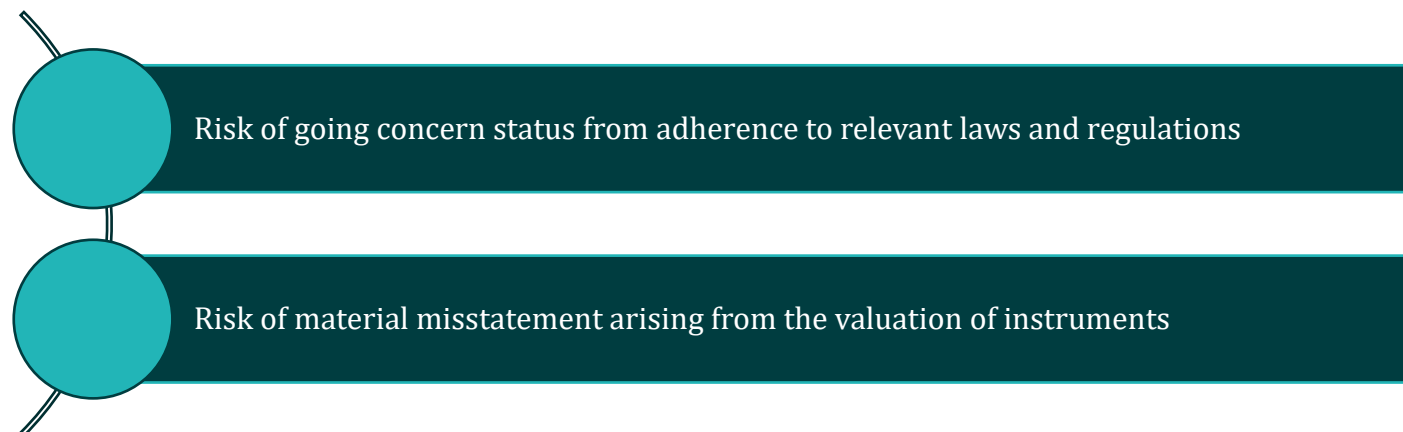
- Performed a detailed analytical review of all revenue streams
- Performed substantive testing of a sample of revenue items recognised during the year and around the year end to ensure cut-off is appropriate
- Reviewed allocation between restricted and non-restricted funds, including associated expenditure

Conclusion

We have not identified any material misstatement arising from errors in revenue recognition.

Other areas where there is a higher assessed risk of material misstatement

We identified the following areas where there was a higher risk of material misstatement but they were not considered to be significant risks. We addressed these as part of our audit procedures as they did not require any additional, special audit consideration.



Risk of going concern status from adherence to relevant laws and regulations



Description and audit approach

We have performed the following procedures including:

- Considered whether any of our testing indicates breaches in laws and regulations
- Where we identified areas for which significant laws and regulations are applicable, we obtained assurance that these regulations continue to be complied with
- Considered the form of the audit opinion

Conclusion

We have not identified any material misstatement arising from the preparation of the accounts under the going concern assumption.

Risk of material misstatement arising from the valuation of instruments



Description and audit approach

We have performed the following procedures including:

- Reviewed evidence to conclude whether the valuation at which the instruments are currently held is materially accurate
- Ensured that all necessary disclosures have been included in the financial statements

Conclusion

We have not identified any material misstatement arising from the valuations of instruments at year end.

Other significant audit and accounting matters



Review of accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice 'UK GAAP'. We have reviewed the accounting policies adopted by the Charity and have found them to be appropriate and applied consistently.

Changes to accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies during the year. The investment policy wording has been updated to reflect the removal of fixed investments and the use of current asset investments only; this does not constitute a change in accounting policy.

Significant accounting estimates, areas of judgement and estimation uncertainty

- Instrument valuation – considered as a key risk as per above
- Allocation of costs between activities – costs are allocated on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities, they are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities. Allocations have been reviewed and are considered reasonable.

Financial statement disclosures

We have received a complete draft of the financial statements. All significant presentational items identified during our review have been amended.

Other significant matters

A prior year adjustment was processed to split out deposits with maturities of over three months as detailed in note 26 of the financial statements. Whilst material in size and therefore necessary to adjust, we consider the nature of this adjustment to be a relatively minor matter, being presentational and Balance Sheet to Balance Sheet only (between Investments and Cash at bank).

There are no other matters which we need to bring to the attention to those charged with governance.

Evaluation of misstatements



Uncorrected misstatements

In accordance with ISA (UK) 450 *Evaluation of misstatements identified during the audit* we are required to report any misstatements identified during the course of our audit which have not been corrected by management other than those which are considered to be 'clearly trivial'. This includes misstatements in reported amounts, classification, presentation or disclosure of reported items whether due to fraud or error.

Description	£ Balance sheet		£ SoFA		£ Gain
	DR	CR	DR	CR	(deficit)
Prepayments	4,979				-
Projects Venue Hire & Charges		(4,979)			-
<i>Being adjustment to recognise prepayments for Ruddock Performing Arts Centre (against opening reserves as there was a similar issue in the previous year, so the current year impact on the SoFA is already correct)</i>					

Misstatements in disclosures

In accordance with ISA (UK) 450 *Evaluation of misstatements identified during the audit*, misstatements can arise in reported amounts, classification, presentation or disclosure of a financial statement item. Misstatements in disclosures may be clearly trivial whether taken individually or in aggregate, and whether judged by any criteria of size, nature or circumstances.

We have not identified any misstatements in the financial statement disclosures to bring to your attention.

Corrected misstatements

We also report any material misstatements which have been corrected which we believe should be communicated to you to help you meet your governance responsibilities.

Description	£ Balance sheet		£ SoFA		£ Gain
	DR	CR	DR	DR	(deficit)
Cash at bank and in hand		(702,579)			-
Current asset investments	702,579				-
<i>Being the split of deposits held with maturities of over 3 months for the current year</i>					

Accounting and internal control systems

The objective of the audit is for us to express an opinion on the financial statements. The audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.



Throughout the course of our work we have identified the following deficiencies in internal control which we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you.

In accordance with the terms of our engagement, we have not provided a comprehensive statement of all issues which may exist in the accounting and internal control systems or of all improvements which may be made.

In the table below, we have categorised the significant deficiencies identified in order to assist you in prioritising addressing them:

- Requires attention, but least urgent
- Important
- Most significant

We set out below the current year management letter points:

Issue	Recommendation	Management response	Significance
During our journal testing, it was noted that two concert venue fees invoiced in 2025 related to venue hire in 2026, and should have been recognised as a prepayment. This was discussed and noted that the amount was retained as an expense to ensure that ongoing venue hire costs were reflected accurately in the year. Historically these have not been recognised as prepayments, so the prior year cost relating to the current year was recorded in the prior year.	The amount relating to 2026 was highly immaterial (£4,979), however we recommend that expenditure is recognised in the year to which it relates, and that sufficient checks around year end are applied to detect missed items.		
During our expenses cut-off testing, it was noted that the associated expense for an invoice relating to the period December 2025 to February 2026 was included in full in the 2025 year.	The amount relating to 2026 was trivial (£1,040.40), however we would recommend that invoices relating to the following year are recorded as prepayments, rather than being expensed in the year.		
During our expenses cut-off testing, it was noted that there were two instances where an invoice was received in 2026 but related to 2025. The corresponding expense was not accrued, and was instead expensed in full in 2026.	The aggregate amount relating to 2025 was highly trivial (£174.96), however we would recommend that all expenses relating to the current year which are invoiced post year end are accrued in the year to which they relate.		

The management letter points from the prior year and their status are set out below:

Issue	Recommendation	Status
During the year there were two invoices incorrectly posted to the Access and Progression restricted reserve. While the posted balance was trivial from an audit perspective, further postings of this nature could create a material variance in the financial statements.	We recommend that there are no postings to the reserves during the year.	No such postings to reserves noted in the current year, therefore this point is considered cleared.
During our fixed assets testing, we identified an equal difference in cost and accumulated depreciation of Instruments between the FAR and the accounts.	This is considered low risk as the amounts net off to the same net book value, however we would recommend that the fully depreciated 'Opening Balance' asset is removed from the FAR.	No issues seen during this year's audit testing therefore, this point is considered cleared.
During our journal testing, it was discovered that one of our sample, while appearing as an expense recognised in the current financial year, was actually an expense relating to the subsequent year, and should have been recognised as a prepayment. While a very low balance, further postings such as this could create a material cut-off error, leading to profit and the balance sheet being misstated.	We recommend that expenditure is recognised in the year it relates to, and that sufficient checks around year end are applied to detect missed items.	Remains relevant for the current year and a similar point has been raised in the current year management letter points above.

Auditor independence and objectivity

We have complied with the FRC’s Revised Ethical Standard 2024 and all threats to our independence have been properly addressed through safeguards.



We identified the following threats to you in our Audit strategy report sent on 2 February 2026:

Threat	Safeguards to mitigate those threats
Self-review threat from accounts preparation	A team separate to the audit team performed accounts preparation work
Self-review threat from provision of ad-hoc VAT advisory services	A team separate to the audit team provides VAT advisory services when required

No additional threats were identified throughout the audit.

The firm provides audit services to the Charity in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 September 2020.

We confirm that, in our professional judgement, we are independent of the Charity and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff is not impaired. We have considered the independence of the firm and partners, senior managers and managers conducting the audit.

Consideration of fraud

The responsibility for safeguarding the Charity's assets and for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud rests with the Trustees. Nevertheless, we are required to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, including those arising as a result of fraud.



Unless prohibited by law or regulation, we are required to communicate identified or suspected fraud involving management, employees who have significant roles in internal control or others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our audit procedures did not identify any instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud. We will seek confirmation from those charged with governance on whether you are aware of any known, suspected or alleged frauds since last enquired in our audit strategy report.

Looking forward



Revisions to UK GAAP and Charities SORP – effective for your 2026 year end

Following extensive consultation, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has published revisions to UK GAAP which will be effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2026. Principal revisions are around the accounting for revenue and leases as the standards are brought closer in alignment with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) albeit with some simplifications. The key change for most organisations is the requirement to bring certain operating leases onto the balance sheet. Following a consultation period the new SORP has now been published: [Download a full SORP - SORP](#)

The key changes are:

- Tiered reporting: there is a new three-tiered reporting regime based on gross income, each accompanied by differing levels of disclosure requirements.
- Income recognition: the SORP aims to explain the five step model for income recognition from FRS 102 in an understandable way for charities with relevant examples. It also aims to explain when the five step model, either in whole or in part, must be applied to membership income and income from royalties. Note that it does not apply to income from non-exchange transactions.
- Lease accounting: the SORP mirrors the requirements in FRS 102. The new module in the SORP provides additional information and examples to support charities in the application of these new requirements.
- Trustees' report narrative: additional reporting is set out covering impact reporting, reserves, going concern and the use of volunteers. It also introduces proportionate reporting for environmental, social and governance issues.

Updated Charity Governance code

Between May and August 2024, the Charity Governance Code steering group ran a consultation on the Charity Governance Code. The purpose of the consultation was to ensure the Code remains relevant and useful. Following a lengthy review period, the steering group published and updated version of the code on 3 November 2025.

The code is a refinement of the previous version and remains about best practice for Charities. Fundamentally it continues to guide governance and board behaviours in Charities.

The updated code can be found here: [Charity Governance Code 2025 - charitygovernancecode.org](#)

Other

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lauren, Sophie and the team for all of their assistance with this year's audit.

Accounts



National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Registered company number: 02471385

Registered charity number: 803026 (England and Wales)

Audited financial statements for the year ended

31 December 2024

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024
Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Auditor's Report	16
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Cash Flow Statement	22
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	23
Notes to the Financial Statements	24

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

Administrative Information and Reference

Registered Company number
02471385 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
803026

Registered Office and Principal Office
Unit 2.3, Streamline Building
436-441 Paintworks
Bristol
BS4 3AS

Trustees

Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Janet Baker (Honorary Treasurer) (resigned 31 July 2024)
Rosie Benneyworth (Lead Health and Safety Trustee) (resigned 25 September 2024)
Stuart Burns (appointed 12 December 2024)
George Caird
Miranda Francis (Lead Safeguarding Trustee) (resigned 31 July 2024)
Fiona Harvey (resigned 31 July 2024)
Beth Higham-Edwards (reappointed 23 May 2024)
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason (reappointed 23 May 2024)
Lucy Maguire (reappointed 23 May 2024)
Jonathan Mayes (Vice Chair, Lead Environmental Trustee) (reappointed 23 Mar 2024)
Alison Mears Esswood (appointed 12 December 2024)
Uchenna Ngwe
William Norris (reappointed 23 May 2024)
Laetitia Stott
Roger Tomlinson (appointed 12 December 2024)
Brian Weir (Lead Safeguarding Trustee) (resigned 31 July 2024)
Christine Wu (reappointed 23 May 2024)

Finance Committee Members

Janet Baker (Hon. Treasurer) (resigned 31 July 2024)
Rosie Benneyworth (resigned 25 September 2024)
Stuart Burns (appointed 12 December 2024)
Fiona Harvey (resigned 31 July 2024)
Jonathan Mayes (reappointed 23 May 2024)
William Norris (reappointed 23 May 2024)
Christine Wu (reappointed 23 May 2024)

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Executive Leadership

Sophie Lewis - Chief Executive
Catherine Arlidge MBE - Artistic and Educational Director

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Auditors

Saffery LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
64 High Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT19 8AT

CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

To be a place where children (and grown-ups) flourish through music.

Mission

Our mission is to enable children aged 8-14 to flourish:

- through the power of **learning** and **playing music together**
- by **empowering** them **creatively** and supporting their **development** and **ambition**
- by prioritising their **wellbeing**, **hearing their voices** and **responding** to what matters to them.

Values

Ambition – for children, our team, our organisation and our sector to realise our individual and collective potential.

Happiness – we want to make everyone's lives measurably happier and healthier because they are part of what we do, and they feel they belong.

Creativity – we believe that everyone is creative and support ideas and experiences that develop creativity, a skill which is invaluable and applicable in our day-to-day working and personal lives.

Honesty – we are true to ourselves and others and are rooted in evidence that tells us what we are doing well and what we can improve.

Respect – we actively listen to children, staff and partners and are constantly evolving what we do and how we do it. We respect each other whatever our views or backgrounds and we encourage self-respect.

Our Aims and Objectives

Based on stakeholder consultation, NCO's new Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in 2023 and covers the subsequent three-year period. Based on ten key priorities, progress towards targets and milestones will be informed by data collection and our evaluation framework and reviewed regularly by the Senior Management Team and Board.

1. Musical ambition is achieved through excellence in orchestral training

Inspiring educators and artists support all children to develop their musicianship and ambition through our distinctive learning framework and well-pitched, diverse programming.

2. Improving Equity Diversity and Inclusion is essential

We believe that everyone should have fair opportunities to participate, work or engage with NCO. We are committed to creating a welcoming place where everyone feels they belong. We are making changes to our programme, organisation and communications to ensure that Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are at the centre of our plans and that we constantly learn and improve through review and reflection.

3. Children are listened to, and it makes a difference

Our programme offers opportunities for children to explore their voice, contribute to our activities and inform our plans.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Creativity is integral to our programme and is valued

We will take every opportunity to support creativity across our programme and encourage children to take artistic risks through musical experimentation.

5. More children participate in, through and beyond NCO

Our Projects Programme will continue to grow as will our community, engagement and partnership activities so that we reach more children each year and support progression within NCO and to other opportunities for young musicians.

6. More people attend and participate in our performances

We will expand our audiences beyond our participant families and will nurture children and families who are not currently engaged with us through concert day activities, community engagement and partnerships.

7. Partnerships are key to our success

We will learn and grow from partnerships with a range of organisations committed to widening access, community engagement, workforce development, research, and health and wellbeing - as much as we will share our expertise and ambitions.

8. We are a sector leader

We will share our expertise and learning with our industry colleagues and beyond.

9. Health and happiness for all, including wider society

We will explore how music drives health and happiness and will work with expert partners to support the wellbeing of everyone who engages with NCO.

10. We are a stronger organisation

We will increase our profile, reach, engagement, diversity and relevance. NCO will constantly strive for increased financial sustainability.

Our Programme Framework

Auditions: NCO selects c. 650 children aged 8-14 via an annual audition process that opens in May, concluding in October. Each successful applicant is offered a place in one of NCO's two programme strands and all children participate in NCO Online.

NCO National Programme: Three age-banded symphony orchestras (Under 12 Orchestra – Year 7, Under 13 Orchestra – Year 8 and Main Orchestra – Year 9). Each orchestra meets twice per year (Spring and Summer) for a 7/8 day residency and final performance. NCO's Main Orchestra also performs a farewell concert in November in London.

NCO Projects Programme: Four symphony orchestras for children aged 8-14 currently based in South London, North London, Birmingham and Bolton. Each orchestra meets twice per year for a non-residential weekend in March and June. NCO's Projects Programme is designed for children from a wider age range to explore large scale orchestral playing, some of whom are taking part in these activities for the first time.

NCO Online programme: A member website hosts digital resources and live events designed to support musical learning and preparation as well as social inclusion and confidence leading up to each activity.

NCO Horizons Programme: Includes additional community and engagement activities, reaching new participants and delivered in partnership with venues, schools, music hubs and social impact organisations. NCO Horizons Student Placement Insights and Tutor Experience Programmes are both professional development and training opportunities for young people from across the UK in higher education.

Our Learning Framework

NCO's learning framework is based on four key components:

Ambition: NCO engages diverse, inspiring, effective, representative and open-minded music teams to support each child's musical and creative development and confidence. Children learn from tutors and conductors and each other. NCO's music programming is well pitched, consisting of ambitious repertoire at all levels of activity.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Creativity: NCO offers a safe space for all children to explore their creativity, experiment musically and take artistic risks. They do this through their musical activities including composition and improvisation, body percussion and spoken word. Creative practice feeds excellence and builds critical thinking; it enables less confident children to shine and brings experimentation and new ideas fizzing to the surface.

Wellbeing: Supporting the emotional and physical wellbeing of the children in NCO is central to everything we do. Children flourish at NCO through the power of learning and playing music together, because we empower them creatively, support their ambition and respond to what they say matters to them.

Child Voice: NCO empowers children to find their voices and share their opinions so that they can begin to shape their identity as a musician and young person in this world and help us share with others what they want from their musical experiences, what they care about outside music, and what world they want to live in. They become informed, empathetic, respectful advocates for the power of music education, orchestras, and for NCO.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

NCO fulfils a unique, strategic national role as a distinctive pathway for children with outstanding creative potential at a key time as they transition from primary to secondary school. NCO provides high quality opportunities for children to take part in musical learning outside school. NCO is a significant progression route and connector in music education for children from all backgrounds.

Alongside progression opportunities, NCO creates positive learning, engagement, progression and wellbeing outcomes for children, and the adults who work with the charity. Many children may not otherwise have these opportunities due to socio-economic barriers to access and inclusion, such as fewer economic and educational privileges and other challenges which could include where they live or their ethnicity.

NCO's work supports the current and future health of the artform of music by supporting young orchestral musicians and practitioners, creating new audiences and advocates for orchestral music, showcasing incredible and varied repertoire and supporting exciting new music commissions.

2024 Key Achievements

2024 was a year of growth in applicants, participants, audiences, activities and reach. NCO launched a new series of initiatives designed to extend its impact and influence across, and in partnership with, music education. This is just the beginning; it is intended as a signal of the charity's determination to support access and progression for children who may not otherwise take part.

Child Voice is fundamental to NCO's ethos. 2024 saw significant expansion in this area of work through the Young Presenters and Creative Ambassadors programmes. Children and families also informed NCO's new brand framework with input from staff, activity teams, NCO's board and supporters. Expertly led by Morris Hargreaves McIntyre, NCO's new brand and website will launch in May 2025. Critically, this year saw a major focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, with all NCO's stakeholders engaged in workshops and consultation to inform an EDI Action Plan in partnership with EDI consultancy SLS360.

More information about the year in review can be found in NCO's 2024 Impact Report: Impact Report | The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

During the year

- 662 children aged 8-14 from across the UK participated in NCO's core Nationals, Projects and Online Programmes.
- 1050 children auditioned for NCO during 2024, a 10% increase on the previous year.
- NCO's programme structure supports musical progression: 52 children moved from 2023 Projects to 2024 Nationals and 62 children moved from Projects 2024 to Nationals 2025. 75 out of 162 players in the 2024 National Youth Orchestra are NCO alumni as well as 7 out of 12 semi-finalists in BBC Young Musician of the Year 2024.
- 49% of NCO's 2024 membership were from a global majority or non-white background and 76 benefited from NCO's Financial Support Programme, enabling children from lower income families to take part.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

- NCO completed the first year of two as a test partner with Open Up Music in the development of an Accessible Musical Progression Toolkit, intended to enable more disabled musicians to take part in musical opportunities like NCO in the future.
- NCO worked alongside EDI consultancy SLS360 in the development and delivery of an EDI strategy and action plan through a board awayday, two sessions with NCO's EDI Working Group and a final half-day workshop with staff, freelancers and board members. Following a two-year research and stakeholder consultation process, NCO's new EDI strategy and action plan will be taken forward in 2025 and will sit at the heart of the organisation's future plans and processes.
- NCO's National orchestras tackled challenging programmes with incredible individual and collective musicianship, including Shostakovich's *5th Symphony*, Ravel's *La Valse* and many works by living composers including Carlos Simon, Debbie Wiseman, Rachel Portman, Hans Zimmer, Joe Hisaishi and Pinar Toprak.
- NCO's first interactive family concert featured Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* presented by NCO's Main Orchestra side-by-side with children from Bristol Beacon Music Hub and in the newly transformed Bristol Beacon.
- Audiences grew by 16.4% from the previous year, with over 4,600 people attending NCO's performances, including 60 children and families who engage with their local Music Hub with free NCO First Tickets.
- NCO ran a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process facilitated by consultants at Morris Hargreaves McIntyre. The resulting brand framework forms the basis of a visual rebrand and website brief and ongoing communications strategy from 2025. 320 children in NCO's Nationals Programme took part in branding workshops and a further 250 children from across NCO's membership responded to the consultation alongside 168 parents, 50 freelancers, NCO's donors, staff and board.
- 478 children signed up to be Creative Ambassadors, creating playful and joyful online social media content. One reel created by NCO's Main Orchestra attracted 6,769 views.
- 420 children engaged with NCO's first interactive school concert at The Redeemer School in Blackburn as part of the charity's Horizons programme.
- NCO's Under 13 Orchestra were filmed as part of a new partnership project with Bristol Beacon, Cathedral Schools Trust and Oak National Academy to create digital resources to support the primary music curriculum in England.
- NCO's Horizons Placements provided impactful opportunities for 38 students (14 in 2023); creating pathways into music education and the classical music industry.

NCO Membership 2024

NCO's auditions process is designed to be as open as possible so that as many young aspiring musicians from across the UK are enabled to take part. Totally free of charge, application is by simple video recording which can be taken at home on a phone and submitted to NCO. Care is taken to ensure that our adjudication and moderation panels are aware of any additional needs and adjustments.

Children auditioning come from state schools, fee-paying schools, special schools, specialist music schools and some are home educated. Many might attend their local Music Hub, or they might be brand new to making music in ensembles and orchestras. Applications have increased by 40% since 2023 from young musicians involved in partnership and associated grass roots music organisations including Nucleo, Young Sounds and Future Talent. Auditions numbers during 2024 for 2025 membership grew by 10% to 1050.

In 2024 NCO's membership consisted of 662 children aged 8-14 years old as core participants: 315 National Orchestral members and 347 Projects Orchestral members. All participants engaged with NCO's Online Programme.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2024

National Programme 2024

NCO's National Programme represents the limitless creative potential that exists among younger aged musicians in the UK today. Through orchestral residencies and public performances, children exceed all musical expectations whilst exploring their creativity and discovering their identity, learning how to support their wellbeing and making lifelong memories and friendships. NCO's 2023 National Programme consisted of three age-banded orchestras for 329 children in school years 7 (Under 12), 8 (Under 13) and 9 (Main).

We were utterly blown away by the quality of the musicianship displayed. I found it very emotional! The sheer joy of the children was delightful and shone through their performance.

- Audience Member, Under 13 Orchestra Spring Concert

NCO's Surround Sound project brings children in NCO's National orchestras together in 42 mixed instrument groups (14 per National Orchestra), to improvise, compose and collaborate to create and perform new music that they can be proud of.

Expert creative leads – Jonathan James, Delia Stevens, John Barber, Ed Babar and Sarah Freestone – supported tutors to facilitate child-led creative music making through training and mentoring during each residential. Creativity is scored 4.1 out of 5 by the children who enjoyed opportunities to create new music and interpret pieces in new ways.

NCO supported child wellbeing at National residencies including physical fitness sessions with Ninja Warrior Henry Cookey, teamwork with Commonwealth Fencer Claire Bennett, injury prevention and improving posture with physiotherapist Sarah Upjohn, mindfulness and performance coaching with Tom Taffinder and the ergonomics of string playing with Sophie Till. Each Wellbeing Lead spent 2-3 days at all 6 NCO residencies supporting children and adults.

The last three years of NCO have been, quite frankly, the best times of his life. He has grown up, developed musically, gained an increased sense of responsibility and made friendships that are way beyond special, ones that I'm confident will last forever. All through being in NCO. Parent of National Member

Children had multiple opportunities to give feedback about NCO's programmes including interactive polls during online sectionals and via Orchestra Councils. In addition, NCO Changemakers was introduced, enabling detailed and cumulative feedback from 34 children who represent the breadth of NCO's membership and programmes.

222 Nationals members signed up to be Creative Ambassadors, producing child-led social media content for NCO including videos about themselves, their instruments, the music they liked and NCO's programme. There were 40 young presenters at NCO performances, including 8 who spoke about what the environment means to them at Under 13 Orchestra's 'There's No Planet B' Concert.

A Day in the Life of the National programme

Main Orchestra Residency 7-14 April

Benjamin Britten Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Kristina Arakelyan You've got a Friend in Me (new commission)

Teresa Carreno (arr. Rachel Wick) Mi Teresita

John Williams Nimbus 2000

Paul Dukas Fanfare La Peri

Ed Argenziano Stinkin' Garbage

Jose Antonio Prado Que Rico Mambo

Modest Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition

Andrew Morley conductor

Bristol Beacon, 14 April 2024

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Under 13 Orchestra Residency 30 March – 6 April 2024 *Music for Movement*

Aram Khachaturian Gayane Suite
Alexander Borodin Polovtsian Dances
Marquez Conga del Fuego Nuevo
Leonard Bernstein West Side Story: Somewhere and Mambo
Arturo Marquez Danzon no.2
Jose Antonio Prado Que Rico Mambo
Natalia Luis Bassa Conductor
Lighthouse Poole, 6 April 2024

Under 12 Orchestra Residency 31 March – 6 April 2024 *Let's Dance*

Antonin Dvorak Slavonic Dance no 8
Claude Debussy 'Ballet' from Petite Suite
Doreen Carwithen Suffolk Suite
Samuel Coleridge Taylor Bamboula
Roland Barrett Arabian Dances
Toru Takemitsu Waltz
Leroy Anderson Blue Tango
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux from the Nutcracker
Jose Antonio Prado Que Rico Mambo
Rebecca Miller Conductor
Port Regis School, Dorset 6 April 2024

Main Orchestra Residency 11-18 August 2024 *Force of Destiny*

Giuseppe Verdi Force of Destiny Overture
Carlos Simon Fate Now Conquers
Maurice Ravel La Valse
Dimitri Shostakovich Symphony No. 5
Harish Shankar Conductor
Symphony Hall, Birmingham 18 August 2024

Under 13 Orchestra Residency 27 July – 3 August 2024 *There is no Planet B*

Leonard Bernstein Slava
Jean Sibelius Finlandia
Rachel Portman Endangered
Gustav Holst Jupiter from The Planets
Hans Zimmer Earth
Benjamin Britten Dawn and Storm from the Four Sea interludes, Peter Grimes
Debbie Wiseman Carnival of the Endangered Animals (arranged for NCO)
Aram Khachaturian Gayane "Fire"
Arturo Marquez **Congo del Fuego Nuevo**
Matthew Quinn Conductor
Bristol Beacon, 3 August 2024

Under 12 Orchestra Residency 4-10 August 2024 *Spellbound*

Modest Mussorgsky Night on a Bare Mountain
Sergei Prokofiev Introduction and Waltz from Cinderella Suite No.1
Engelbert Humperdinck Evening Prayer & Dream Pantomime
Camille Saint Saens Danse Macabre
Alan Menken (arr. Korsarin) Beauty and the Beast Overture
Joe Hisaishi Princess Mononoke - The Legend of Ashitaka
Joe Hisaishi Kiki's Delivery Service
Pinar Torak Arr. Tomod Tvette Vik Captain Marvel
John Powell (arr. O'Loughlin) How to Train Your Dragon
Klaus Badelt (arr. Ricketts) Pirates of the Caribbean
Caroline Hobbs Smith Conductor
Portsmouth Guildhall, 10 August 2024

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Main Orchestra 9/10 November 2024 Winter Weekend

Modest Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition

Dimitri Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Andrew Morley conductor

Woolwich Works, London

This was the final NCO performance of 2024, marking the end of the Main Orchestra's membership as they move on to new opportunities for 14+ aged musicians.

Being part of NCO has been like finding my people, my community – the place where I truly belong. I feel so privileged and honoured to have had the opportunity to be part of it all

- CO National Member Main Orchestra

Projects Programme

NCO's four Projects Programme orchestras each met twice throughout the year for two creative, non-residential weekends of music making in Birmingham, Bolton and London. Their instrumental skills were supported by our inspiring and experienced conductors, including Helen Harrison and Veronica Urrego, who guided them to connect as an orchestra and experience the joy and achievement of playing together.

Project orchestras across the country loved the Guess Who? themed programmes, where every piece of music described a character - from James Bond to Sleeping Beauty, from Edward Elgar's Fairies and Giants to Georges Bizet's Toreadors. They also discovered new commissions and arrangements including the ABRSM Composer Mentor Scheme Commission Las Mariposas by José Guillermo Puello, as well as Train Driver's Day, a new body percussion piece by Ryan Linham and new arrangements of Mary Poppins, Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Lady and Alan Menken's 'A Friend like Me' from Aladdin.

Projects orchestras also welcomed amazing guest artists Aaron Akugbo, Jonny Abrahams, Jess Gillam and Nikolaj Henriques. Our Projects North Orchestra summer concert featured children from Bolton Music Service playing side-by-side for a special performance of Mary Poppins.

In 2024, 347 children participated in this programme with 256 signed up as Creative Ambassadors and 48 Young Presenters. Children reported that NCO is fun and welcoming and the sectionals are helpful. The Day in the Life of Projects film represents the energy, fun and accomplishment of NCO's jam-packed Projects orchestral weekends. A Day in the Life of NCO Projects (youtube.com)

Summer Projects Orchestras Guess Who?

Richard Sherman and Robert Sherman arr. Ryan Linham Mary Poppins Overture

Monty Norman arr. Bob Cerulli James Bond

Duke Ellington arr. Ryan Linham Sophisticated Lady

Georges Bizet 'Habanera' and 'Toreador' from Carmen Suite No. 2

Alan Menken arr. Ryan Linham 'A Friend Like Me' from Aladdin

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 'Waltz' from Sleeping Beauty

Natalia Luis-Bassa, Conductor, Goldsmiths College, Lewisham 15/16 June 2024

Rob Hodge, Conductor, St Helens School, Northwood 15/16 June 2024

Caroline Hobbs Smith, Conductor, Handsworth Girls School, Birmingham 8/9 June 2024

Greg Beardsell, Conductor, Bolton School, Bolton 8/9 June 2024

NCO's THE place to be! You make a lot of friends, music and more! My other favourite thing about NCO is that the conductors are very funny and kind.

- NCO Projects Member, 2024

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Online Programme

NCO's hugely successful online programme was established during the pandemic and remains an integral part of the annual membership.

All NCO 2024 Projects and National members took part in the Online Programme, which helps children prepare musically and feel more confident when they join in-person orchestral activities. Resources and online events also supported musical learning, creativity and wellbeing.

There were: 5 hours of inspiring webinars featuring BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalists; environmentalist and musician Adrian Bending; stars of sport and wellbeing Claire Bennett & Henry Cooley; and artists Aaron Akugbo, Nikolaj Henriques & Jonny Abraham.

The final webinar featured a panel of NCO Parents and Carers, as well as Kadiatu Kanneh Mason, and gave advice for parents on supporting brilliant young musicians.

14 orchestra meet-ups took place featuring 'getting to know each other' games, quizzes, musical learning and more. Children fed back that their favourite parts of the online programmes were taking part in games and quizzes and meeting other people.

NCO's You Tube channel has hours of fun and inspiring content that is publicly available and was created via our Online Programme. ncogb - YouTube

Horizons Programme

NCO's new Horizons Programme launched in 2023, focussing on research and development with further expansion of existing projects and new initiatives that launched in 2024.

NCO connected children aged 4-16 with free, open access musical and orchestral opportunities, including: a first access school concert, progression pathway workshops in partnership with music hubs, side-by-side performances with NCO orchestras, student placements and free first experience tickets to public concerts.

37 children took part in our collaboration with **Bristol Beacon Music Hub**, exploring Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra with NCO music tutors, before performing side-by-side with the Main Orchestra as part of a big Family Concert at Bristol Beacon. NCO Horizons: Family Concert at Bristol Beacon

It's been such an amazing opportunity for my daughter to be part of this event, it's given her a greater appreciation of orchestral music and performance and really inspired her as a musician. Parent/Carer on Bristol Beacon Music Hub side-by-side Project

420 children engaged with an **interactive school concert** at The Redeemer Primary School in Blackburn, taking part in musical games and quizzes to support children's understanding of the ingredients needed for music making. The school's choir also enjoyed a performance with NCO tutors of The Bare Necessities!

26 musicians from **Bolton Music Service's Junior Orchestra** expanded their learning of a Mary Poppins Medley with NCO music tutors, before performing side-by-side with the Projects North Orchestra at their orchestral weekend. They also enjoyed their very own private Q&A session with guest saxophonist Jess Gillam.

National members were filmed rehearsing as part of a new partnership collaboration with Bristol Beacon and Cathedral Schools Trust and **Oak National Academy**, who together are writing an innovative primary music curriculum for thousands of children across England.

Furthermore, NCO's Horizons placements gave impactful opportunities for students, creating pathways into music education and classical music.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2024

14 students took part in NCO's **Tutor Experience Placements** at National residentials. They shadowed NCO tutors to gain experience in rehearsal planning, coaching styles, engagement and wellbeing, group dynamics and behaviour and creative composition.

24 students took part in NCO's **Insights Placements**, playing in our Projects orchestras to provide support and role-modelling, leading some sectionals and assisting with child engagement, and managing dynamics.

Students came from numerous conservatoires and universities including Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Drama.

This placement was brilliant because you become part of the NCO team, you get to learn on your feet and develop your skills right there in the orchestra.

- Insights Placement Student 2024

Audience and Reach

7 NCO Orchestras performed 15 concerts, in Bristol, Poole, Portsmouth, Birmingham, Bolton and London. More than 4600 audience members attended, including 60 children and families who engage with their local music education hub who visited for their first NCO experience, with free NCO First Tickets.

At Bristol Beacon, families of young children brand new to NCO and even orchestral music enjoyed the Family Concert programme. In 2024 as part of NCO Horizons, the charity also began to open up rehearsals, with a group from Wessex Multi Academy Trust visiting one of the summer residentials.

NCO's child-centred and child-led social media content exposed the life, joy and friendship in all NCO's activities. The most engaging piece of content was a reel created at the Main Orchestra summer residential, achieving 6,769 views, engaging 177 accounts and receiving 167 likes.

NCO has 16.8% more Facebook followers and 25.1% more followers on Instagram, than last year. NCO's YouTube channel was viewed 51,344 this year, with 2700 hours of NCO footage watched.

Future Plans

NCO will continue to run its Nationals, Projects, Online and Horizons Programmes, investing in the team and programme planning to ensure efficient and professional delivery of activities. Key developments will include:

- 2 workshops in Devon and Dorset for local young musicians to take part in a day long activity. It will be aimed at children aged 8-14 playing around Grade 2-5 and work in partnership with: Southwest Music School, Wessex Schools MAT, Dorset & Devon Music Hubs and services.
- Workshop for Young Sounds UK Connect woodwind and brass members from Bradford, Bolton and One Education Music Services. Children will be aged 7-12 and take part in a breathing workshop with Guest Artist Trombonist Katy Jones.
- First Access schools' concerts in 4 schools in partnership with Bolton Music Service and Bradford Music Service. NCO will work with pupils who take part in the Wider Opportunities Whole Class Instrumental lessons focussing on strings.
- A shared pilot student plus opportunity in partnership with Bradford Music Service, to provide enhanced opportunities and training for one student - exploring the potential to expand this initiative to help support progression into teaching for music graduates.
- The launch of a new visual brand and website in Spring 2025 to better reflect the organisation and its ethos.
- New commissions including *This Rhythm Machine is One Big Team* by Elsa Bradley and two new works written by ABRSM composers including Bhumi by Edward Lun and Vishak Ramprasad.
- Environmentally focussed initiatives, using NCO's creative programme to highlight key issues around climate change including *There's No Planet B* concert by the Under 13 Orchestra with special sessions during the residential with climate activist and musician Simmy Singh, a sustainability themed webinar with Simmy Singh and TV presenter Naomi Wilkinson and the Projects Orchestras' concert theme *Our Universe, Our Planet, Our World*.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance Framework

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16 August 1978. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14 August 2019. The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

The trustees (who are also the charity's members) meet quarterly to receive management information from various areas of organisational governance and operations and to agree the strategic direction of the charity. Members meet once annually for the AGM. The Finance Committee also meet at least four times a year, prior to each Full Board Meeting, to approve and monitor financial control, reporting and authorisation systems to secure best practice standards of project control, financial forecasting, annual budgeting and quarterly financial reporting.

During 2024 the Board approved revised Terms of Reference for Members, the Trust Board and the Finance Committee and revised Scheme of Delegation from the trustees to the Executive Team. These are to be reviewed at least annually.

The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Executive Team. However, there are clear areas of decision making retained by the Board (which are outlined in the charity's governance framework and policies) and established reporting frameworks to allow the Board to make these decisions effectively. NCO's policies also contain clear thresholds for reporting to the Board in areas such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, Finance and Safeguarding to facilitate robust monitoring by the charity's trustees.

A clear Scheme of Delegation from the Executive Team to the Senior Team was also created in 2023 and management grades introduced to reflect levels of delegated responsibility and accountability throughout the organisation.

Remuneration

NCO has a remuneration policy and a set of clear pay bands for staff which is reviewed annually by the board. Trustees reviewed executive pay in 2024 and approved an updated policy.

Alongside policy review, the Board reviews salaries on recommendation from the Chief Executive and Finance Committee in relation to % increases to be implemented from 1 January each year. The amount of any increase will be guided by CPI inflation, informal benchmarking with other arts organisations and Real Living Wage guidelines. NCO is a Real Living Wage employer.

Trustee Induction and Training

As with staff recruitment, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain require references and enhanced DBS checks for new Trustees, in line with the charity's Safeguarding Policy. New trustees are provided with access to the Safeguarding Policy, Articles of Association and Code of Conduct upon appointment.

There is a Code of Conduct specifically for Trustees. Trustee induction includes a meeting with both the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Trust Board and the assignment of a buddy from the group of existing trustees.

A trustee audit was conducted in 2023, including a review of training. The data was used to inform a recruitment process for new Trustees in 2024 following the retirement of several Trustees. This resulted in 3 new appointments in December 2024 with 2 further appointments to be approved at the 2025 AGM. To support this period of transition for both the Board and Finance Committee, Jonathan Mayes (Vice Chair) and William Norris (Trustee) were re-elected for a further year and will retire in July 2025.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Risk Management

Significant work was undertaken by a risk management working group (comprised of trustees, the Chief Executive and an external consultant) in 2023 to review the risk register, the processes for reviewing the register and how risk and control mitigations are reported to the Board.

The improved organisational risk register is reviewed quarterly by the Senior Leadership Team and is then a standing item at each Board meeting. A specific financial risk register is similarly reviewed quarterly by the Finance Director and is a standing item at each Finance Committee meeting.

A Risk Management Policy was also written in 2023 to collate and clarify the charity's approach to risk management and the levels of delegated responsibility in relation to risk.

At the close of 2024 these were the four most significant risk areas:

- **Child Protection and Safeguarding**
The Risk Management Policy cemented that the most important risk area for NCO is in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two trustees have specific safeguarding responsibility. The Safeguarding Policy details appropriate levels of training provided to those who work with NCO.
A Safer Recruitment Policy was also adopted by the Board in 2023. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
The Head of Safeguarding and Support maintains exceptional safeguarding of children and supports their wellbeing and happiness through dynamic pastoral care.
- **Health and Safety**
There is a Health and Safety Policy in place which details control mitigations in this area, including specifying the use of Risk Assessments and processes to be followed to ensure the safety of adults and children during activity and of staff and visitors to the office.
The Health and Safety Policy was reviewed in 2024 and the amendments were approved by the Board. A health and safety policy compliance audit was also conducted and shared with NCO's Health and Safety Lead Trustee.
- **Orchestra Tax Relief**
Uncertainty about the level of Orchestra Tax Relief was partly mitigated through HMT's decision in 2024 to set the level of relief at 45% permanently. This does not however guarantee this income source in the future. Financial forecasting and budgeting were completed with this risk area in mind.
- **Economic Factors**
Inflation costs continued to be a risk area for 2024. Again, rising costs were anticipated in forward budgets and regular reforecasting exercises were undertaken by budget holders throughout 2024 to closely monitor the real impact of the economic landscape on the agreed budget. Furthermore, recent changes in relation to VAT on school fees risk NCO being charged VAT on school hire invoices. Forward budgets include contingency and a VAT review will be commissioned in 2025 to confirm NCO's VAT position.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 20. Total income comprised £1,918,113 for unrestricted funds (2023: £1,445,953), £82,700 for restricted funds (2023: £100,530). Total expenditure was £1,471,289 in unrestricted expenditure (2023: £1,409,149) and £98,775 in restricted expenditure (2023: £108,190). As at 31 December 2024 the reserves of the charity were £1,133,686 (2023: £702,937) of which £446,680 are designated (2023: £257,216) and £19,481 are restricted (2023: £35,556).

Income

Total income was up by £454,330 compared to the previous year.

NCO is extremely grateful to all its supporters during 2024. Raised income increased by £326,178. NCO received £300,000 in new statutory funding as a National Portfolio Organisation with joint support from the Arts Council of England and Department for Education. £129,014 was achieved through Trusts and Foundations, £41,800 in Individual Giving, and £23,000 in corporate sponsorship. NCO received an extraordinary gift of £337,308 in this year.

Earned income also increased by £128,152, achieved through a minimal increase in fee levels for National members and increased box office income. The Charity benefited from £366,524 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £4,934 claim for the year in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by £52,725 compared to the previous year. This is due to increasing costs in relation to activity and overheads, the introduction of new permanent staff roles to support fundraising, engagement and inclusion alongside growing and investing in NCO's freelancers.

Reserves Policy

Unrestricted Reserves

Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in March 2025, Trustees identified and agreed that £600,000 should be retained in unrestricted reserves in line with increased turnover to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries. Future planning is fundamental to the charity's operation, combining the seasonal nature of annual activities with the necessity of planning programmes more than one year ahead. The reserves policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support advance planning over longer timescales, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that plans are soundly based and funded.

£600,000 is available as free reserves from total unrestricted funds of £667,525 after excluding tangible assets of £67,525.

A further £446,680 is held in designated funds. £210,000 is set aside to cover the cost of cancellation should a pandemic or similar event take place in the future. In 2025, £53,000 will be spent to cover the remaining cost of rebranding and the development of a new website. £183,680 will be spent down over a period of 3 to 5 years to match fund specific activities that are designed to increase access for young musicians to take part in NCO.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in Section 20 below. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

Raised Income

NCO wishes to thank all its incredibly generous supporters and funders who helped make the achievements and activities outlined above possible during 2024. Without their support, NCO would not be able to offer outstanding opportunities for children to nurture and develop their musical skills and confidence achieved through the delivery of our programmes.

NCO seeks to raise income annually from four distinct sources:

- Statutory funding from Government schemes such as the Arts Council of England.
- Donations from individuals via specific schemes such as NCO Friends, or one-off donations.
- Grants from Trusts, Foundations or other grant-giving bodies.
- Funding from corporate organisations in the form of sponsorship.

Funding from any source can be restricted for a specific use, or unrestricted to spend as the charity needs for its core purpose. NCO codes every gift according to any agreement regarding restrictions to ensure it is directed as intended.

NCO's Development Team comprises of a part-time Director and full-time Manager, supported by an Administrator. NCO has an Ethical Fundraising Policy agreed by its Board of Trustees which guides the organisation on best practice according to the Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator. There were no complaints or queries of any nature for any raised income in 2024. All development activity adheres to HMRC's rules on Gift Aid and GDPR guidance and regulation, overseen by NCO's Board.

2024 was the second financial year in which NCO received revenue funding from the Arts Council of England and Department for Education as a new National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation. This new funding was initially set for a 3-year period, with a 4th year (2027/2028) pending confirmation of extension funding in May 2025.

NCO is greatly appreciative of our ongoing partnership with ABRSM. The partnership provides important funding for NCO and valued co-working in shared areas of interest, including the ABRSM Composer Mentoring programme which focuses a diverse cohort of young composers on writing for music education, including a special piece for NCO Projects children.

NCO's Projects programme benefitted from support from a range of Trusts and Foundations. We would particularly like to extend our thanks to the Cecil King Memorial Foundation, as well as the Kirby Laing Foundation for their continued support of NCO's Projects programme since seed-funding the pilot in 2022.

NCO's strong foundation of funding support for our Financial Support programme enabled 76 children to take up membership that would otherwise have been unaffordable for them. NCO's Financial Support programme was made possible through a multi-year grant from The Leverhulme Trust as well as a growing number of smaller Trusts and Foundations, some of which support children from a specific region. NCO is immensely grateful to each of these funders.

NCO's individual donors, in particular Patrons, Friends, and NCO member families bolstered fundraising by joining schemes, renewing support and making one-off gifts. NCO is extremely grateful to each one of our individual supporters for their funding support and for the encouragement they give each child when attending NCO concerts.

NCO received an extraordinary gift this year through a deeply generous legacy donation from the late Joyce Fretwell, a dedicated supporter of NCO and music education. This remarkable contribution will strengthen our reserves, support our rebrand and new website, and establish a designated fund for organisational development. Most importantly, it ensures that her legacy will help more children experience the transformative power of NCO in the years to come. There is an expectation that the ongoing challenging landscape for fundraising will continue in 2025. Significant competition for support, driven by rising costs and decreasing funds available, is likely to primarily affect fundraising outcomes from Trusts and Foundations.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Going concern

The board is mindful that NCO may continue to deploy some financial reserves to meet the challenges of the ongoing economic situation. This relates to increased costs associated with venues and suppliers driven by the inflationary pressures that continue to affect the UK economy, negatively affecting the charity's expenditure and income streams. The board expects this to have an impact on both raised income for 2025 and programme expenditure.

NCO's Board and Finance Committee will convene quarterly to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The Arts Council of England will also review any financial risk to the charity as a mandatory requirement of the new NPO funding arrangement.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Saffery LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the board of trustees on.....Thursday 19 June 2025.....and signed on its behalf by:



L Mitchell - Trustee

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ;or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

In addition, the charity is subject to other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to its ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These include health and safety and safeguarding for children.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 20 June 2025
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	753,358	82,700	836,058	509,880
Charitable activities	4				
Concerts		42,921	-	42,921	38,823
Projects		120,148	-	120,148	110,348
Membership fees		602,584	-	602,584	592,907
Other trading activities	5	2,682	-	2,682	2,918
Investments	6	29,896	-	29,896	12,555
Other	7	366,524	-	366,524	279,052
Total		1,918,113	82,700	2,000,813	1,546,483
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	102,256	-	102,256	100,115
Charitable activities	9				
Programmes (including online)		1,212,521	-	1,212,521	1,156,249
Auditions		14,509	9,931	24,440	12,825
Concerts		141,502	-	141,502	139,260
Bursaries and Scholarships		501	88,844	89,345	108,890
Total		1,471,289	98,775	1,570,064	1,517,339
Net gains/(losses) on instruments	15	-	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	16	-	-	-	1,353
Net income/(expenditure)		446,824	(16,075)	430,749	30,497
Transfers between funds	20	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	20	446,824	(16,075)	430,749	30,497
Total funds brought forward		667,381	35,556	702,937	672,440
Total funds carried forward	20	1,114,205	19,481	1,133,686	702,937

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15	69,448	-	69,448	70,220
Investments	16	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,838</u>
		69,448	-	69,448	86,058
Current assets					
Debtors	17	418,863	-	418,863	317,066
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,340,065</u>	<u>19,481</u>	<u>1,359,546</u>	<u>992,273</u>
		1,758,928	19,481	1,778,409	1,309,339
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(714,171)	-	(714,171)	(692,460)
Net current assets		<u>1,044,757</u>	<u>19,481</u>	<u>1,064,238</u>	<u>616,879</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,114,205	19,481	1,133,686	702,937
Net assets		<u>1,114,205</u>	<u>19,481</u>	<u>1,133,686</u>	<u>702,937</u>
Restricted funds	20			19,481	35,556
Unrestricted funds	20			1,114,205	667,381
Total charity funds				<u>1,133,686</u>	<u>702,937</u>

The notes at pages 24 to 36 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 19 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
L Mitchell - Trustee

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	321,539	113,832
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>321,539</u>	<u>113,832</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,803)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Proceeds from disposal of investments		15,838	
Interest received		29,896	12,555
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>45,734</u>	<u>10,752</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	2	367,273	124,584
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>992,273</u>	<u>867,689</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,359,546</u>	<u>992,273</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	430,749	30,497
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	772	918
(Gains)/losses on investments	-	(1,353)
Interest received	(29,896)	(12,555)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(101,797)	(4,610)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>21,711</u>	<u>100,935</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	321,539	113,832

2 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January		At 31 December
	2024	Cash flow	2024
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	992,273	367,273	1,359,546
Total	<u>992,273</u>	<u>367,273</u>	<u>1,359,546</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office and principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol, BS4 3AS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 8 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments and musical instruments which are included at market value.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Valuation of musical instruments

Musical instruments are carried at an estimation of their market value, based upon external valuations and the judgement of the Trustees.

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 charitable entity 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. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable entity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties. The charitable entity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions are met, the amount can be measured reliably, and in line with the timing implied by any multi-period grant agreements.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Income from Concerts and Projects is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Music	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Musical instruments

Musical instruments are held at valuation and are not depreciated. These are revalued every five years with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of revaluation. Individual instruments valued at less than £200 each are written off.

Taxation

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Investments

Investments are carried at their market value with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

3 Donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	193,814	284,009
Legacy income	337,308	-
Government grants	300,002	225,002
Tax recovered	4,934	869
	<u>836,058</u>	<u>509,880</u>

The charity received government grants, defined as funding from Arts Council England and Department for Education to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the year ended 31 December 2024 was £300,002 (2023: £250,002). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants.

4 Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Concert income	42,921	38,823
Projects income	120,148	110,348
Membership fees	602,584	592,907
	<u>765,653</u>	<u>742,078</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other revenue	2,682	2,918
	<u>2,682</u>	<u>2,918</u>

6 Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment income	29,896	12,555
	<u>29,896</u>	<u>12,555</u>

7 Other income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Orchestra Tax Relief	366,524	279,052
	<u>366,524</u>	<u>279,052</u>

8 Raising funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	91,501	88,281
Other costs	10,755	11,834
	<u>102,256</u>	<u>100,115</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

9 Charitable activities costs

Current year	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11)	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	619,370	-	593,151	1,212,521
Auditions	24,440	-	-	24,440
Concerts	141,502	-	-	141,502
Bursaries and scholarships	701	88,644	-	89,345
	<u>786,013</u>	<u>88,644</u>	<u>593,151</u>	<u>1,467,808</u>
Prior year	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11)	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	584,856	-	571,393	1,156,249
Auditions	12,825	-	-	12,825
Concerts	139,260	-	-	139,260
Bursaries and scholarships	781	108,109	-	108,890
	<u>737,722</u>	<u>108,109</u>	<u>571,393</u>	<u>1,417,224</u>

10 Grants payable

	2024 £	2023 £
Bursaries and scholarships	<u>88,644</u>	<u>108,109</u>

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Grant	<u>88,644</u>	<u>108,109</u>

All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.

11 Support costs

	Management £	Governance £	Totals 2024 £
Programmes (including online)	542,726	50,425	593,151
	<u>542,726</u>	<u>50,425</u>	<u>593,151</u>
	Management £	Governance £	Totals 2023 £
Programmes (including online)	547,758	23,635	571,393
	<u>547,758</u>	<u>23,635</u>	<u>571,393</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

12 Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditor' remuneration	11,640	11,340
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	3,180	3,060
Depreciation - owned assets	772	918

13 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023, except as disclosed in Note 23.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the year totalled £186 (2023: £nil).

14 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	417,361	436,362
Social security costs	34,482	36,371
Pension costs	8,877	10,785
	<u>460,720</u>	<u>483,518</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2024	2023
15	15

There was one employee whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) were between £60,000 - £70,000

The Orchestras employed 183 freelancers during the year (2023: 180), who worked a total of 1,863 days (2023: 925 days). The social staff provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These staff are paid on a per session basis.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Music	Instruments	Fixtures and fittings	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	21,720	169,850	75,453	267,023
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	21,720	169,850	75,453	267,023
Depreciation & impairment				
At 1 January 2024	21,699	102,325	72,779	196,803
Charge for the year	21	-	751	772
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	21,720	102,325	73,530	197,575
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2024	-	67,525	1,923	69,448
At 31 December 2023	21	67,525	2,674	70,220

External valuations were obtained for the musical instruments in 2021, that totalled £67,525. It is the opinion of the Trustees that there has been no material movement to the value of the instruments since the external valuations were obtained, up to the 31 December 2024 year end.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2024	15,838
Revaluations	
Disposals	(15,838)
At 31 December 2024	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	-
At 31 December 2023	15,838

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

17 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	4,797	5,330
Prepayments	38,247	28,323
Tax recoverable	375,819	283,413
	418,863	317,066

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,190	13,594
Social security and other taxes	1,854	11,586
Deferred income	677,822	644,130
Accruals	31,305	23,150
	<u>714,171</u>	<u>692,460</u>

Further information on deferred income is provided in note 24.

19 Leasing agreements

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	11,185	11,185
Between one and five years	-	-
	<u>11,185</u>	<u>11,185</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £45,636 (2023: £42,615).

20 Movement in Funds

	At 1/1/24	Net movement	Transfers	At 31/12/24
	£	in funds	between funds	£
		£	£	
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	410,165	467,704	(210,344)	667,525
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	47,216	(20,880)	26,664	53,000
Risk Reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
Organisational development	-	-	183,680	183,680
	<u>667,381</u>	<u>446,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,114,205</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	-	(5,944)	5,944	-
E Rorison winter award	3,831	(200)	-	3,631
Access and progression	17,470	(9,931)	-	7,539
Vivienne Price memorial fund	14,255	-	(5,944)	8,311
	<u>35,556</u>	<u>(16,075)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,481</u>
Total funds	<u>702,937</u>	<u>430,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,133,686</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,918,113	(1,450,409)	-	467,704
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	-	(20,880)	-	(20,880)
Risk Reserve	-	-	-	-
Organisational Development	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,918,113</u>	<u>(1,471,289)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,824</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	82,700	(88,644)	-	(5,944)
E Rorison winter award	-	(200)	-	(200)
Access and progression	-	(9,931)	-	(9,931)
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
	<u>82,700</u>	<u>(98,775)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,075)</u>
Total funds	<u>2,000,813</u>	<u>(1,570,064)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>430,749</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	376,154	38,157	(4,146)	410,165
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	-	-	47,216	47,216
Risk reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
	<u>586,154</u>	<u>38,157</u>	<u>43,070</u>	<u>667,381</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	-	(7,660)	7,660	-
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	(1,792)	-
E Rorison winter award	4,031	-	(200)	3,831
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	(1,522)	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	14,255	-	-	14,255
1978 association	47,216	-	(47,216)	-
	<u>86,286</u>	<u>(7,660)</u>	<u>(43,070)</u>	<u>35,556</u>
Total funds	<u>672,440</u>	<u>30,497</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>702,937</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,445,953	(1,409,149)	1,353	38,157
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	-	-	-	-
Risk reserve	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,445,953</u>	<u>(1,409,149)</u>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>38,157</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	100,530	(108,190)	-	(7,660)
Scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Access and progression	-	-	-	-
F Guthrie	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
1978 association	-	-	-	-
	<u>100,530</u>	<u>(108,190)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,660)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>1,546,483</u></u>	<u><u>(1,517,339)</u></u>	<u><u>1,353</u></u>	<u><u>30,497</u></u>

Unrestricted reserves

Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in March 2025, Trustees identified and agreed that £600,000 should be retained in unrestricted reserves to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries. Future planning is fundamental to the charity's operation, combining the seasonal nature of annual activities with the necessity of planning programmes more than one year ahead. The reserves policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support advance planning over longer timescales, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that plans are soundly based and funded.

£600,000 is available as free reserves from total unrestricted funds of £667,525 after excluding tangible assets of £69,448.

A further £446,680 is held in designated funds to protect the charity should a natural disaster occur, eg pandemic, by covering the costs of cancellation (£210,000), to fund the remaining expenditure in relation to rebranding and the development of a new website (£53,000) and to support future organisational development through new activities (£183,680).

Designated funds:

Rebranding reserve

This fund is designated for the purpose of updating the Charities branding, including our website.

Risk Reserve fund

This fund is designated for risk considered force majeure or any natural disaster. It has been calculated using an estimate of irretrievable costs in these circumstances. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Restricted funds:

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given below. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Bursary fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to courses, overnight accommodation for families who have long distances to travel, subsidised concert tickets and NCO regional orchestra rehearsal fees. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an internal NCO panel. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

Scholarship fund

The Scholarship fund is to be used for scholarships to be granted at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. This has been utilised in full in the current year.

E Rorison winter award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and progression

This fund represents money received to support the engagement activities.

F Guthrie

Mrs Faith Guthrie, a former NCO Trustee, generously supports certain NCO projects and provides bursaries from time to time. This has been utilised in full in the current year.

Vivienne Price memorial fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

1978 Association

This fund represents money donated by Mr John and Mrs Faith Guthrie to support the establishment of a legacy fund for the charity. As agreed with the donors, this has been transferred to a designated funds in full in the current year.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year to 31 December 2024				
Tangible fixed assets	69,448	-	-	69,448
Net current assets	598,077	446,680	19,481	1,064,238
Total funds	<u>667,525</u>	<u>446,680</u>	<u>19,481</u>	<u>1,133,686</u>
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year to 31 December 2023				
Tangible fixed assets	70,220	-	-	70,220
Fixed investments	15,838	-	-	15,838
Net current assets	324,107	257,216	35,556	616,879
Total funds	<u>410,165</u>	<u>257,216</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>702,937</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

21 Employee benefit obligations

Pension contributions amounting to £8,877 (2023: £10,785) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.

22 Contingent liabilities

The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.

23 Related party disclosures

During the year a number of the trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.

During the year 2 trustees, L Stott and B Weir, were paid a total of £3,846 (2023: £7,007) for services as tutors (B Weir resigned as a Trustee on 31 July 2024). The son of R Benneyworth, a Trustee until her resignation on 25 September 2024, was paid a total of £2,418 (2023: £2,029) for services as support staff.

The fees paid were in line with those paid to other tutors and staff providing similar services to the Charity.

24 Deferred income

Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31 December 2024:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Membership deferred at 1 January 2024	644,130	531,065
Released to income in the year	(644,130)	(531,065)
Membership deferred at 31 December 2024	677,822	644,130
	<u>677,822</u>	<u>644,130</u>

Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.

25 Post balance sheet events

The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

26 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from			
Donations and legacies	409,350	100,530	509,880
Charitable activities			
Concerts	38,823	-	38,823
Projects	110,348	-	110,348
Membership fees	592,907	-	592,907
Other trading activities	2,918	-	2,918
Investment income	12,555	-	12,555
Other income	279,052	-	279,052
Total	1,445,953	100,530	1,546,483
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	100,115	-	100,115
Charitable activities			
Residencies	1,156,249	-	1,156,249
Auditions	12,825	-	12,825
Concerts	139,260	-	139,260
Bursaries and scholarships	700	108,190	108,890
Total	1,409,149	108,190	1,517,339
Net gains/(losses) on investments	1,353	-	1,353
Net Income/(Expenditure)	38,157	(7,660)	30,497
Transfers between funds	43,070	(43,070)	-
Net movement in funds	81,227	(50,730)	30,497
Total funds brought forward	586,154	86,286	672,440
Total funds carried forward	667,381	35,556	702,937

Accounts



National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Registered company number: 02471385
Registered charity number: 803026 (England and Wales)

**Audited financial statements for the year ended
31 December 2023**

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023
Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Auditor's Report	15
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20
Cash Flow Statement	21
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	22
Notes to the Financial Statements	23

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance Framework

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16 August 1978. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14 August 2019. The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

The trustees (who are also the charity's members) meet quarterly to receive management information from various areas of organisational governance and operations and to agree the strategic direction of the charity. Members meet once annually for the AGM. The Finance Committee also meet at least four times a year, prior to each Full Board Meeting, to approve and monitor financial control, reporting and authorisation systems to secure best practice standards of project control, financial forecasting, annual budgeting and quarterly financial reporting.

During 2023 the Board approved revised Terms of Reference for Members, the Trust Board and the Finance Committee and revised Scheme of Delegation from the trustees to the Executive Team. These are to be reviewed at least annually.

The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Executive Team. However, there are clear areas of decision making retained by the Board (which are outlined in the charity's governance framework and policies) and established reporting frameworks to allow the Board to make these decisions effectively. NCO's policies also contain clear thresholds for reporting to the Board in areas such as Health and Safety, Data Protection, Finance and Safeguarding to facilitate robust monitoring by the charity's trustees.

A clear Scheme of Delegation from the Executive Team to the Senior Team was also created in 2023 and management grades introduced to reflect levels of delegated responsibility and accountability throughout the organisation.

Remuneration

Remuneration is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board. In 2023, the Board agreed to make National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain a Real Living Wage employer and staff salaries were adjusted accordingly throughout the year.

During 2023, a review of roles, responsibilities and remuneration was undertaken, including a salary benchmarking exercise. It resulted in the creation of clear pay bands for staff (aligned to the Organogram) which the Board approved in the December 2023 meeting.

Trustees are revising executive pay in 2024 and will agree an updated Remuneration Policy.

Trustee Induction and Training

As with staff recruitment, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain require references and enhanced DBS checks for new Trustees, in line with the charity's Safeguarding Policy. New trustees are provided with access to the Safeguarding Policy, Articles of Association and Code of Conduct upon appointment.

A Code of Conduct specifically for Trustees was adopted in 2023.

Trustee induction includes a meeting with both the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Trust Board and the assignment of a buddy from the group of existing trustees.

A trustee audit was conducted in 2023, including a review of training. The data has been used to compile a succession and recruitment plan.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Training and induction processes will be reviewed in 2024, following a Board self-evaluation exercise.

Administrative Information and Reference

Registered Company number

02471385 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

803026

Registered Office and Principal Office

Unit 2.3, Streamline Building
436-441 Paintworks
Bristol
BS4 3AS

Trustees

Louise Mitchell (Chair) (reappointed 31 May 2023)
Janet Baker (Honorary Treasurer)
Rosie Benneyworth (Lead Health and Safety Trustee)
George Caird (reappointed 30 July 2023)
Miranda Francis (Lead Safeguarding Trustee)
Fiona Harvey
Beth Higham-Edwards
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason
Jonathan Mayes (Vice Chair - elected Vice Chair 31 May 2023. Lead Environmental Trustee)
Uchenna Ngwe
William Norris
Laetitia Stott
Brian Weir (Lead Safeguarding Trustee)
Christine Wu
Lucy Maguire

Finance Committee Members

Janet Baker (Hon. Treasurer)
Rosie Benneyworth
George Caird (resigned from committee 31 May 2023)
Fiona Harvey
Jonathan Mayes
William Norris (appointed to committee from 31 May 2023)

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Executive Leadership

Sophie Lewis - Chief Executive
Catherine Arlidge MBE - Artistic and Educational Director

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Auditors

Saffery LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
64 High Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT19 8AT

CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

To be a place where children (and grown-ups) flourish through music.

Mission

Our mission is to enable children aged 8-14 to flourish:

- through the power of **learning** and **playing** music **together**
- by **empowering** them **creatively** and supporting their **development** and **ambition**
- by prioritising their **wellbeing**, **hearing their voices** and **responding** to what matters to them.

Values

Ambition – for children, our team, our organisation and our sector to realise our individual and collective potential.

Happiness – we want to make everyone's lives measurably happier and healthier because they are part of what we do, and they feel they belong.

Creativity – we believe that everyone is creative and support ideas and experiences that develop creativity, a skill which is invaluable and applicable in our day-to-day working and personal lives.

Honesty – we are true to ourselves and others and are rooted in evidence that tells us what we are doing well and what we can improve.

Respect – we actively listen to children, staff and partners and are constantly evolving what we do and how we do it. We respect each other whatever our views or backgrounds and we encourage self-respect.

Our Aims and Objectives

Based on stakeholder consultation, NCO's new Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in 2023 and covers the subsequent three-year period. Based on ten key priorities, progress towards targets and milestones will be informed by data collection and our evaluation framework and reviewed regularly by the Senior Management Team and Board.

1. Musical ambition is achieved through excellence in orchestral training

Inspiring educators and artists support all children to develop their musicianship and ambition through our distinctive learning framework and well-pitched, diverse programming.

2. Improving Equity Diversity and Inclusion is essential

We believe that everyone should have fair opportunities to participate, work or engage with NCO. We are committed to creating a welcoming place where everyone feels they belong. We are making changes to our programme, organisation and communications to ensure that Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are at the centre of our plans and that we constantly learn and improve through review and reflection.

3. Children are listened to, and it makes a difference

Our programme offers opportunities for children to explore their voice, contribute to our activities and inform our plans.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Creativity is integral to our programme and is valued

We will take every opportunity to support creativity across our programme and encourage children to take artistic risks through musical experimentation.

5. More children participate in, through and beyond NCO

Our Projects Programme will continue to grow as will our community, engagement and partnership activities so that we reach more children each year and support progression within NCO and to other opportunities for young musicians.

6. More people attend and participate in our performances

We will expand our audiences beyond our participant families and will nurture children and families who are not currently engaged with us through concert day activities, community engagement and partnerships.

7. Partnerships are key to our success

We will learn and grow from partnerships with a range of organisations committed to widening access, community engagement, workforce development, research, and health and wellbeing - as much as we will share our expertise and ambitions.

8. We are a sector leader

We will share our expertise and learning with our industry colleagues and beyond.

9. Health and happiness for all, including wider society

We will explore how music drives health and happiness and will work with expert partners to support the wellbeing of everyone who engages with NCO.

10. We are a stronger organisation

We will increase our profile, reach, engagement, diversity and relevance. NCO will constantly strive for increased financial sustainability.

Our Programme Framework

Auditions: NCO selects c. 650 children aged 8-14 via an annual audition process that opens in May, concluding in October. Each successful applicant is offered a place in one of NCO's two programme strands and all children participate in NCO Online.

NCO Projects Programme: Four symphony orchestras for children aged 8-14 currently based in South London, North London, Birmingham and Bolton. Each orchestra meets twice per year for a non-residential weekend in March and June. NCO's Projects Programme is designed for children from a wider age range to explore large scale orchestral playing, some of whom are taking part in these activities for the first time.

NCO Online programme: A member website hosts digital resources and live events designed to support musical learning and preparation as well as social inclusion and confidence leading up to each activity.

NCO Horizons Programme: Includes additional community and engagement activities, reaching new participants and delivered in partnership with venues, schools, music hubs and social impact organisations. NCO Horizons Student Placement Insights and Tutor Experience Programmes are both professional development and training opportunities for young people from across the UK in higher education.

Our Learning Framework

NCO's learning framework is based on four key components:

Mastery and Ambition: NCO engages diverse, inspiring, effective, representative and open-minded music teams to support each child's musical and creative development and confidence. Children learn from tutors and conductors and each other. NCO's music programming is well pitched, consisting of ambitious repertoire at all levels of activity.

Creativity: NCO offers a safe space for all children to explore their creativity, experiment musically and take artistic risks. They do this through their musical activities including composition and improvisation, body percussion and spoken word. Creative practice feeds excellence and builds critical thinking; it enables less confident children to shine and brings experimentation and new ideas fizzing to the surface.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Wellbeing: Supporting the emotional and physical wellbeing of the children in NCO is central to everything we do. Children flourish at NCO through the power of learning and playing music together, because we empower them creatively, support their ambition and respond to what they say matters to them.

Child Voice: NCO empowers children to find their voices and share their opinions so that they can begin to shape their identity as a musician and young person in this world and help us share with others what they want from their musical experiences, what they care about outside music, and what world they want to live in. They become informed, empathetic, respectful advocates for the power of music education, orchestras, and for NCO.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

NCO fulfils a unique, strategic national role as a distinctive pathway for children with outstanding creative potential at a key time as they transition from primary to secondary school. NCO provides high quality opportunities for children to take part in musical learning outside school. NCO is a significant progression route and connector in music education for children from all backgrounds.

Alongside progression opportunities, NCO creates positive learning, engagement, progression and wellbeing outcomes for children, and the adults who work with the charity. Many children may not otherwise have these opportunities due to socio-economic barriers to access and inclusion, such as fewer economic and educational privileges and other challenges which could include where they live or their ethnicity.

NCO's work supports the current and future health of the artform of music by supporting young orchestral musicians and practitioners, creating new audiences and advocates for orchestral music, showcasing incredible and varied repertoire and supporting exciting new music commissions.

2023 Key Achievements

The second full year of activity since the pandemic, 2023 was a year full of powerful moments of musical achievement and emotional joy. NCO's seven symphony orchestras are like no other; big, bold and packed with children who want to explore orchestral playing and love collaborating with young musicians from all corners of the UK – making connections and friendships that often end up lasting a lifetime. NCO's National orchestras performed 6 public concerts, receiving standing ovations at each and every one and developing a growing audience over the year. It was also the year that NCO became a National Portfolio Organisation and a National Youth Music Organisation through joint funding from Arts Council England and the Department for Education.

During the year

- 656 children aged 8-14 from across the UK participated in NCO activity. NCO's Projects Programme membership grew by 10% compared to the previous year.
- NCO's programme structure supports musical progression: 57 children moved from 2022 Projects to 2023 Nationals; 52 children are moving from 2023 Projects to 2024 Nationals
- NCO's National orchestras tackled challenging programmes with incredible individual and collective musicianship, including *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Pines of Rome* and *An American in Paris*. They also performed new commissions including 3 South African Songs arranged by Andrew Cottee and explored more new work with the LA Philharmonic's 2021 commission by Gabriella Ortiz, *Kauyumari*.
- 47% of NCO's 2023 members were from a global majority or mixed heritage background and 18% benefited from NCO's Financial Support Programme, enabling children from lower income families to take part.
- Artistic programme diversity was achieved through 50% female conductors, 80% guest artists from a black/mixed heritage background, performances of works by 7 female composers and 9 composers from a global majority background and 7 new commissions including *Rapper Dance* by Amit Anand and Ben Lunn as part of NCO's partnership with ABRSM's diversity led Composer Mentoring programme (*Writing for Music Education*).
- There were 17 young presenters at NCO performances, including 9 who spoke about what the environment means to them at Under 13 Orchestra's 'There's No Planet B' Concert. 71 members signed up to be Creative Ambassadors, producing child-led social media content.
- NCO's *Surround Sound* initiative continued to offer creative music making opportunities for all National members. Children told us that creativity gave them the opportunity to discover new skills.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2023

- NCO Horizons was launched through a First Experience ticket scheme, supporting audience development in Poole, Sheffield, Basingstoke and Woolwich in collaboration with local Music Hubs, Schools and Services. 14 young people participated in NCO Horizons Student Placement Programmes.
- A new evaluation framework was embedded, measuring the musical and social impact of NCO's activities for all beneficiaries, their families and the adults we work with. [NCO's 2023 Impact Report](#) includes some of the findings.

NCO Membership 2023

NCO's auditions process is designed to be as open as possible so that as many young aspiring musicians from across the UK are enabled to take part. Totally free of charge, application is by simple video recording which can be taken at home on a phone and submitted to NCO. Particular care is taken to ensure that our adjudication and moderation panels are aware of any additional needs and adjustments.

Children auditioning come from state schools, fee-paying schools, special schools, specialist music schools and some are home educated. Many might attend their local Music Hub, or they might be brand new to making music in ensembles and orchestras. Applications are increasing from young musicians involved in partnership and associated grass roots music organisations including Nucleo, Awards for Young Musicians and Future Talent.

In 2023 NCO's membership consisted of 656 children aged 8-14 years old as core participants: 329 National Orchestral members and 327 Projects Orchestral members. All participants engaged with NCO's Online Programme.

NCO celebrates the diversity of its membership because it makes its orchestras and organisation better. In 2023, 47% of members represent the global majority and 18% were supported via NCO's Financial Support Programme that ensures that no child misses out.

National Programme 2023

NCO's National Programme represents the limitless creative potential that exists among younger aged musicians in the UK today. Through orchestral residencies and public performances, children exceed all musical expectations whilst exploring their creativity and discovering their identity, learning how to support their wellbeing and making lifelong memories and friendships. NCO's 2023 National Programme consisted of three age-banded orchestras for 329 children in school years 7 (Under 12), 8 (Under 13) and 9 (Main).

The concert was phenomenal; if you shut your eyes you wouldn't have guessed these musicians were young teens. And with such a difficult programme too! Simply outstanding.

- Audience Member, Main Orchestra Summer Concert

NCO's Surround Sound project brings children in NCO's National orchestras together in 42 mixed instrument groups (14 per National Orchestra), to improvise, compose and collaborate to create and perform new music that they can be proud of.

2023 Surround Sound highlights include:

- Main Orchestra explored their concert theme *No place like Home*, ultimately producing a massed performance of *Around the World in 80 Bars* supported by Creative Lead, Jonathan James.
- The Under 12 Orchestra created their own *Surround Sound Symphony* in four movements based on their concert theme of *Shimmer, Glimmer Glow* with Creative Lead Lucy Drever.

Surround Sound is an incredible way to unleash creativity and make new friends through the bonds of music. I also enjoyed learning about the possible sounds that different instruments can create.

- Main Orchestra Member

NCO supported child wellbeing at National residencies including physical fitness sessions with Ninja Warrior Henry Cookey, teamwork with Commonwealth Gold Medallist Fencer Claire Bennett, injury prevention and improving posture with physiotherapist Sarah Upjohn and mindfulness and performance coaching with Tom Taffinder. Each Wellbeing Lead spent 2-3 days at all 6 NCO residencies supporting children and NCO's freelance workforce.

Children had multiple opportunities to give feedback about NCO's programmes including interactive polls during online sectionals and reflective time capsule postcards. NCO's National members also came together to feedback via Orchestra Councils.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

71 members signed up to be Creative Ambassadors, producing child-led social media content for NCO including videos about themselves, their instruments, the music they liked and NCO's programme. There were 17 young presenters at NCO performances, including 9 who spoke about what the environment means to them at Under 13 Orchestra's 'There's No Planet B' Concert.

Main Orchestra Residency 1 – 8 April 2023 *Home is where the heart is*

Ethyl Smyth The Wreckers Overture

George Gershwin Porgy and Bess, "Summertime" and "I got plenty o nothin"

George Gershwin An American in Paris

3 South African Songs, arranged by **Andrew Cottee**

- Sibisi - Negate kwenzenjani
- Tyamzashe - Isthawwa sam
- Makeba - Lakushona Ilanga

Ottorino Respighi Pines of Rome

Dominic Wheeler conductor

Yolisa Ngwexana soprano and Chuma Sijeqa baritone

Lighthouse Poole, 8 April 2023

Under 13 Orchestra Residency 9- 16 April 2023 *Music for Movement*

Aram Khachaturian Gayane Suite

Alexander Borodin Polovtsian Dances

Marquez Conga del Fuego Nuevo

Leonard Bernstein West Side Story: Somewhere and Mambo

Arturo Marquez Danzon no.2

Jose Antonio Prado Que Rico Mambo

Natalia Luis Bassa Conductor

Juan Carlos Maggiorani, Orchestral choreographer

Lighthouse Poole, 16 April 2023

Under 12 Orchestra Residency 9 –15 April 2023 *Let's Dance*

Antonin Dvorak Slavonic Dance no 8

Doreen Carwithen Suffolk Suite

Samuel Coleridge Taylor Bamboula

Percy Grainger Irish tune and Shepherd's Hay

Toru Takemitsu Waltz

Leroy Anderson Blue Tango

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux from the Nutcracker

Jose Antonio Prado Que Rico Mambo

Rebecca Miller, Conductor

NCO Young Presenters

Denstone College, Dorset 15 April 2023

Main Orchestra Residency 23-30 July 2023 *Dreams , Myths and Fantasies*

Paul Dukas Sorcerer's Apprentice

Bernard Herrmann Prelude and Nightmare from Vertigo

Gabrielle Ortiz Kauymari

Hector Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique

Jonathan Bloxham Conductor

NCO Young Presenters

Anvil, Basingstoke 30 July 2023

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Under 13 Orchestra Residency 6-18 August 2023 *There is no Planet B*

Leonard Bernstein Slava
Jean Sibelius Finlandia
Rachel Portman Endangered
Gustav Holst Jupiter from The Planets
Hans Zimmer Earth
Benjamin Britten Dawn and Storm from the Four Sea interludes, Peter Grimes
Debbie Wiseman Carnival of the Endangered Animals (arranged for NCO)
Aram Khachaturian Gayane "Fire"
Conductor Andy Morley
NCO Young Presenters
Sheffield Town Hall 13 August 2023

Under 12 Orchestra Residency 31 July – 6 August 2023 *Shimmer, Glitter, Glow*

William Walton Crown Imperial
Grace Williams Penillion Moderato Cantando
Samuel Coleridge Taylor Petite Suite: Tarantelle
Malcolm Arnold Scottish Dance 3
Maurice Ravel Mother Goose Suite Finale
Edvard Grieg Hall of the Mountain King
John Williams Harry Potter Symphonic Suite
Monty Norman James Bond theme
John Barry Goldfinger, Diamonds are Forever
John Williams Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Helen Harrison Conductor
NCO Young Presenters
Portsmouth Guildhall, 6 August 2023

Main Orchestra 18/19 November Winter Weekend

George Gershwin Porgy and Bess, "Summertime" and "I got plenty o nothin"
George Gershwin An American in Paris
3 South African Songs, arranged by **Andrew Cottee**

- Sibisi - Negate kwenzenjani
- Tyamzashe - Isthana sam
- Makeba - Lakushona llanga

Hector Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique
Dominic Wheeler conductor
Yolisa Ngwexana soprano and Chuma Sijeqa baritone
NCO Young Presenters

This was the final NCO performance of 2023, marking the end of the Main Orchestra's membership as they move on to new opportunities for 14+ aged musicians. Many of these musicians will have been with NCO for six years including throughout the pandemic.

As our third child leaves NCO, we have been looking back with gratitude over 11 years of involvement with this incredible organisation. Our eldest children, now at university, play regularly alongside friends from their time at NCO.
- Parent of an NCO National Member & 2 Alumni

Projects Programme

After the successful pilot of NCO Projects in 2022, NCO's evaluation helped shape the second year of this programme strand in 2023; building on what worked, learning from what could be improved, and further enriching the experience for the children based on their feedback and that of our freelance workforce.

NCO's four Projects Programme orchestras each met twice throughout the year for two creative, non-residential weekends of music making in Birmingham, Bolton and London. Their instrumental skills were supported by our inspiring and experienced conductors, including Natalia Luis-Bassa and Otis Enokido-Lineham, who guided them to connect as an orchestra and experience the joy and achievement of playing together.

Children were also supported by student mentors from Royal Northern College of Music, Trinity Laban, Royal College of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2023

With a theme for each weekend, Move and Groove and Feel the Pulse, children also played newly commissioned music from young composers identified via our partnership with ABRSM. *Rapper Dance*, was written especially for NCO Projects children by Amit Anand and Ben Lunn and featured a section of body percussion that lifted the energetic piece to new heights.

Projects members were also joined by an extraordinary group of young guest artists, who they could identify with and by inspired by, including cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, violist Jordan Bak, oboist Armand Djikoloum and flautist Helen Wilson. Each weekend culminated in a sharing performance for families and friends, where the children could perform together and celebrate their successes.

In 2023, 327 children participated in this programme. Children told us that NCO is fun and made them feel happy and excited. They felt inspired and ready to learn. Our Day in the Life of Projects film represents the energy, fun and accomplishment of our jam-packed Projects orchestral weekends. [A Day in the Life of NCO Projects \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

NCO has inspired me, and as my first time in an orchestra, I was very excited and I enjoyed it
- NCO Projects Member, aged 8

Spring Projects Orchestras Move and Groove

Ryan Linham Waltz for Pencils and Pens

Amit Anand and Ben Lunn *Rapper Dance*

Antonin Dvorak Slavonic Dance Opus 46, No. 8

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Theme from Swan Lake

Jacques Offenbach Can Can

Sistema Scotland Blame it on the Boogie

Otis Enokido-Lineham Conductor, Goldsmiths College, Lewisham 4/5 March 2023

Jonathan Bloxham Conductor, St Helens School, Northwood 4/5 March 2023

Natalia Luis Bassa, Conductor, Five Ways School, Birmingham 11/12 March 2023

Caroline Hobbs Smith, Conductor, Bolton School, Bolton 11/12 March 2023

Summer Projects Orchestras Feel the Pulse

John Philip Sousa Liberty Bell

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov Dance of the Tumblers

George Frederick Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks]

Leroy Anderson Waltzing Cat

Sistema Scotland Ritmos Ciganos

Caroline Hobbs-Smith, Conductor, Goldsmiths College, Lewisham 10/12 June 2023

Natalia Luis Bassa, Conductor, St Helens School, Northwood 10/11 June 2023

Robert Hodge, Conductor, Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, Birmingham 3/4th June 2023

Veronica Urrego, Conductor, Bolton School, Bolton 3/4th June 2023

I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful weekend of music my son had. We came to see the final performance yesterday and saw him smile and achieve so much in only a couple of days, and that is phenomenal. He spoke really highly about all the tutors, music teachers, conductor and friends he made.
- Projects Programme Parent, 2023

Online Programme

NCO's hugely successful online programme was established during the pandemic and remains an integral part of the annual membership. All 2023 members took part in NCO's online programme, which helps children prepare musically and feel more confident when they arrive on the first day of activity.

Resources and online events supported musical learning, creativity and wellbeing. There were 154 hours of online activities and hundreds of resources including: 4 hours of inspiring webinars with guests including BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalists; orchestral choreographer Juan Carlos Maggiorani; and singer Chuma Sijeqa, 116 hours of online sectionals and creative challenges. Children told us that their favourite part of the online programme was getting to meet their tutors and fellow musicians before activity. Our feedback also tells us that this additional support helped ensure that all children and their families felt engaged, inspired and welcome at NCO.

NCO's You Tube channel has hours of fun and inspiring content that is publicly available and was created via our Online Programme.
[ncogb — YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Horizons Programme

NCO's new Horizons Programme launched this year and focussing on research and development with further expansion of existing projects and new initiatives launching in 2024. These include a new First Experience ticket scheme, Student Placement Programmes, First Access schools' concerts and community engagement activities on concert days.

NCO Student Horizons

NCO is committed to creating pathways into the music education and classical music industries. In 2023, 6 students took part in our tutor mentoring programme, to explore and learn from our unique approach to orchestral training. 8 students mentored NCO musicians as part of our Projects Programme.

In 2023 NCO developed partnerships with conservatoires and universities, signposting students to apply to NCO Student Horizons placement opportunities in mentoring and tutoring from 2024.

NCO First Experiences 2023

Throughout 2023 NCO's First Experience tickets were offered to children and their families living locally to our national concert venues in Poole, Sheffield, Basingstoke and Woolwich who are members of their Music Hub. It is intended to roll this initiative out across all public concerts in 2024.

Audience and Reach

7 NCO Orchestras performed 15 concerts in Basingstoke, Birmingham, Bolton, London, Poole, Portsmouth and Sheffield. More than 4,000 audience members joined us, including 115 children and families who engage with their local music hub who visited us for their first NCO experience, with free NCO First Experience tickets.

We expanded and deepened our audience engagement through our social media channels. We used more content by children, including our Creative Ambassadors and shared our refreshed organisational strategy through our *Music Matters* campaign.

Our child-led content during residencies resulted in the best engagement and reach across the year on our Instagram and Facebook platforms. This year we reached over 131,000 people on Facebook, an 8% increase on last year and had a 108% and 6% increase in page visits on Facebook and Instagram respectively. We have 4.5% more Facebook followers, 17% more Instagram followers and 3% more Twitter/X followers. NCO's YouTube channel has been viewed 56,276 times.

Risk Management

Significant work was undertaken by a risk management working group (comprised of trustees, the Chief Executive and an external consultant) in 2023 to review the risk register, the processes for reviewing the register and how risk and control mitigations are reported to the Board.

The improved organisational risk register is reviewed quarterly by the Senior Leadership Team and is then a standing item at each Board meeting. A specific financial risk register is similarly reviewed quarterly by the Finance Director and is a standing item at each Finance Committee meeting.

A Risk Management Policy was also written in 2023 to collate and clarify the charity's approach to risk management and the levels of delegated responsibility in relation to risk.

At the close of 2023 these were the four most significant risk areas:

- **Child Protection and Safeguarding**
The Risk Management Policy cemented that the most important risk area for NCO is in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two trustees have specific safeguarding responsibility. The Safeguarding Policy details appropriate levels of training provided to those who work with NCO.
A Safer Recruitment Policy was also adopted by the Board in 2023. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
The Head of Safeguarding and Support maintains exceptional safeguarding of children and supports their wellbeing and happiness through dynamic pastoral care.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

- **Health and Safety**
There is a Health and Safety Policy in place which details control mitigations in this area, including specifying the use of Risk Assessments and processes to be followed to ensure the safety of adults and children during activity and of staff and visitors to the office.
The Health and Safety Policy was reviewed in 2023 and the amendments were approved by the Board. A health and safety policy compliance audit was also conducted and shared with NCO's Health and Safety Lead Trustee.
- **Orchestra Tax Relief**
Uncertainty about the level of Orchestra Tax Relief continued to be a concern throughout 2023. Financial forecasting and budgeting was completed with this risk area in mind.
- **Economic Factors**
Inflation costs continued to be a risk area for 2023. Again, rising costs were anticipated in forward budgets and regular reforecasting exercises were undertaken by budget holders throughout 2023 to closely monitor the real impact of the economic landscape on the agreed budget.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 19. Total income comprised £1,445,953 for unrestricted funds, £100,530 for restricted funds. Total expenditure was £1,409,149 in unrestricted expenditure and £108,190 in restricted expenditure. As at 31 December 2023 the reserves of the charity were £702,937 of which £35,556 are restricted.

Income

Total income was up by £223,605 compared to the previous year.

NCO is extremely grateful to all its supporters during 2023. Raised income increased by £159,413. NCO received £225,002 in new statutory funding as a National Portfolio Organisation with joint support from the Arts Council of England and Department for Education. This new income represents 75% of the annual grant amount awarded (£300,000) as funding began partway through NCO's financial year on 1 April 2023. NCO is deeply thankful for this support and to be in receipt of ACE NPO funding for the next four years. £213,550 was achieved through Trusts and Foundations and a significant donation increased Individual Giving to £49,459.

Earned income also increased by £64,192, achieved through a minimal increase in fee levels for National members and increased box office income. The Charity benefited from £279,052 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £4,361 claim for the year in Gift Aid (following an over-accrual of previous years but now settled during 2023) in the accounting period.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by £162,018 compared to the previous year. This is due to increasing costs in relation to activity and overheads, the introduction of new permanent staff roles to support fundraising, engagement and inclusion alongside growing and investing in NCO's freelancers.

Reserves Policy

£257,216 is held in designated funds, to protect the charity should a natural disaster re-occur and to cover expenditure on a rebranding exercise. £339,945 is available as free reserves from total unrestricted funds of £410,165 after excluding tangible fixed assets of £70,220. Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in April 2022 and in light of the crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, Trustees identified and agreed that £500,000 should be retained in unrestricted reserves to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries should a similar event occur again. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in note 20. Apart from the Bursary Fund noted below, there are no specific periods of time during which these funds must be expended. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

The charity maintains a Bursary Fund to ensure that financial assistance is available to cover all or part of the costs of membership of any child whose family qualifies in the year of membership. All raised income for the purpose of financial aid is attributed to the Bursary Fund restricted reserve and spent down during the year. The Board considers that a fund should be maintained for this purpose and it is intended to achieve incremental increases in reserves each year over the next five years. The remaining balance is £nil.

As shown in note 20, a number of previously restricted funds have been transferred to unrestricted funds in the year, with the consent of relevant parties.

Raised Income

NCO wishes to thank all its incredibly generous supporters and funders who helped make the achievements and activities outlined above possible during 2023. Without their support, NCO would not be able to offer outstanding opportunities for children to nurture and develop their musical skills and confidence achieved through the delivery of our programmes.

NCO seeks to raise income annually from four distinct sources:

- Statutory funding from Government schemes such as the Arts Council of England.
- Donations from individuals via specific schemes such as NCO Friends, or one-off donations.
- Grants from Trusts, Foundations or other grant-giving bodies.
- Funding from corporate organisations in the form of sponsorship.

Funding from any source can be restricted for a specific use, or unrestricted to spend as the charity needs for its core purpose. NCO codes every gift according to any agreement regarding restrictions to ensure it is directed as intended.

NCO's Development Team comprises of a part-time Director and full-time Manager, supported by a recently appointed Administrator. NCO has an Ethical Fundraising Policy agreed by its Board of Trustees which guides the organisation on best practice according to the Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator. There were no complaints or queries of any nature for any raised income in 2023. All development activity adheres to HMRC's rules on Gift Aid and GDPR guidance and regulation, overseen by NCO's Board.

2023 was the first financial year in which NCO received revenue funding from the Arts Council of England and Department for Education as a new National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation. This new funding was initially set for a 3-year period but was extended to 4 years, therefore until March 2027.

NCO is greatly appreciative of our ongoing partnership with ABRSM. The partnership provides important funding for NCO and valued co-working in shared areas of interest, including the ABRSM Composer Mentoring programme which focuses a diverse cohort of young composers on writing for music education, including a special piece for NCO Projects children.

NCO's Projects programme benefitted from support from a range of Trusts and Foundations. We would especially like to thank The Linder Foundation and The Garfield Weston Foundation. The Foyle Foundation and the Cecil King Memorial Foundation also supported NCO's activity alongside many smaller grant givers.

NCO's strong foundation of funding support for our Financial Support programme enabled 115 children to take up membership that would otherwise have been unaffordable for them. NCO's Financial Support programme was made possible through a multi-year grant from The Leverhulme Trust as well as a growing number of smaller Trusts and Foundations, some of which support children from a specific region. NCO is immensely grateful to each of these funders.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

NCO's individual donors, in particular Patrons, Friends, and NCO member families bolstered fundraising by joining schemes or renewing support and donating to our Music Matters appeal (launched towards the end of 2023 and ongoing). A larger one-off individual donation from a member's family created a positive fiscal impact on our Individual Giving target, alongside increased donations through our new and ongoing 'Music Matters' campaign. NCO is extremely grateful to each one of our individual supporters for their funding support and for the encouragement they give each child when attending NCO concerts.

There is expectation that the ongoing challenging landscape for fundraising will continue in 2024. Significant competition for support, driven by rising costs and decreasing funds available, is likely to primarily affect fundraising outcomes from private Trusts and Foundations.

Going concern

The board is mindful that NCO may continue to deploy some financial reserves to meet the challenges of the ongoing economic situation. In particular, this relates to increased costs associated with venues and suppliers driven by the inflationary pressures that continue to affect the UK economy, negatively affecting the charity's expenditure and income streams.

The board expects this to have an impact on both raised income for 2024 and programme expenditure. This impact is somewhat mitigated by public funding of £300,000 pa from the Arts Council of England/Department for Education, extended to a fourth year to March 2027 and the UK Treasury's decision to set Orchestra Tax Relief at 45% permanently.

NCO's Board and Finance Committee will convene quarterly to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The Arts Council of England will also review any financial risk to the charity as a mandatory requirement of the new NPO funding arrangement.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023

AUDITORS

The auditors, Saffery LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the board of trustees on 23/5/24 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Baker - Trustee

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ;or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

In addition, the charity is subject to other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to its ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These include health and safety and safeguarding for children.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 15 August 2024
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	409,350	100,530	509,880	350,467
Charitable activities	4				
Concerts		38,823	-	38,823	33,136
Regionals		110,348	-	110,348	100,106
Membership fees		592,907	-	592,907	579,750
Other trading activities	5	2,918	-	2,918	2,714
Investments	6	12,555	-	12,555	1,061
Other	7	279,052	-	279,052	255,644
Total		1,445,953	100,530	1,546,483	1,322,878
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	100,115	-	100,115	82,042
Charitable activities	9				
Programmes (including online)		1,156,249	-	1,156,249	1,101,828
Auditions		12,825	-	12,825	11,308
Concerts		139,260	-	139,260	45,628
Bursaries and Scholarships		700	108,190	108,890	114,515
Total		1,409,149	108,190	1,517,339	1,355,321
Net gains/(losses) on instruments	15	-	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	16	1,353	-	1,353	(1,905)
Net income/(expenditure)		38,157	(7,660)	30,497	(34,348)
Transfers between funds	20	43,070	(43,070)	-	-
Net movement in funds	20	81,227	(50,730)	30,497	(34,348)
Total funds brought forward		586,154	86,286	672,440	706,788
Total funds carried forward	20	667,381	35,556	702,937	672,440

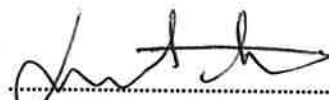
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15	70,220	-	70,220	69,335
Investments	16	15,838	-	15,838	14,485
		<u>86,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,058</u>	<u>83,820</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	17	317,066	-	317,066	312,456
Cash at bank and in hand		956,717	35,556	992,273	867,689
		<u>1,273,783</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>1,309,339</u>	<u>1,180,145</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(692,460)	-	(692,460)	(591,525)
Net current assets		<u>581,323</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>616,879</u>	<u>588,620</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>667,381</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>702,937</u>	<u>672,440</u>
Net assets		<u>667,381</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>702,937</u>	<u>672,440</u>
Restricted funds	20			35,556	86,286
Unrestricted funds	20			667,381	586,154
Total charity funds				<u>702,937</u>	<u>672,440</u>

The notes at pages 23 to 35 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on **23/05/24** and signed on their behalf by:


 L Mitchell - Trustee


 J Baker - Trustee

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	113,832	(288,585)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>113,832</u>	<u>(288,585)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,803)	(1,632)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Interest received		12,555	1,061
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>10,752</u>	<u>(571)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	2	124,584	(289,156)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>867,689</u>	<u>1,156,845</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>992,273</u>	<u>867,689</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	30,497	(34,348)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	918	490
(Gains)/losses on investments	(1,353)	1,905
Interest received	(12,555)	(1,061)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(4,610)	(256,222)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	100,935	651
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	113,832	(288,585)

2 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January 2023	Cash flow	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	867,689	124,584	992,273
Total	867,689	124,584	992,273

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office and principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arnos Vale, Bristol, BS4 3AS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 8 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments and musical instruments which are included at market value.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Valuation of musical instruments

Musical instruments are carried at an estimation of their market value, based upon external valuations and the judgement of the Trustees.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

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 charitable entity 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. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable entity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties. The charitable entity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions are met, the amount can be measured reliably, and in line with the timing implied by any multi-period grant agreements.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Income from Concerts and Regionals is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Music	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Musical instruments

Musical instruments are held at valuation and are not depreciated. These are revalued every five years with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of revaluation. Individual instruments valued at less than £200 each are written off.

Taxation

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Investments

Investments are carried at their market value with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	284,009	349,013
Government grants	225,002	-
Tax recovered	869	1,454
	<u>509,880</u>	<u>350,467</u>

The charity received government grants, defined as funding from Arts Council England and Department for Education to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 December 2023 was £250,002 (2022: £nil). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants.

4 Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Concert income	38,823	33,136
Regionals income	110,348	100,106
Membership fees	592,907	579,750
	<u>742,078</u>	<u>712,992</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other revenue	2,918	2,714
	<u>2,918</u>	<u>2,714</u>

6 Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment income	12,555	1,061
	<u>12,555</u>	<u>1,061</u>

7 Other income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Orchestra Tax Relief	279,052	255,644
	<u>279,052</u>	<u>255,644</u>

8 Raising funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	88,281	73,259
Other costs	11,834	8,783
	<u>100,115</u>	<u>82,042</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Charitable activities costs

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11)	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	584,856	-	571,393	1,156,249
Auditions	12,825	-	-	12,825
Concerts	139,260	-	-	139,260
Bursaries and scholarships	781	108,109	-	108,890
	<u>737,722</u>	<u>108,109</u>	<u>571,393</u>	<u>1,417,224</u>
	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11)	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	619,680	-	482,148	1,101,828
Auditions	11,308	-	-	11,308
Concerts	45,628	-	-	45,628
Bursaries and scholarships	500	114,015	-	114,515
	<u>677,116</u>	<u>114,015</u>	<u>482,148</u>	<u>1,273,279</u>

10 Grants payable

	2023 £	2022 £
Bursaries and scholarships	<u>108,109</u>	<u>114,015</u>

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Grant	<u>108,109</u>	<u>114,015</u>

All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.

11 Support costs

	Management £	Governance £	Totals 2023 £
Programmes (including online)	547,758	23,635	571,393
	<u>547,758</u>	<u>23,635</u>	<u>571,393</u>
	Management £	Governance £	Totals 2022 £
Programmes (including online)	465,793	16,355	482,148
	<u>465,793</u>	<u>16,355</u>	<u>482,148</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditor' remuneration	11,340	9,810
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	3,060	2,760
Depreciation - owned assets	918	490

13 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022, except as disclosed in Note 23

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the period totalled £nil (2022: £52.50).

14 Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	436,362	341,453
Social security costs	36,371	29,262
Pension costs	10,785	9,118
	<u>483,518</u>	<u>379,833</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
£	£
<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>

There were no employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 for the current or previous year

The Orchestras employed 180 freelancers during the year (2022: 179), who worked a total of 925 days (2022: 925 days).

The social staff provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These staff are paid on a per session basis.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Music £	Instruments £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
Cost/Value				
At 1 January 2023	21,720	67,525	73,650	162,895
Additions	-	-	1,803	1,803
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	21,720	67,525	75,453	164,698
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	21,519	-	72,041	93,560
Charge for the year	180	-	738	918
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	21,699	-	72,779	94,478
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2023	21	67,525	2,674	70,220
At 31 December 2022	201	67,525	1,609	69,335

External valuations were obtained for the musical instruments in 2021, that totalled £67,525. It is the opinion of the Trustees that there has been no material movement to the value of the instruments since the external valuations were obtained, up to the 31 December 2023 year end.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2023	14,485
Revaluations	1,353
At 31 December 2023	15,838
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	15,838
At 31 December 2022	14,485

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

17 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	5,330	5,880
Prepayments	28,323	23,735
Tax recoverable	283,413	282,841
	317,066	312,456

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	13,594	18,161
Social security and other taxes	11,586	8,530
Deferred income	644,130	542,570
Accruals	23,150	22,264
	692,460	591,525

Further information on deferred income is provided in note 24.

19 Leasing agreements

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	11,185	9,846
Between one and five years	-	-
	11,185	9,846

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £42,615 (2022: £41,048).

20 Movement in Funds

	At 1/1/23	Net movement	Transfers	At 31/12/23
	£	in funds	between funds	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	376,154	38,157	(4,146)	410,165
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	-	-	47,216	47,216
Risk Reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
	586,154	38,157	43,070	667,381
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	-	(7,660)	7,660	-
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	(1,792)	-
E Rorison winter award	4,031	-	(200)	3,831
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	(1,522)	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	14,255	-	-	14,255
1978 association	47,216	-	(47,216)	-
	86,286	(7,660)	(43,070)	35,556
Total funds	672,440	30,497	-	702,937

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,445,953	(1,409,149)	1,353	38,157
Unrestricted - designated funds				
Rebranding Reserve	-	-	-	-
Risk Reserve	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,445,953</u>	<u>(1,409,149)</u>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>38,157</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	100,530	(108,190)	-	(7,660)
Scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Access and progression	-	-	-	-
F Guthrie	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
1978 association	-	-	-	-
	<u>100,530</u>	<u>(108,190)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,660)</u>
Total funds	<u>1,546,483</u>	<u>(1,517,339)</u>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>30,497</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	369,137	6,817	200	376,154
IT replacement fund	-	-	-	-
Office move	-	-	-	-
Risk reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
	<u>579,137</u>	<u>6,817</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>586,154</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	36,743	(41,165)	4,422	-
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231	-	(200)	4,031
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677	-	(4,422)	14,255
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
	<u>127,651</u>	<u>(41,165)</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>86,286</u>
Total funds	<u>706,788</u>	<u>(34,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>672,440</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund				
Unrestricted - designated funds	1,250,028	(1,241,306)	(1,905)	6,817
IT replacement fund	-	-	-	-
Office move	-	-	-	-
Risk reserve	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,250,028</u>	<u>(1,241,306)</u>	<u>(1,905)</u>	<u>6,817</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund				
Scholarship fund	72,850	(114,015)	-	(41,165)
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Access and progression	-	-	-	-
F Guthrie	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
1978 association	-	-	-	-
	<u>72,850</u>	<u>(114,015)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,165)</u>
Total funds	<u>1,322,878</u>	<u>(1,355,321)</u>	<u>(1,905)</u>	<u>(34,348)</u>

Designated funds:

Rebranding reserve

This fund is designated for the purpose of updating the Charities branding, including our website.

Risk Reserve fund

This fund is designated for risk considered force majeure or any natural disaster. It has been calculated using an estimate of irretrievable costs in these circumstances. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Restricted funds:

Bursary fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to courses, overnight accommodation for families who have long distances to travel, subsidised concert tickets and NCO regional orchestra rehearsal fees. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an internal NCO panel. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

Scholarship fund

The Scholarship fund is to be used for scholarships to be granted at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. This has been utilised in full in the current year.

E Rorison winter award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and progression

This fund represents money received to support the engagement activities.

F Guthrie

Mrs Faith Guthrie, a former NCO Trustee, generously supports certain NCO projects and provides bursaries from time to time. This has been utilised in full in the current year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Vivienne Price memorial fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

1978 Association

This fund represents money donated by Mr John and Mrs Faith Guthrie to support the establishment of a legacy fund for the charity. As agreed with the donors, this has been transferred to a designated funds in full in the current year.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year to 31 March 2023				
Tangible fixed assets	70,220			70,220
Fixed investments	15,838			15,838
Net current assets	324,107	257,216	35,556	616,879
	<u>410,165</u>	<u>257,216</u>	<u>35,556</u>	<u>702,937</u>
Total funds				
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year to 31 March 2023				
Tangible fixed assets	69,335			69,335
Fixed investments	14,485			14,485
Net current assets	292,334	210,000	86,286	588,620
	<u>376,154</u>	<u>210,000</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>672,440</u>
Total funds				

21 Employee benefit obligations

Pension contributions amounting to £10,785 (2022: £9,118) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.

22 Contingent liabilities

The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.

23 Related party disclosures

During the year a number of the trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.

During the year 2 trustees, L Stott and B Weir, were paid a total of £7,007 (2022: £6,641) for services as tutors. The son of R Benneyworth, a Trustee, was paid a total of £2,029 for services as support staff.

The fees paid were in line with those paid to other tutors and staff providing similar services to the Charity.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

24 Deferred income

Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31 December 2023:

	2023 £	2022 £
Membership deferred at 1 January 2023		
Released to income in the year	531,065	468,492
Grant funding received in advance	(531,065)	(468,492)
Membership deferred at 31 December 2023	-	11,505
	644,130	531,065
	<u>644,130</u>	<u>542,570</u>

Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.

25 Post balance sheet events

The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.

26 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income and Endowments from			
Donations and legacies	277,617	72,850	350,467
Charitable activities			
Concerts			
Regionals	33,136	-	33,136
Membership fees	100,106	-	100,106
	579,750	-	579,750
Other trading activities			
Investment income	2,714	-	2,714
Other income	1,061	-	1,061
	255,644	-	255,644
Total	<u>1,250,028</u>	<u>72,850</u>	<u>1,322,878</u>
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	82,042	-	82,042
Charitable activities			
Residencies			
Auditions	1,101,828		1,101,828
Concerts	11,308	-	11,308
Bursaries and scholarships	45,628	-	45,628
	500	114,015	114,515
Total	<u>1,241,306</u>	<u>114,015</u>	<u>1,355,321</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(1,905)	-	(1,905)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	6,817	(41,165)	(34,348)
Transfers between funds	200	(200)	-
Net movement in funds	7,017	(41,365)	(34,348)
Total funds brought forward	579,137	127,651	706,788
Total funds carried forward	<u>586,154</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>672,440</u>

Accounts



National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Registered company number: 02471385

Registered charity number: 803026 (England and Wales)

Audited financial statements for the year ended

31 December 2022

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022
Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Auditor's Report	14
Statement of Financial Activities	18
Balance Sheet	19
Cash Flow Statement	20
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16 August 1978. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14 August 2019.

In 2022 the Board adopted a Financial Delegation document to specify areas of delegated approval for the financial aspects of the charity. The Trust Board review salaries, including for the Executive Team, annually. There is a benchmarking exercise planned for 2023.

In 2023, the Board will also be adopting a number of documents to clarify further the Governance Framework within which its Members, Full Board and Finance Committee operate and to create further transparency with regard to delegated functions at Executive and Senior Staff level.

The company adapted its name from The National Children's Orchestra to The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, to better reflect its activities. This was approved by the Board and implemented with the approval of the Charity Commission on 10 July 2012.

The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustee Induction and Training

As with staff recruitment, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain require references and enhanced DBS checks for new Trustees, in line with the charity's Safeguarding Policy. New trustees are provided with access to the Safeguarding Policy, Articles of Association and Code of Conduct upon appointment. Trustee induction includes a meeting with both the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Trust Board. A skills audit was conducted in 2022 identifying trustee strengths and areas for further development. Following the appointment of a Governance Lead in 2023, there will be further focus on training opportunities for Trustees and succession planning across the Board.

Administrative Information and Reference

Registered Company number

02471385 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

803026

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

Registered office

Saffery Champness LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place, Clifton
Bristol BS8 1BQ

Principal Office

Unit 2.3 Streamline
436-441 Paintworks
Bristol BS4 3AS

Trustees

Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Janet Baker (Honorary Treasurer)
Rosie Benneyworth (appointed 2 July 2021)
George Caird
Miranda Francis
Fiona Harvey
Beth Higham-Edwards (appointed 2 July 2021)
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason (appointed 2 July 2021)
Jonathan Mayes
Uchenna Ngwe (appointed 6 June 2022)
William Norris
Laetitia Stott (appointed 6 June 2022)
Brian Weir
Christine Wu (appointed 2 July 2021)
Lucy Maguire (appointed 2 July 2021)

Finance Committee Members

Janet Baker (Hon. Treasurer)
Rosie Benneyworth
George Caird
Fiona Harvey
Jonathan Mayes

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Executive Leadership

Sophie Lewis Chief Executive
Catherine Arlidge MBE Artistic and Educational Director

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
64 High Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT19 8AT

CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Mission

NCO exists to support young musicians aged 8-14 years old to develop their musical skills through transformative orchestral experiences and performances.

We inspire them to be the best musician they can be, unlock their creative potential and support their wellbeing.

We give children the time and respect to develop their voices and we create a sense of belonging and community.

We are a fun, playful and joyous place for children.

Music drives our vision, and we believe in its great capacity to promote happiness and health.

NCO's vision is to be a place where children (and grown-ups) flourish through music.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. They are confident that:

NCO fulfils a unique, strategic national role as a distinctive pathway for children with outstanding creative potential at a key time as they transition from primary to secondary school. NCO provides high quality opportunities for children to take part in musical learning outside school. NCO is a significant progression route and connector in music education for children from all backgrounds.

Alongside progression opportunities, NCO creates positive learning, engagement, progression and wellbeing outcomes for children, and the adults who work with the charity. Many children may not otherwise have these opportunities due to socio-economic barriers to access and inclusion, such as fewer economic and educational privileges and other challenges which could include where they live or their ethnicity.

NCO's work supports the current and future health of the artform of music by supporting young orchestral musicians and practitioners, creating new audiences and advocates for orchestral music, showcasing incredible and varied repertoire and supporting exciting new music commissions.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

2022 Executive Summary

2022 was a seminal year for NCO. It was the year we could finally bring children together again to experience the joy of orchestral playing through a newly structured programme of in-person and online orchestral activities. It was a new beginning in a changed world. Throughout the pandemic we were determined to do everything we could to help children continue to enjoy music as much as possible - not easy when the very thing they love doing the most was taken away.

We asked what mattered most to them and they told us - to feel happy and have fun, learn new musical skills and meet friends.

In January 2022, 624 children from across the UK joined NCO. Nervous anticipation gave way to focused learning, friendships and fun. Given the disruption caused by the pandemic to their musical learning and the impact of lockdowns on their emotional wellbeing, each one of them deserves a standing ovation. As do all those who support them at home and in and out of school. What they do enables what we do. 114 children were able to take part in NCO through our Financial Support programme, generously supported by key funders. These were children whose families could not afford it otherwise.

The pandemic caused us to think deeply about the NCO experience we want for children. We are ambitious for their musical achievements and know we can help them achieve excellence in performance and access excellence in opportunity within and beyond NCO.

We know that NCO directly and positively impacts their wellbeing and without this, their potential cannot be fully realised. This year's programme was intentionally filled with opportunities for children to progress their music and explore their creative potential. This sat alongside interventions and practices to help them become happier and healthier in their bodies and minds.

We are also working hard to identify the children missing from NCO, through no fault of their own. We know that true excellence of experience can only be achieved when children are benefitting from playing in a diverse group, where everyone feels they belong. We launched 'NCO Projects' this year to create a set of regional orchestras designed to be more accessible for younger children and those who might not yet have the skills, support or confidence to join our National Programme or other ensembles.

Our enriched learning framework and programme changes have been fully tested by a new evaluation model and we proudly produced our first Impact Report at the close of 2022, which can be viewed [here](#).

Sophie Lewis, Chief Executive and Catherine Arlidge MBE, Artistic and Educational Director

A message from NCO's Chair of Trustees

Alongside the joy of seeing children able to play together for the first time in two years, a highlight of the 2022 year for me was to see NCO confirmed as a new entrant into the Arts Council of England's National Portfolio of Organisations for April 2023 – March 2026. This is a huge endorsement of this organisation's vision, the unique role it plays in the progression of young musicians in the UK and the contribution it will continue to make towards increasing diversity in orchestral music. Being a National Portfolio Organisation and, in association a National Youth Music Organisation, as recognised by the Department for Education, will help us move forward with confidence and support to 2023 and beyond.

Louise Mitchell CBE, Chair of Trustees

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

2022 Activities

Nearly 900 children auditioned to take part in NCO 2022. Auditions were via video submission and free of charge. The audition process allowed NCO to identify children ready for a place in our membership, as well as mapping the range of instruments and player ages which form NCO's seven orchestras. 624 children aged 8-14 years were offered places in NCO's 2022 Membership.

As part of membership recruitment, NCO invested in research discovering areas of the UK currently less engaged with the organisation, giving the information needed to develop opportunities for partnership and to understand the barriers to accessing NCO.

The National Programme

NCO's National Programme consists of three age-banded orchestras for children in school years 7, 8 and 9. 324 children aged 11-14 joined this residential orchestral programme. They formed three National orchestras, taking part in 6 week-long orchestral residencies (two weeks per orchestra) including:

- 250 hours of sectional and orchestral rehearsals
- Six public concerts
- One final Winter concert for the Main Orchestra

In the spring, our three National orchestras each met for the first time for their residential courses. They each championed great music from both the best and least known composers, across themes of *Fire and Water*, *Visions of America* and *Feel the Pulse*. Highlights included Debbie Wiseman's *Blue Whale*, Hannah Kendall's *Spark Catchers*, Florence Price's *Mississippi River Suite* and Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird*.

"Such great playing - very impressive! Do send my congratulations to all the wonderful musicians in the NCO - they sounded fabulous and perfectly captured the essence of the Blue Whale!"

-Debbie Wiseman, Composer of *Blue Whale*, performed by NCO Under 13s Orchestra

The three orchestras then met again in summer for ambitious programmes centred around the themes of *Cinematic Scores*, *'orrible Orchestras* and *Sensational Sights, Fantastical Frights*. Highlights included an energetic performance of Leonard Bernstein's 'Symphonic Dances' from *West Side Story*, as well as Antonín Dvořák's *The Water Goblin*, and John Williams' 'Escapades' from *Catch Me If You Can*, which showcased saxophonist Jess Gillam, NCO Alumni Brooke Simpson on double bass and vibraphone player Sana Abu-Jabir.

"I really enjoyed The Water Goblin because it had a very mysterious story that added to the music. It made me really imagine what the music was trying to portray. I also really enjoyed playing Mars because it was very exhilarating, even when I was counting rests!!"

- NCO Nationals Member, 2022

Each residency was led by inspiring conductors (including Jonathan Bloxham, Natalia Luis-Bassa and Rebecca Miller), Creative Leads to further explore creative fulfilment via our Surround Sound improvisation sessions (Jonathan James, Delia Stevens, Lucy Drever and Sarah Freestone) and Wellbeing Practitioners (Sarah Upjohn and Tom Taffinder).

"Surround Sound was just wonderful to be part of and worked really well and the kids enjoyed it. The staff training was a real bonus and I felt confident going into it and it really helped me to help the kids express themselves. It was also a great experience for the kids to sit in different chairs in the orchestra. The social aspect of surround sound can also not be underestimated. So many children shone in the surround sound that were normally very shy within their own sections."

- NCO Lower Brass Music Tutor, 2022

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Through residential activity and public performances, children exceeded all musical expectations whilst making lifelong memories and friendships. Children told NCO their favourite parts of the residential were seeing and making friends and orchestral and sectional rehearsals. They also felt proud and inspired.

NCO Projects Programme

The NCO Projects programme was designed for launch in 2022 as a response to the post-pandemic needs of certain children and to begin a journey for NCO to address the inequality of opportunity in music education progression for many UK children. Opportunities for many children to advance their music skills and find progression routes were lost during the Covid lockdowns of 2020-21, particularly for children with less economic privilege, younger children and those living in areas or attending schools with less music education provision.

NCO Projects allowed children from a wider age range to explore large scale orchestral playing, often for the first time. 300 children aged 8-14 took part in non-residential Projects orchestral weekends in 2022.

- 4 Projects orchestras were formed in Bolton, Birmingham and London
- 8 orchestral weekends happened with 66 hours of sectional and orchestral rehearsals
- 8 family concerts were enjoyed by friends and family of the children.

Children told NCO that Projects was friendly, welcoming, supportive and encouraging and they enjoyed meeting other musicians their age.

Over the two weekends, children worked together on a new body percussion piece [NCO Stomp by Ryan Linham](#), alongside works by George Gershwin, Florence Price and Johann Strauss. Each weekend was led by inspiring conductors and guest artists, including Jess Gillam, Aaron Akugbo, Nate Holder and Katie Stillman. A key highlight was a special, new commission by composer Ryan Linham in collaboration with Nate Holder, called Coming To England, which brought to life the extraordinary journey of the Windrush generation from Caribbean countries to the UK between 1948-1971.

"(The music) was hard at first but at the end of the second day I was so proud... I loved it. It was really inspiring."

– NCO Projects Member, Spring 2022

NCO Online

All NCO children took part in the online programme, which supported musical learning, creativity, connectivity, and wellbeing. Starting in January 2022, it helped create a sense of community so that children felt more confident before they began in-person activity. There were 154 hours of online activities and hundreds of resources including eight hours of inspiring webinars with amazing guests, from composer Debbie Wiseman to violinist Jennifer Pike and former Paralympian Noel Thatcher. The 2022 YouTube Webinars playlist includes 14 hours of Creative Challenges, quizzes and socials. 132 hours of online sectionals and can be viewed [here](#).

Children told us that their favourite parts of the online programme were sectionals and tutor and conductor welcome videos.

Achievements and Performance

To measure the effectiveness of our programme for member children, NCO applied a bespoke, triangulated evaluation framework for our 2022 programme, developed in association with youth-voice experts MB Associates.

- In all orchestras, members reported that they found the repertoire less challenging after the residential.
- In all orchestras, on a scale of 1 to 10, members scored feeling happy and supported at residential as an 8 or higher.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

- In all orchestras, on a scale of 1 to 10, members scored feeling like they belonged to a team or community at the residentials as a 9 or higher.
- In all orchestras, on a scale of 1 to 10, members scored feeling proud of their achievements at the residentials as a 9 or higher.
- In all orchestras, on a scale of 1 to 10, members scored feeling inspired at the residentials as an 8 or higher.
- In all orchestras, on a scale of 1 to 10, members scored feeling like they explored their creativity at the residentials as a 9 or higher
- Younger Members told us that their favourite parts of the residentials were seeing and making friends, rehearsals, and sectionals.
- In all orchestras, members told us that they would like more time for Surround Sound sessions and Surround Sound performances.
- In all orchestras, members reported that they found the Support Team excellent and approachable.

For the Projects programme, we asked children to rate their experience based on the following statement 'I..

- felt happy and supported
- felt inspired'

Children recorded scores of 8.5 or higher (out of 10) against these statements and 7 or higher when asked if they felt they explored their creativity. Children noted that NCO was friendly, welcoming and supportive and that they enjoyed meeting other musicians their age. We also asked them to position themselves between 1-5 (with 1 equalling 'I don't agree' and 5 'I completely agree') on the statements:

- I feel proud of myself this weekend
- I have learnt new things this weekend

99% positioned themselves between 4 and 5, the majority completely agreeing with both statements. Crucially, every child confirmed to us that NCO Projects was their first (and only) experience of playing in a large-scale ensemble or orchestra.

"It's given me more confidence in making friends outside of school. I would love to play in more ensembles and orchestras for many years to come!"

- NCO Projects Member, aged 9

Of the 2022 Projects Members, 47 children are successfully moving on to our Nationals Programme and all those eligible to return to Projects applied to do so.

For the freelance team, NCO invested in pre-activity training and support including online creative facilitation training, increasing input into safeguarding and support and in person training at our live activities. For the core office team who deliver the overall remit of the charity, NCO introduced access to new online training and support via the Charity Learning Consortium. In addition, the organisation invested in access to the Medicash scheme to support employee health and wellbeing.

Audiences and Reach

NCO orchestras performed 15 concerts, enjoyed by more than 3,750 audience members from London to Bolton, Birmingham to Poole and Portsmouth to Manchester. NCO also reached more audiences through our social media channels, developing content to put children and their voices at the front and centre and to show more people, beyond NCO's own participants, the value of music education. The child-led content created during residentials resulted in the best reach (almost 90,000 people) on Facebook and best engagement on Facebook and Instagram to date. NCO increased its Twitter followers by 12%, Facebook followers by 11% and Instagram followers by 23%, compared to 2021. As of early December 2022, NCO's YouTube channel had been viewed 63,855 times, with 3,300 hours of NCO footage watched.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Wellbeing and Support

NCO believes that happy and healthy children who feel they belong, who are enjoying new friendships and have increased confidence, are better able to fulfil their creative potential. In 2022 NCO's programmes included wellbeing support, resources, activities and training including:

- 12 hours of wellbeing sessions at residencies including injury prevention, posture and mindfulness 57 hours of team member training, empowering our teams to support the wellbeing of children and themselves
- 10 wellbeing videos on looking after body and mind
- 1 YouTube Wellbeing Webinar which can be watched [here](#)

Children told us they felt happy and supported and part of a community. They also told us they felt our Support Team was excellent and approachable.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Of NCO's 624 members:

- 262 (42%) are from a global majority background
- 32 (5%) live with a disability
- 64 (10%) are from households with average or less median disposable income (£31,400 ONS data 2021)
- 114 (18%) qualified for bursary support via the Financial Support programme

NCO sought better representation in the artists and musicians who formed part of the 2022 Programme. This enabled a greater diversity of experiences and perspectives. There were:

- Five female conductors (out of 10)
- Six guest artists (out of 8) who were female
- Three guest artists (out of 8) from a global majority background
- Three female and four global majority composers - including William Grant Still, Samuel ColeridgeTaylor, Florence Price, Debbie Wiseman and Hannah Kendall
- Two new commissions - Ryan Linham and Nate Holder's *Windrush* and Ryan Linham's *NCO Stomp!*

Leadership Diversity

NCO invested in a full Board skills and diversity audit in 2021, resulting in positive shifts in the make up of Trustees. This includes:

- a shift towards younger Trustees, via two Trustees under 30 and an increase in Trustees under 49
- 15% increase in global majority representation
- 15% increase in voices who represent less economically and less socially privileged children
- 36% increase in female representation

NCO's Senior Management Team comprises 83% female representation. A full diversity audit of the leadership, staff and freelance teams will be undertaken in 2023.

Future Plans

NCO has identified ten strategic priorities to guide the charity over the next three years. These priorities will shape the activity, partnerships, communication and fundraising undertaken to achieve the vision to be a place where all children can truly flourish through music.

The charity will be guided by new values – Ambition, Creativity, Happiness, Honesty and Respect - and will develop ambitious goals to deliver against:

- Improving equality of opportunity to access and be included in NCO, for children and adults; who are currently under-represented in our membership and in our practitioner teams;
- Collaboration with music and education partners to build a stronger music sector;

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

- Developing the way Child Voice is heard at NCO and influences and guides decision making;
- Understanding more, deepening and sharing the impact NCO has on child wellbeing;
- Creating more and better opportunities for progression that suit the differing needs of current and future NCO participants

NCO will continue to run its National and Projects programmes, investing even further in the team and programme planning to ensure continued delivery of excellence in experience, excellence in opportunity and inspiring excellence in performance for hundreds of children.

A thoughtful and well-evidenced EDI action plan, devised by Sam Stimpson (SLS360) will drive forward equality of provision and access to NCO for many more children, and make sure everyone feels, and is, included in NCO.

A review of NCO's financial aid programme will ensure support is provided to those children who need it the most.

A newly-appointed Head of Engagement (role generously funded by the Foyle Foundation) will forge new and deeper relationships within music education services and other grassroots music organisations and deliver specific activity such as:

- **Free Access** - a programme strand offering free, non-auditioned activity working closely in partnership with music education hubs local to Projects weekend venues and NCO National Concert Venues. To include KS2 schools concerts, free tickets, open access orchestral workshops and expanded concert day activities.
- **Student Leaders** - an expansion on the current opportunity for undergraduates studying music to gain experience of working with children working as an assistant music tutor to section tutors. Partnerships with higher education organisations will create a detailed programme of opportunity.
- **Bristol Beacon Partnership** - In 2024 NCO orchestras will perform in the newly re-opened Bristol Beacon. NCO will develop an exciting series of collaborative activity for both NCO children and Bristol-based children already working with Bristol Beacon music services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance and Funding

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 18. Total income comprised £1,250,028 for unrestricted funds, £72,850 for restricted funds. Total expenditure was £1,241,306 in unrestricted expenditure and £114,015 in restricted expenditure. As at 31 December 2022 the reserves of the charity were £672,440 of which £86,286 are restricted.

To keep membership as accessible and inclusive as possible post-pandemic, fee levels were maintained at 2019 rates for 2022 NCO Membership. NCO's new Projects membership was priced at a more accessible level for many families. Both these decisions impacted on NCO's potential to increase earned income but were vital to fulfil NCO's charitable purpose and be as inclusive as possible. Fee levels will be reviewed annually in line with comparative offers and the financial landscape.

The Charity benefited from £255,644 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £1,454 in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

Reserves Policy

£210,000 is held in designated funds, to protect the charity should a natural disaster re-occur. £86,286 is restricted as above and £67,525 relates to the revaluation of musical instruments, accordingly £308,629 is available as free reserves. Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in April 2022 and in light of the crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, Trustees identified and agreed that £500,000 should be retained in unrestricted reserves to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries should a similar event occur again. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations and grants from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in Section 19 below. Apart from the Bursary Fund noted below, there are no specific periods of time during which these funds must be expended. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

The charity maintains a Bursary Fund to ensure that financial assistance is available to cover all or part of the costs of membership of any child whose family qualifies in the year of membership. All raised income for the purpose of financial aid is attributed to the Bursary Fund restricted reserve and spent down during the year. The Board considers that a fund should be maintained for this purpose and it is intended to achieve incremental increases in reserves each year over the next five years.

The remaining balance is £nil.

Risk Management

The Trustees and Executive team meet regularly to review major internal and external financial, strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. Organisational and finance risks are a standard agenda item for Board and Finance Committee meetings respectively ensuring that systems and procedures are effective to mitigate those risks as well as measures designed to minimise or manage the potential impact in the event that those risks present themselves.

Trustees consider there to be three key risks to the charity:

- **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

The well-being and safety of all children and young musicians whilst engaged in NCO activities is of paramount importance. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two Trustees have specific Safeguarding responsibility. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a full current Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Training is provided for staff at the start of every residency and all staff must complete a basic online child safeguarding course. Additional training is undertaken by senior residency and administrative staff. At the close of 2022 NCO appointed a Head of Support. This is a newly created role to lead on ensuring NCO maintains exceptional safeguarding of children and support their wellbeing and happiness through dynamic pastoral care.

- **Fundraising**

Every year, NCO needs to raise over £500,000 to subsidise its overall programme of activity, support its financial aid programmes and support core costs. The Executive team regularly report to the board and finance committee on secured income against targets and to monitor strategies for fundraising and the risks therein. At the close of 2022, we devised a specific Development Working Group to oversee our fundraising work and support the team to grow this area and extra capacity is in place for 2023 through a newly created Development Administrator role.

- **Cost of living and inflation**

With the cost of living crisis and consumer prices index at 9.2% in the 12 months to December 2022, NCO recognises that staff are under financial pressure as pay is not keeping up with inflation, we hope to address this in 2023. Rising costs will affect expenditure incurred, however NCO minimises these increases by booking costs such as travel/accommodation in advance, negotiating purchases and by strategic planning of any other large costs.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

Raised Income

NCO is immensely grateful to all the funders and supporters who enabled the incredible 2022 planning, activity and evaluation outlined above.

2022 was the first of several 'bridging years' to recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The financial losses of 2020 and 2021 were set against the real need to invest in rebuilding an elevated programme tailored for post-pandemic children and everything was made harder by rising costs of delivery and an increasingly competitive fundraising landscape.

The flexibility to attribute the final portion of a Cultural Recovery Fund grant to the start of our 2022 financial year helped underpin other fundraising.

The new NCO Projects programme benefitted from support via The Linder Foundation. NCO is truly grateful for the continued support of this generous and supportive funder. The Cecil King Memorial Foundation and the Kirby Laing Charitable Foundation also supported NCO's activity, helping mitigate the impact of rising costs while allowing us to invest where children needed it the most.

NCO's strong foundation of funding support for our financial aid programme enabled 114 children to take up membership that would otherwise have been unaffordable to their families and guardians. NCO is grateful to each of these funders.

NCO's individual donors, in particular Patrons, Friends, and NCO member families, were as generous as a difficult year permitted them to be. They bolstered fundraising by joining schemes or renewing support and donating to our appeal. NCO is extremely grateful to each and every one of them and for the messages of support which accompanied their gifts.

The significant achievement of 2022 fundraising was the confirmation of our successful bid for inclusion into the 2023-2026 Arts Council of England's National Portfolio of Organisations. This has also granted NCO official status as a National Youth Music Organisation, supported by the Department for Education. The charity is proud of both of these inclusions and the positive endorsement of NCO's vision and signification in the cultural fabric of the UK. NCO will receive its first portion of the grant in 2023, alongside other non-financial support.

There is expectation of a challenging landscape for fundraising in 2023, with significant competition for support driven by rising financial needs of many charities and decreasing funds available from many sources.

NCO seeks to raise income annually from four sources annually:

- Statutory funding from Government schemes such as Arts Council Funding programme.
- Donations from individuals via specific schemes such as NCO Friends or one-off donations to fundraising appeals.
- Grants from Trusts, Foundations or other grant-giving bodies.
- Funding from corporate organisations in the form of sponsorship.

Funding from any source can be restricted for a specific use, or unrestricted to spend as the charity needs for its core purpose. NCO codes every gift according to any agreement regarding restrictions to ensure it is directed as intended.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

NCO has a Development Team comprising of one part-time Director and one full-time Manager to fundraise our annual budget and steward donors. NCO does not employ any external expertise or support for fundraising. NCO has an Ethical Fundraising Policy agreed by its Board of Trustees which guides the organisation on best practice according to the Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator. The team understand the Code and checks its practice on a regular basis. This includes internal and external complaints or queries over donations. NCO had no complaints or queries of any nature for any raised income in 2022. All activity centred on individual donations adheres to HMRC's rules on Gift Aid. All fundraising communications adhere to GDPR guidance and regulation. NCO's Board oversees this work.

Going concern

The board is mindful that NCO may continue to deploy some financial reserves to meet the challenges of the post-pandemic economic situation. In particular, this relates to increased costs associated with venues and suppliers driven by the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis that continues to affect the UK economy, negatively affecting our expenditure and income streams.

The board expects this to have an impact on both raised income for 2023 and programme expenditure. This impact should be somewhat mitigated by NCO's inclusion into the Arts Council of England's NPO cohort from 2023 and its associated multi-year statutory funding. £225,000 of this funding can be attributed to the 2023 fiscal year, rising to £300,000 for the 2024 fiscal year.

The charity's 2022 financial position was boosted by £255,644 in income from the Government's Orchestral Tax Relief scheme, and the final £106,104 of a pandemic relief grant via the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund.

NCO's Board and Finance Committee will convene quarterly to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The Arts Council of England will also review any financial risk to the charity as a mandatory requirement of the new NPO funding arrangement.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

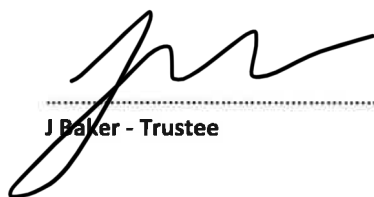
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Saffery Champness LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

31/05/2023

Approved by the board of trustees on.....and signed on its behalf by:



J Baker - Trustee

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ;or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 12, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP, Statutory Auditor

23 June 2023

Date:
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021 As restated
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	277,617	72,850	350,467	583,269
Charitable activities	4				
Auditions		-	-	-	-
Concerts		33,136	-	33,136	-
Regionals		100,106	-	100,106	-
Membership fees		579,750	-	579,750	147,500
Other trading activities	5	2,714	-	2,714	-
Investments	6	1,061	-	1,061	748
Other	7	255,644	-	255,644	10,323
Total		<u>1,250,028</u>	<u>72,850</u>	<u>1,322,878</u>	<u>741,840</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	82,042	-	82,042	64,462
Charitable activities	9				
Residencies (including online)		1,101,828	-	1,101,828	625,655
Auditions		11,308	-	11,308	17,338
Concerts		45,628	-	45,628	-
Bursaries and Scholarships		500	114,015	114,515	26,250
Regionals		-	-	-	-
Total		<u>1,241,306</u>	<u>114,015</u>	<u>1,355,321</u>	<u>733,705</u>
Net gains/(losses) on instruments	15	-	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	16	(1,905)	-	(1,905)	2,910
Net income/(expenditure)		6,817	(41,165)	(34,348)	11,045
Transfers between funds	20	<u>200</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	20	7,017	(41,365)	(34,348)	11,045
Total funds brought forward (as restated, note 15)		579,137	127,651	706,788	695,743
Total funds carried forward	20	<u>586,154</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>672,440</u>	<u>706,788</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds As restated
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	Note				
Tangible assets (as restated)	15	69,335	-	69,335	68,193
Investments	16	<u>14,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,485</u>	<u>16,390</u>
		83,820	-	83,820	84,583
Current assets					
Debtors	17	312,456	-	312,456	56,234
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>781,403</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>867,689</u>	<u>1,156,845</u>
		1,093,859	86,286	1,180,145	1,213,079
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(591,525)	-	(591,525)	(590,874)
Net current assets		<u>502,334</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>588,620</u>	<u>622,205</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		586,154	86,286	672,440	706,788
Net assets		<u>586,154</u>	<u>86,286</u>	<u>672,440</u>	<u>706,788</u>
Restricted funds	20			86,286	127,651
Unrestricted funds (as restated)	20			586,154	579,137
Total charity funds				<u>672,440</u>	<u>706,788</u>

The notes at pages 24 to 35 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 31/05/2023 and signed on their behalf by:


 L Mitchell - Trustee


 J Baker - Trustee

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(288,585)	621,640
Taxation refund		-	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(288,585)</u>	<u>621,640</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,632)	-
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	9,900
Interest received		1,061	748
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(571)</u>	<u>10,648</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	2	(289,156)	632,288
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,156,845</u>	<u>524,557</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>867,689</u>	<u>1,156,845</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £ As restated
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(34,348)	11,045
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	490	2,002
(Gains)/losses on investments	1,905	(2,910)
Interest received	(1,061)	(748)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	(2,999)
Interest paid	-	-
Tax refund due	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(256,222)	214,880
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	651	400,370
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(288,585)	621,640

2	Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January 2022 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2022 £
	Net cash			
	Cash at bank and in hand	1,156,845	(289,156)	867,689
	Total	1,156,845	(289,156)	867,689

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office is St Catherine's Court, Berkeley Place, Bristol, BS8 1BQ, and the Principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arncliffe, Leeds, LS16 5PS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 8 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments and musical instruments which are included at market value.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Valuation of musical instruments

Musical instruments are carried at an estimation of their market value, based upon external valuations and the judgement of the Trustees.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Audition income is recognised when the auditions have taken place.

Income from Concerts and Regionals is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Music	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Musical instruments

Musical instruments are held at valuation and are not depreciated. These are revalued every five years with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of revaluation. Individual instruments valued at less than £200 each are written off.

Taxation

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Investments

Investments are carried at their market value with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	349,013	576,472
Tax recovered	1,454	3,798
Miscellaneous income	-	2,999
	<u>350,467</u>	<u>583,269</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditions	-	-
Concert income	33,136	-
Regionals income	100,106	-
Membership fees	579,750	147,500
	<u>712,992</u>	<u>147,500</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Merchandising income	-	-
Other revenue	2,714	-
	<u>2,714</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Investment income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Investment income	1,061	748
	<u>1,061</u>	<u>748</u>

7 Other income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Orchestra Tax Relief	255,644	10,323
	<u>255,644</u>	<u>10,323</u>

8 Raising funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	73,259	62,601
Other costs	8,783	1,861
Total	<u>82,042</u>	<u>64,462</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

9 Charitable activities costs

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11)	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	619,680	-	482,148	1,101,828
Auditions	11,308	-	-	11,308
Concerts	45,628	-	-	45,628
Bursaries and scholarships	500	114,015	-	114,515
	<u>677,116</u>	<u>114,015</u>	<u>482,148</u>	<u>1,273,279</u>
	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	Support costs (see note 11) As restated	Totals 2021 As restated
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	156,595	-	469,060	625,655
Auditions	17,338	-	-	17,338
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and scholarships	-	26,250	-	26,250
	<u>173,933</u>	<u>26,250</u>	<u>469,060</u>	<u>669,243</u>

10 Grants payable

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bursaries and scholarships	<u>114,015</u>	<u>26,250</u>
The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Grant	<u>114,015</u>	<u>26,250</u>

All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

11 Support costs

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	465,793	-	16,355	482,148
Auditions	-	-	-	-
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and Scholarships	-	-	-	-
	<u>465,793</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,355</u>	<u>482,148</u>
	Management As restated	Finance	Governance costs	Totals 2021 As restated
	£	£	£	£
Programmes (including online)	451,635	-	17,425	469,060
Auditions	-	-	-	-
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and Scholarships	-	-	-	-
	<u>451,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,425</u>	<u>469,060</u>

12 Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	As restated £
Auditor' remuneration	7,700	7,210
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	8,170	5,050
Depreciation - owned assets	490	2,002

13 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the period totalled £52.50 (2021: £nil).

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

14 Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	341,453	263,292
Social security costs	29,262	22,278
Pension costs	9,118	7,351
	<u>379,833</u>	<u>292,921</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

There were no employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000.

The Orchestras employed 179 freelancers during the year (2021: 131), who worked a total of 925 days (2021: 695 days).

The social staff provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These staff are paid on a per session basis.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Music £	Instruments As restated £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals As restated £
Cost/Value					
At 1 January 2022	21,720	67,525	72,018	-	161,263
Additions	-	-	1,632	-	1,632
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>21,720</u>	<u>67,525</u>	<u>73,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,895</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2022	21,339	-	71,731	-	93,070
Charge for the year	180	-	310	-	490
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>21,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,041</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,560</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2022	<u>201</u>	<u>67,525</u>	<u>1,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,335</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>381</u>	<u>67,525</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,193</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Prior year restatement

A change in accounting policy has been adopted this year for the musical instruments, moving from a depreciated cost model to a revaluation basis. The change has been applied retrospectively, with a restatement to the opening position for the comparative figures - ie the figures at 1 January 2021 have been restated to uplift the net book value of the instruments from £2,147 to £67,525. This total uplift of £65,378 is made up of a reversal of depreciation brought forward of £100,178, net of an impairment of £34,800. Additionally, a depreciation charge that was previously recognised in the year ended 31 December 2021 for the instruments of £2,147 has now been removed.

External valuations were obtained for the musical instruments in 2021, that totalled £67,525. The Trustees considered that this was a reasonable basis for the opening valuation as at 1 January 2021, as there was not considered to be a material change in value during the period between 1 January 2021 and the valuations. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Trustees that there has been no material movement to the value of the instruments since the external valuations were obtained, up to the 31 December 2022 year end.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2022	16,390
Revaluations	(1,905)
At 31 December 2022	<u>14,485</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	<u>14,485</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>16,390</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

17 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	5,880	6,684
Prepayments	23,735	13,485
Tax recoverable	282,841	36,065
	<u>312,456</u>	<u>56,234</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	18,161	4,570
Social security and other taxes	8,530	8,707
Deferred income	542,570	553,492
Accruals	22,264	24,105
	591,525	590,874

Further information on deferred income is provided in note 24.

19 Leasing agreements

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	9,846	24,280
Between one and five years	-	-
	9,846	24,280

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £41,048 (2021: £34,820).

20 Movement in Funds

	At 1/1/22	As restated	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/12/22
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund (as restated, see note 15)	369,137		6,817	200	376,154
Unrestricted - designated funds					
IT Replacement fund	-	-	-	-	-
Office move	-	-	-	-	-
Risk Reserve	210,000		-	-	210,000
	579,137		6,817	200	586,154
Restricted funds					
Bursary fund	36,743		(41,165)	4,422	-
Scholarship fund	1,792		-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231		-	(200)	4,031
Access and progression	17,470		-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522		-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677		-	(4,422)	14,255
1978 association	47,216		-	-	47,216
	127,651		(41,165)	(200)	86,286
Total funds	706,788		(34,348)	-	672,440

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,250,028	(1,241,306)	(1,905)	6,817
Unrestricted - designated funds				
IT Replacement fund	-	-	-	-
Office move	-	-	-	-
Risk Reserve	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,250,028</u>	<u>(1,241,306)</u>	<u>(1,905)</u>	<u>6,817</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	72,850	(114,015)	-	(41,165)
Scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Access and progression	-	-	-	-
F Guthrie	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
1978 association	-	-	-	-
	<u>72,850</u>	<u>(114,015)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,165)</u>
Total funds	<u>1,322,878</u>	<u>(1,355,321)</u>	<u>(1,905)</u>	<u>(34,348)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/21	As restated	Net movement in funds	As restated	Transfers between funds	At 31/12/21	As restated
		£		£			£
Unrestricted funds							
General fund (as restated, see note 15)	540,462		(200,249)		28,924		369,137
IT replacement fund	7,131		(7,131)		-		-
Office move	25,500		(25,500)		-		-
Risk reserve	-		210,000		-		210,000
	<u>573,093</u>		<u>(22,880)</u>		<u>28,924</u>		<u>579,137</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	31,742	33,925	(28,924)	36,743
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231	-	-	4,231
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677	-	-	18,677
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
	<u>122,650</u>	<u>33,925</u>	<u>(28,924)</u>	<u>127,651</u>
Total funds	<u>695,743</u>	<u>11,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>706,788</u>

Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended As restated £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds As restated £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund (as restated, see note 15)	471,666	(674,825)	2,910	(200,249)
Unrestricted - designated funds				
IT replacement fund	-	(7,131)	-	(7,131)
Office move	-	(25,500)	-	(25,500)
Risk reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
	<u>681,666</u>	<u>(707,456)</u>	<u>2,910</u>	<u>(22,880)</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	60,175	(26,250)	-	33,925
Scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Access and progression	-	-	-	-
F Guthrie	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
1978 association	-	-	-	-
	<u>60,175</u>	<u>(26,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,925</u>
Total funds	<u>741,841</u>	<u>(733,706)</u>	<u>2,910</u>	<u>11,045</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Designated funds:

IT replacement fund

This fund was to provide for future IT expenditure and replacement as a condition of the restricted donation from Fidelity towards IT equipment. This was fully utilised in the prior year.

Office move fund

NCO had an obligation under its old office lease arrangement to make good the premises on expiry of the lease. This was fully released in the prior year.

Risk Reserve fund

This fund is designated for risk considered force majeure or any natural disaster. It has been calculated using an estimate of irretrievable costs in these circumstances. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Restricted funds:

Bursary fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to courses, overnight accommodation for families who have long distances to travel, subsidised concert tickets and NCO regional orchestra rehearsal fees. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an internal NCO panel. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

Scholarship fund

The Scholarship fund is to be used for scholarships to be granted at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

E Rorison winter award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and progression

This fund represents money received to support the engagement activities.

F Guthrie

Mrs Faith Guthrie, a former NCO Trustee, generously supports certain NCO projects and provides bursaries from time to time.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Vivienne Price memorial fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

1978 Association

This fund represents money donated by Mr John and Mrs Faith Guthrie to support the establishment of a legacy fund for the charity

General Manager

This fund represents amounts received towards the costs of the new general manager.

Music support

This fund represents amounts received towards the cost of music hire.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

21 Employee benefit obligations

Pension contributions amounting to £9,118 (2021: £7,351) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.

22 Contingent liabilities

The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.

23 Related party disclosures

During the year a number of the trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.

During the year 2 trustees were paid a total of £6,641 (2021: £2,475) for services as tutors.

The fees paid were in line with those paid to other conductors and tutors providing similar services to the Charity.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

24 Deferred income

Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31 December 2022:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Membership deferred at 1 January 2022	468,492	42,000
Released to income in the year	(468,492)	(42,000)
Grant funding received in advance	11,505	85,000
Membership deferred at 31 December 2022	531,065	468,492
	<u>542,570</u>	<u>553,492</u>

Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.

25 Post balance sheet events

The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

26 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities (as restated)

	Unrestricted funds As restated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income and Endowments from			
Donations and legacies	523,094	60,175	583,269
Charitable activities			
Auditions	-	-	-
Concerts	-	-	-
Regionals	-	-	-
Membership fees	147,500	-	147,500
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investment income	748	-	748
Other income	10,323	-	10,323
Total	681,665	60,175	741,840
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	64,462	-	64,462
Charitable activities			
Residencies	625,655	-	625,655
Auditions	17,338	-	17,338
Concerts	-	-	-
Bursaries and scholarships	-	26,250	26,250
Regionals	-	-	-
Total	707,455	26,250	733,705
Net gains on investments	2,910	-	2,910
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(22,880)	33,925	11,045
Transfers between funds	28,924	(28,924)	-
Net movement in funds	6,044	5,001	11,045
Total funds brought forward	573,093	122,650	695,743
Total funds carried forward	579,137	127,651	706,788

Accounts



National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Registered company number: 02471385

Registered charity number: 803026 (England and Wales)

Audited financial statements for the year ended

31 December 2021

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021
Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Auditor's Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	16
Balance Sheet	17
Cash Flow Statement	18
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Mission

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain ('NCO') is a charity which exists to inspire children and young people aged 8 to 14 from all backgrounds and from across the UK to achieve their full creative potential through transformational learning experiences and performances of exceptional quality.

NCO's vision is to be a place where children (and grown-ups) flourish through music.

2. Public Benefit

NCO fulfils a unique, strategic national role as a distinctive pathway for children with outstanding creative potential at a key time as they transition from primary to secondary school. NCO provides high quality opportunities for children to take part in musical learning outside school. NCO is a significant progression route and connector in music education for children from all backgrounds.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

3. NCO 2021 Membership

Given the cancellation of NCO's activity programme due to covid-19, the 2020 membership was 'rolled over' so that members were offered the opportunity to take part in NCO 2021 without having to re-audition. As a result, around 85% of young musicians remained in membership into 2021. 150 new children also joined the programme from Key Stage 2.

4. NCO 2021 Programme

NCO continued to plan for the return of residential courses and regional activity in 2021 in order to provide opportunities for 2020 members who opted to remain in membership the following year. However, at a board meeting on 1 April 2021, having considered all current guidance provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England, Trustees made the difficult decision to cancel all residential activity during the current year.

Uncertainty around social distancing requirements into the summer months made NCO's planned orchestral activity too susceptible to late cancellation, despite considerable, approved mitigations and detailed discussions with host venues.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

NCO Online 2021

NCO Online 2021 ran for twelve weeks between March-July and was built upon the extensive evaluation of a highly successful 2020 pilot programme that was designed with the children and their families. As well as enriching the activities and expanding the online programme, NCO also saw a significant increase in participants; 438 participants in 2020 rose to 600 in 2021.

NCO Online provided exceptional opportunities for children to play together, despite the constraints of the pandemic, with new virtual content shared widely and online to new audiences.

Following the success of the previous year's online programme, NCO Online 2021 was built on the same key themes further enriched by additional new activities and partnerships:

- 1 **Inspiration** – A series of inspirational webinars with special guests, welcome videos with our music tutors, and a newly curated parent webinar with Kadie and Stuart Kanneh-Mason on how to support the development of young musicians.
- 2 **My Instrument** – Musical sectional sessions, orchestral workshops and masterclasses, listening challenges, and partnership sectional and mentoring projects with the London Symphony Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra
- 3 **Let's Create** – Performing and recording for a multitrack of the newly commissioned piece 'NCO On The Move' by Ryan Linham, Wallace and Gromit soundtrack competition in partnership with Aardman Animations, and Musical Postcards, where our young musicians could record their own multitrack performances
- 4 **Wellbeing** – Fitness sessions with Ninja Warrior Henry Cookey and wellbeing sessions with Sarah Upjohn and Tom Taffinder, focussing on improving posture and looking after mental health as musicians.
- 5 **Pick 'n Mix** – Social activities, quizzes and Taskmaster challenges, giving our members the opportunity to be inventive and express their creativity via a series of fun tasks

In total, NCO Online 2021 delivered 1,000 live or catch up resources, 158 music sessions, 22 webinars, 260 live events, 48 social sessions and 18 mentoring workshops. 1,671 video submissions were received for the multi-track 'NCO On The Move'.

NCO Online was amazing and really motivated me to practise and I learned new things. The past three months couldn't have been any better. Everyone was so kind and supportive. It was great to meet so many inspiring people.

NCO Member

This was such a fabulous opportunity for my daughter. Everything was so clearly organised and made the whole process really easy. It was lovely seeing how child-centred everything was, ensuring fun was firmly factored into each activity as well as quality.

NCO Parent

NCO Online was absolutely amazing. I loved the sectionals, and watching Gromit being made in front of my eyes.

NCO Member

It is a remarkable achievement that NCO have made my children feel such a sense of belonging...despite nearly all their experience being virtual. Thank you NCO Team.

NCO Parent

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

NCO Autumn Orchestral Days: November – December 2021

NCO delivered three orchestral days for all children in the 2021 membership as covid restrictions lifted to enable this activity to go ahead safely. The project was a celebration of the return of live activity and children reuniting to make music together. Offered free of charge, 250 children attended over the three days.

Over the course of three weekends, young musicians played ambitious and varied repertoire in the impressive Great Hall of the Richard Hoggart Building at Goldsmiths University, supported by inspiring conductors, composers from ABRSM's Composer Mentoring Programme, and NCO Music Tutors.

"We cannot adequately find the words to express our sincere thanks for the incredible NCO day at Goldsmiths University. What you have achieved for the young musicians online have been incredible, but to watch them playing in person with NCO was an incomparable joy." NCO Parent

5. NCO 2021

In March 2021, the charity relocated its administrative base from Weston Super Mare to Paintworks in Bristol. From this time, a new staff structure was put in place with previous capacity restored and strengthened.

All department processes became fully digitised with a new CRM system implemented to streamline and improve stakeholder engagement and ensure a solid foundation for data collection, monitoring and evaluation.

6. Profile and Engagement

Catherine Arlidge featured on BBC Radio 3 ahead of the online Summer celebration for NCO Online 2021 and partners Classic FM as well as The Strad, Music For Youth and Music Education shared social content relating to this culmination of NCO Online 2021.

NCO Online 2021 webinars shared publicly received 2648 views to date with the most popular a webinar with the Finalists of BBC Young Musician of the Year 2021 with 1215 views, 495 views for a Wallace and Gromit Webinar with Aardman Animations and 412 views for an In Conversation parent webinar with Kadie and Stuart Kanneh-Mason.

The NCO Online 2021 finale, a Summer Celebration video launched on 1st July 2021, received more than 2500 views on YouTube and the NCO On the Move multitrack video (created by participants of NCO Online 2021) has been watched on YouTube more than 1000 times. In addition, short features of musical postcards created remotely by groups of NCO Online 2021 Members have been viewed 542 times.

Engagement to support members' recruitment for 2022 membership via digital content included 1465 views for *What we look for in an audition* video, 1187 views for our guidance created for *Recording and Submitting your Video Audition* and 601 views for an inspiring *Why Join NCO* video that brought together digital testimonials from children, parents and music professionals.

The new Communications team, Communications Director (started June 2021) and Communications Administrator (started September 2021) established a refreshed approach and tone of voice for communicating with families and planned a new regular communications structure for 2022 Members, from Welcome email, through to regular weekly emails and timely response to regular enquiries.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

NCO's monthly e-news was re-established from July 2021 with c.1000 subscribers in 2021 and emails regularly receiving a 70% open rate and 15% click through rate. A new audition email list for 2021 onwards has 900 members and six emails sent in 2021 during audition recruitment received an 82% open rate and 28% click through rate.

A celebratory film created during the 2020/21 Main Orchestra's Autumn Orchestral Day in November 2021, encompassed the huge success of bringing members together for the first time since the pandemic and has been viewed 352 views on YouTube, 677 times on Instagram and reached 1100 people on Facebook (with 84 likes across Instagram/Facebook).

Overall, social media following increased, as of October 2021 by 64 to 2225 on Instagram, by 607 to 5477 on Facebook and by 108 to 4486 on Twitter.

7. Member Recruitment

Between July and November 2021, NCO ran its first comprehensive recruitment process for members since 2019 due to COVID-19.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, NCO moved the process entirely online with all applications received via video submission, removed audition fees and relaxed some requirements.

Over 960 applications were received for 624 places for a newly structured programme from 2022 as described below (section 9).

8. Financial Support

NCO remains committed to ensuring that any child with potential, regardless of financial circumstances, should be enabled to take up an NCO place. With help from the generous support of The Leverhulme Trust and The Linder Foundation, along with several additional funders, NCO awarded financial aid for 134 children (£26,250) in 2021 to support participation in NCO Online.

9. Future Plans

In 2022, NCO's new activity framework is designed to open up more opportunities for children to participate in the charity's programmes and help create inclusive progression routes that best serve children aged 8 to 14. Members in both programmes will learn from exceptional NCO tutors and experience the joy and power of playing in live ensembles with other young musicians from across the UK. Both programmes are supported with a wraparound digital offer to better prepare them musically and socially in advance.

National programme: Three symphony orchestras (for each school year group 7, 8 & 9). Members benefit from two residential courses in April and August, each culminating in a public performance. Each residency will be led by inspiring conductors (including Jonathan Bloxham, Natalia Luis-Bassa and Rebecca Miller), creative leads to spark creativity (Jonathan James, Lucy Drever and Sarah Freestone) and wellbeing practitioners (Sarah Upjohn and Tom Taffinder). NCO's Main Orchestra performs in London in November 2022.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Projects Programme: Four symphony orchestras/ensembles in Manchester, Birmingham and London over two non-residential weekends, culminating in sharing events. NCO Projects are designed for younger children this year (years 5-8) and will focus on increasing participation from under-represented priority groups, developed in partnership with grassroots organisations who specialise in identifying young talent, and developing a clear and inclusive pipeline for young musicians within music education. NCO Projects will be led by inspiring conductors and guest artists, including Jess Gillam, Aaron Akugbo and Nate Holder.

Digital Programme: NCO recognises the power of digital in supporting learning and inclusion. Every child will have access to NCO's new member website hosting resources relating to our approach to learning as well as webinars, sectional rehearsals, preparation materials and social activities. This additional support will help support attainment gaps and ensure all children and their families feel engaged, inspired and welcome at NCO.

Going concern

NCO's Board and Finance Committee convened bi-monthly throughout 2021 to review the charity's financial position and strategy. The board is mindful that a strong reserves position at the start of 2020, alongside mitigating actions, and successful fundraising to date have combined to enable the charity to continue to not only operate but also innovate through its digital activities. The charity's expected loss in 2021 was mitigated for the most part due to two grants from the Cultural Recovery Fund totalling £290,911 alongside continued growth in fundraising and ongoing cost savings.

As the economic impact of the pandemic starts to recede throughout 2022 the two main budget risks are fundraised income and increasing costs (fuel and inflation). NCO's Board and Finance Committee regularly monitor budgets and budget risks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

1 Governing document

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16 August 1978. The company was set under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14 August 2019.

The company adapted its name from The National Children's Orchestra to The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, to better reflect its activities. This was approved by the Board and implemented with the approval of the Charity Commission on 10 July 2012.

In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

2 Trustees Recruitment

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of company law and under the Memorandum and Articles of Association are known as and referred to within this report and the financial statements as 'Trustees'.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

It is the practice of the Board to carry out an annual Skills and Diversity Audit to ensure that a balance of skills is maintained within the Trustees, and that NCO has effective leadership in all aspects of its work. This applies to the operations of the Board as a whole and also to the Finance Committee.

In March 2021 the Audit identified gaps in knowledge and expertise and outlined recruitment needed to ensure the Board represented the participants and audiences it currently serves, as well as those it aspires to reach.

Recruitment is overseen by a Nominations committee. In 2021, NCO attracted 60 diverse applicants, resulting in positive changes, appointing Rosie Benneyworth, Beth Higham-Edwards, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Lucy Maguire and Christine Wu in 2021 and Uchenna Ngwe and Letty Stott will be appointed in 2022. An additional young applicant is being mentored by two Trustees.

The Chair of Trustees and executive team will normally induct a new trustee through a number of familiarisation sessions, including, for example, attending concerts and visiting courses. The sessions aim to introduce the trustee to NCO and its operating context, business plans and financial position. Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees or by ordinary resolution of the Trustees (in their capacity as Members) at a general meeting.

3 Organisational Structure

Trustees meet at least four times a year to approve strategic, artistic, financial and governance policies. The Board is supported by NCO's senior management team Sophie Lewis (Managing Director) and Catherine Arlidge (Artistic and Educational Director).

In addition, the Finance Committee meets four times a year to review in more detail the financial controls, governance, risk management and investment performance of the charity.

The Chief Executive and Artistic and Educational Director are supported by an informal Music Advisory Group (consisting of Music Tutors and conductors) and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group.

4 Objectives and aims

The Objects stated in the Charity's Articles of Association are:

- (a) To advance education and in particular to advance the education and training in music and orchestral playing of children and young persons through the formation of an orchestra or orchestras composed of such persons.
- (b) Such other charitable purpose or charitable purposes as the Trustees may in their absolute discretion think fit and which they consider are necessary or desirable for the attainment of the above objects or may be connected with the same or which have some affinity or purpose with those objects or may (whether so connected or having such affinity or not) conveniently be conducted or combined with them.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 16. Total income comprised £681,665 for unrestricted funds, £60,175 for restricted funds. Total expenditure was £709,602 in unrestricted expenditure and £126,250 in restricted expenditure. At 31 December 2021 the total reserves of the charity were £639,263 of which £127,651 are restricted.

The Charity benefited from £10,323 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £3,798 in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Reserves Policy

Of unrestricted funds £668 may only be realised through the sale of fixed assets. £210,000 is held in designated funds, to protect the charity should a natural disaster re-occur. Accordingly, £301,613 is available as free reserves.

Having reviewed the charity's reserves policy in April 2022 and in light of the crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, Trustees identified and agreed that £500,000 should be retained in unrestricted reserves to ensure that the charity is able to continue to deliver essential services for its beneficiaries should a similar event occur again. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

2 Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in note 19 to the accounts. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

The charity maintains a **Bursary Fund** to ensure that financial assistance is available to cover all or part of the costs of membership of any child whose family qualifies in the year of membership. The Board considers that a fund should be maintained for this purpose that is equivalent to approximately one year of anticipated expenditure, assuming fundraising continues. In the year under review, the requirement for financial aid was significantly reduced in line with an adapted programme of activity due to the pandemic. Therefore, grants were either approved to be repurposed to support core and/or NCO Online costs or deferred to 2021.

Accordingly, the Bursary Fund was drawn down by £26,250. The remaining balance is £36,743.

3 Risk Management

The Trustees and Executive team meet regularly to review major internal and external financial, strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. Organisational and finance risks are a standard agenda item for Board and Finance Committee meetings respectively ensuring that systems and procedures are effective to mitigate those risks as well as measures designed to minimise or manage the potential impact in the event that those risks present themselves.

Trustees consider there to be three key risks to the charity:

a. Pandemics and comparable Force Majeure events

The impact of covid-19 on both NCO's financial position and ability to plan live activities continues to present an ongoing risk to the charity if government guidance for social distancing, and in particular for national youth orchestras, returns. NCO Trustees will continue to monitor this risk via regular reporting and meetings and can develop alternative plans if required for the charity's 2022/23 programme.

b. Child Protection and Safeguarding

The well-being and safety of all children and young musicians whilst engaged in NCO activities is of paramount importance. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice and two Trustees have specific Safeguarding responsibility. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a full current Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Training is provided for staff at the start of every residency and all staff must complete a basic online child safeguarding course. Additional training is undertaken by senior residency and administrative staff.

Report of the Trustees

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

For the year ended 31 December 2021

c. Fundraising

Every year, NCO needs to raise c. £500,000 to subsidise its overall programme of activity, support its financial aid programmes and support core costs. The Executive team regularly report to the board and finance committee on secured income against targets and to monitor strategies for fundraising and the risks therein.

4 Development 2021 & 2022

2021

The persistence of COVID-19 meant NCO's 2021 fundraising strategy continued to be driven by the charity's organisational response to the pandemic. NCO focussed on funding the online programme and building flexibility into funder agreements, allowing it to pivot with funding partners when restrictions changed. NCO qualified to apply to Rounds 2 and 3 of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

This approach was successful in a year where success in fundraising was critical to the charity's survival. NCO retained all existing funding agreements and is extremely grateful to funding partners who, as it endeavoured to keep pace with the twists and turns of the pandemic, generously permitted the repurposing of funding to best support the charity. In particular, NCO would like to thank ABRSM, the Cecil King Memorial Foundation, the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, the Linder Foundation and the Leverhulme Foundation for their extraordinary support.

NCO individual donors, in particular Patrons, Friends and NCO member families, were as generous as the difficult circumstances permitted them to be. They bolstered fundraising by joining schemes or renewing support and donating to appeals. NCO is extremely grateful to each and every one of them.

NCO also secured new funding. In particular a significant grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support NCO Online and advance some vital strategic work. NCO Online was further supported by a generous grant from the Linder Foundation, who also provided additional financial support for children from lower-income households.

In a significant achievement, NCO also secured Statutory Funding for the first time in its recent history. NCO was extremely fortunate in an exceptionally competitive environment to receive a grant of £210,000 from the Arts Council of England's Culture Recovery Fund in Round Two in February, and £187,015 in Round Three in October (of which £80,911 was recognised in the current year).

2022

NCO entered 2022 with a strong foundation of committed existing supporters, and two new grant funders so far. It faces a very real challenge of funding a bridging year – moving from the survival fundraising of 2021 to a year of recovery activity which must respond to the changing needs of post-pandemic children amidst higher costs of delivery. The funding environment has become more challenging for fast-turnaround funding as many Covid-response funds have been discontinued and replacement funds are not open until later this year.

NCO has submitted a comprehensive bid for National Portfolio Status from 2023. If successful, this would be a three-year agreement and would secure significant core funding into the organisation.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021

NCO expects the remainder of 2022 to be focused on secured grants to support the current fiscal year and 2023 activity. The charity also plans for a full review of audience development and data strategy to support future growth of individual giving income for NCO. This work will be underpinned by the new CRM system and additional investment in the development team.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Registered Company number

02471385 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

803026

Registered office

Saffery Champness LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place, Clifton
Bristol BS8 1BQ

Principal Office

Unit 2.3 Streamline
436-441 Paintworks
Bristol BS4 3AS

Trustees

Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Janet Baker (Honorary Treasurer)
Charles Bligh (resigned 4 February 2021)
George Caird
Miranda Francis
Fiona Harvey
Andrew Kemble (resigned 2 July 2021)
Jonathan Mayes
William Norris
Claire Thompson (resigned 2 July 2021)
Brian Weir
Howard Williams (resigned 2 July 2021)
Christine Wu (appointed 2 July 2021)
Bethany Higham-Edwards (appointed 2 July 2021)
Rosemarie Benneyworth (appointed 2 July 2021)
Lucy Maguire (appointed 2 July 2021)
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason (appointed 2 July 2021)

Finance Committee Members

Janet Baker (Hon. Treasurer)
Charles Bligh (resigned 4 February 2021)
George Caird
Andrew Kemble (resigned 2 July 2021)
Jonathan Mayes
Clare Thompson (resigned 2 July 2021)
Rosemarie Benneyworth
Fiona Harvey

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Senior Management Team

Sophie Lewis Managing Director

Catherine Arlidge MBE Artistic and Educational Director

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP

St Catherine's Court

Berkeley Place

Clifton

Bristol

BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

64 High Street

Epsom

Surrey

KT19 8AT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

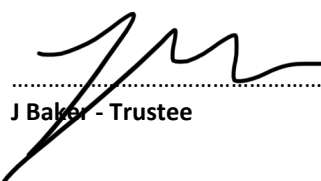
Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Saffery Champness LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the board of trustees on.....6th June 2022.....and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Baker - Trustee

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ;or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page xx, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales .

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 20/09/2022
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	523,094	60,175	583,269	259,839
Charitable activities	4				
Auditions		-	-	-	-
Concerts		-	-	-	60
Regionals		-	-	-	19,081
Membership fees		147,500	-	147,500	64,500
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	16,163
Investments	6	748	-	748	1,202
Other		10,323	-	10,323	21,952
Total		<u>681,665</u>	<u>60,175</u>	<u>741,840</u>	<u>382,797</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	64,462	-	64,462	60,934
Charitable activities	8				
Residencies (including online)		627,802	-	627,802	449,072
Auditions		17,338	-	17,338	-
Concerts		-	-	-	410
Bursaries and Scholarships		-	26,250	26,250	11,001
Regionals		-	-	-	34,410
Total		<u>709,602</u>	<u>26,250</u>	<u>735,852</u>	<u>555,827</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	<u>2,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,910</u>	<u>785</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(25,027)	33,925	8,898	(172,245)
Transfers between funds	19	<u>28,924</u>	<u>(28,924)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	19	3,897	5,001	8,898	(172,245)
Total funds brought forward		507,715	122,650	630,365	802,610
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>511,612</u>	<u>127,651</u>	<u>639,263</u>	<u>630,365</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	668	-	668	11,718
Investments	15	<u>16,390</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,390</u>	<u>13,480</u>
		17,058	-	17,058	25,198
Current assets					
Debtors	16	56,234	-	56,234	271,114
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,029,194</u>	<u>127,651</u>	<u>1,156,845</u>	<u>524,557</u>
		1,085,428	127,651	1,213,079	795,671
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(590,874)	-	(590,874)	(190,504)
Net current assets		<u>494,554</u>	<u>127,651</u>	<u>622,205</u>	<u>605,167</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		511,612	127,651	639,263	630,365
Net assets		<u>511,612</u>	<u>127,651</u>	<u>639,263</u>	<u>630,365</u>
Restricted funds	19			127,651	122,650
Unrestricted funds:	19			511,612	507,715
Total charity funds				<u>639,263</u>	<u>630,365</u>

The notes at pages 20 to 32 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 6th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



L Mitchell - Trustee



J Baker - Trustee

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	621,640	(215,432)
Taxation refund		<u>-</u>	<u>21,952</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>621,640</u>	<u>(193,480)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceed from disposal		9,900	-
Interest received		748	1,202
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>10,648</u>	<u>1,202</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	2	632,288	(192,278)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>524,557</u>	<u>716,835</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,156,845</u>	<u>524,557</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	8,898	(172,244)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,149	18,508
Gains on investments	(2,910)	-
Interest received	(748)	(1,202)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(2,999)	-
Interest paid	-	-
Tax refund due	-	(21,952)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	214,880	(17,426)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>400,370</u>	<u>(21,116)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	621,640	(215,432)

2 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January		At 31
	2021	Cash flow	December 2021
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	524,557	632,288	1,156,845
Total	<u>524,557</u>	<u>632,288</u>	<u>1,156,845</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office is St Catherine's Court, Berkeley Place, Bristol, BS8 1BQ, and the Principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arncliffe, Leeds, LS16 5PS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 7 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Audition income is recognised when the auditions have taken place.

Income from Concerts and Regionals is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Short leasehold	-	over the life of the lease
Music and Instruments	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	16.67% on cost

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Investments

Investments are carried at their market value with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

3 Donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	576,472	208,759
Furlough grant received	-	36,046
Gift Aid tax recovered	3,798	14,180
Miscellaneous income	2,999	854
	<u>583,269</u>	<u>259,839</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditions	-	-
Concert income	-	60
Regionals	-	19,081
Membership fees	147,500	64,500
	<u>147,500</u>	<u>83,641</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Merchandising income	-	16,163
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,163</u>

6 Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Investment income	748	1,202
	<u>748</u>	<u>1,202</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

7 Raising funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	62,601	39,022
Other costs	1,861	8,766
	<u>64,462</u>	<u>47,788</u>
Other trading activities		
Purchases	-	13,146
Staff costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,146</u>
Total	<u><u>64,462</u></u>	<u><u>60,934</u></u>

8 Charitable activities costs

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	Support costs (see note 10)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Residencies (including online)	156,595	-	471,207	627,802
Auditions	17,338	-	-	17,338
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and scholarships	-	26,250	-	26,250
Regionals	-	-	-	-
	<u>173,933</u>	<u>26,250</u>	<u>471,207</u>	<u>671,390</u>

9 Grants payable

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bursaries and scholarships	<u>26,250</u>	<u>11,001</u>

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant	<u>26,250</u>	<u>11,001</u>

All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

10 Support costs

	Management £	Finance £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Residencies (including online)	453,782	-	17,425	471,207
Auditions	-	-	-	-
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and Scholarships	-	-	-	-
Regionals	-	-	-	-
	<u>453,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,425</u>	<u>471,207</u>

11 Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Auditor' remuneration	7,210	7,140
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	5,050	2,580
Depreciation - owned assets	4,149	18,509

12 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the period totalled £nil (2020: £nil).

13 Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	263,292	303,386
Social security costs	22,278	24,099
Pension costs	7,351	6,745
	<u>292,921</u>	<u>334,230</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2021 £	2020 £
<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>

There were no employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000.

The Orchestras employed 131 freelancers during the year (2020: 57), who worked a total of 695 days (2020: 392 days).

The social staff provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These staff are paid on a per session basis.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Short leasehold £	Music and Instruments £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
Cost					
At 1 January 2021	38,109	124,045	72,018	45,148	279,320
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	(38,109)	-	-	(45,148)	(83,257)
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>124,045</u>	<u>72,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,063</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2021	38,109	121,337	69,909	38,247	267,602
Charge for the year	-	2,327	1,822	-	4,149
Eliminated on disposals	(38,109)	-	-	(38,247)	(76,356)
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>123,664</u>	<u>71,731</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>195,395</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>668</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>2,708</u>	<u>2,109</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>11,718</u>

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2021	13,480
Revaluations	2,910
At 31 December 2021	<u>16,390</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	<u>16,390</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>13,480</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

16 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,684	14,180
Prepayments	13,485	35,610
Tax recoverable	36,065	221,324
	<u>56,234</u>	<u>271,114</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,570	127,165
Social security and other taxes	8,707	180
Deferred income	553,492	42,000
Accruals	24,105	21,159
	<u>590,874</u>	<u>190,504</u>

Further information on deferred income is provided in note 23.

18 Leasing agreements

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	24,280	29,009
Between one and five years	-	20,233
	<u>24,280</u>	<u>49,242</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £34,820 (2020: £20,656).

19 Movement in Funds

	At 1/1/21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/12/21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	475,084	(202,396)	28,924	301,612
Unrestricted - designated funds				
IT Replacement fund	7,131	(7,131)	-	-
Office move	25,500	(25,500)	-	-
Risk Reserve	-	210,000	-	210,000
	<u>507,715</u>	<u>(25,027)</u>	<u>28,924</u>	<u>511,612</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	31,742	33,925	-28,924	36,743
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231	-	-	4,231
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677	-	-	18,677
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
	<u>122,650</u>	<u>33,925</u>	<u>(28,924)</u>	<u>127,651</u>
Total funds	<u>630,365</u>	<u>8,898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>639,263</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	471,666	(676,972)	2,910	(202,396)
Unrestricted - designated funds				
IT Replacement fund	-	(7,131)	-	(7,131)
Office move	-	(25,500)	-	(25,500)
Risk Reserve	210,000	-	-	210,000
	<u>681,666</u>	<u>(709,603)</u>	<u>2,910</u>	<u>(25,027)</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	60,175	(26,250)	-	33,925
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
Music support	-	-	-	-
General manager salary	-	-	-	-
	<u>60,175</u>	<u>(26,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,925</u>
Total funds	<u><u>741,841</u></u>	<u><u>(735,853)</u></u>	<u><u>2,910</u></u>	<u><u>8,898</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	675,374	(202,244)	1,954	475,084
IT replacement fund	7,131	-	-	7,131
Office move	25,500	-	-	25,500
	<u>708,005</u>	<u>(202,244)</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>507,715</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	1,743	29,999	-	31,742
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231	-	-	4,231
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677	-	-	18,677
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
General manager salary	1,954	-	(1,954)	-
	<u>94,605</u>	<u>29,999</u>	<u>(1,954)</u>	<u>122,650</u>
Total funds	<u><u>802,610</u></u>	<u><u>(172,245)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>630,365</u></u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	341,797	(544,826)	785	(202,244)
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	41,000	(11,001)	-	29,999
Leverhulme scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
Music support	-	-	-	-
General manager salary	-	-	-	-
	41,000	(11,001)	-	29,999
Total funds	382,797	(555,827)	785	(172,245)

Designated funds:

IT replacement fund

This fund is to provide for future IT expenditure and replacement as a condition of the restricted donation from Fidelity towards IT equipment.

Office move fund

NCO has an obligation under its office lease arrangements to make good the premises on expiry of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the costs cannot be reliably quantified.

Risk Reserve fund

This fund is designated for risk considered force majeure or any natural disaster. It has been calculated using an estimate of irretrievable costs in these circumstances. A two-year view was taken to reflect the fact that the consequences of an event such as a pandemic extend beyond any one financial year. Trustees will actively review this reserves policy on an ongoing basis.

Restricted funds:

Bursary fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to courses, overnight accommodation for families who have long distances to travel, subsidised concert tickets and NCO regional orchestra rehearsal fees. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an external panel of experts independent of NCO. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

Scholarship fund

The Scholarship fund is to be used for scholarships to be granted at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Leverhulme Scholarship fund

The Leverhulme Scholarship Fund was established to administer scholarships funded by the Everhulme Trust. Selection of Leverhulme Scholars is based on talent and musical potential, as opposed to bursary awards, which are made on the basis of financial circumstances.

E Rorison winter award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award

Access and progression

This fund represents money received to support the outreach activities

F Guthrie

Mrs Faith Guthrie, a former NCO Trustee, generously supports certain NCO projects and provides bursaries from time to time.

Vivienne Price memorial fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

1978 Association

This fund represents money donated by Mr John and Mrs Faith Guthrie to support the establishment of a legacy fund for the charity

General Manager

This fund represents amounts received towards the costs of the new general manager

Music support

This fund represents amounts received towards the cost of music hire

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

20 Employee benefit obligations

Pension contributions amounting to £7,351 (2020: £6,745) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.

21 Contingent liabilities

The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

22 Related party disclosures

During the year a number of the trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.

During the year 1 trustee was paid a total of £2,475 (2020: £1,200) for services as tutor.

The fees paid were in line with those paid to other conductors and tutors providing similar services to the Charity.

23 Deferred income

Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31 December 2021:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Membership deferred at 1 January 2021	42,000	50,742
Released to income in the year	(42,000)	(50,742)
Grant funding received in advance	85,000	-
Membership deferred at 31 December 2021	468,492	42,000
	553,492	42,000

Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.

24 Post balance sheet events

The Trustees have no post balance sheet events to report.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

25 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income and Endowments from			
Donations and legacies	218,839	41,000	259,839
Charitable activities			
Auditions	-	-	-
Concerts	60	-	60
Regionals	19,081	-	19,081
Membership fees	64,500	-	64,500
Other trading activities	16,163	-	16,163
Investment income	1,202	-	1,202
Other income	21,952	-	21,952
Total	341,797	41,000	382,797
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	60,934	-	60,934
Charitable activities			
Residencies	449,072	-	449,072
Auditions	-	-	-
Concerts	410	-	410
Bursaries and scholarships	-	11,001	11,001
Regionals	34,410	-	34,410
Total	544,826	11,001	555,827
Net gains on investments	785	-	785
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(202,244)	29,999	(172,245)
Transfers between funds	1,954	(1,954)	-
Net movement in funds	(200,290)	28,045	(172,245)
Total funds brought forward	708,005	94,605	802,610
Total funds carried forward	507,715	122,650	630,365

Accounts



National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Registered company number: 02471385

Registered charity number: 803026 (England and Wales)

Audited financial statements for the year ended

31 December 2020

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020
Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Auditor's Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Cash Flow Statement	17
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	18
Notes to the Financial Statements	19

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Mission

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain ('NCO') is a charity which exists to inspire children and young people from all backgrounds and from across the UK to achieve their full potential through offering a world class foundation in orchestral performance and musicianship.

NCO was founded in 1978 by the late Vivienne Price MBE. At the time there was no provision available to young musicians under the age of 14 to develop their abilities in a national symphonic orchestra.

NCO's mission is to:

- Provide an exceptional musical education in an orchestral context to children with potential aged between 7 and 14 years
- Ensure that all children with potential have the opportunity to access the opportunities NCO provides, irrespective of financial means, background or disadvantage.

2. Public Benefit

NCO fulfils a vital role in the musical education of children and young people. No other organisation operates on a national basis to support the musical education of 7 to 14 year olds with early potential.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

3. NCO 2020 Membership

In October 2019, over 1,100 young musicians auditioned for a place in NCO for 2020 membership. Primary school aged children auditioned by video for the first time as well as harpists and percussionists across all ages. Video auditions were also available to any young musician of any age who was unable to attend a live audition due to geographical, financial, and personal circumstances.

Live auditions continued around the country throughout October. NCO visited 14 venues in locations such as Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Bristol, Reading, Taunton, and London.

From this, 563 children were selected to join NCO's five national orchestras and a further 155 children were invited to be Associate Members and join one of six regional orchestras. A total of 718 7-14 year olds took part in NCO's national and regional programme during 2020.

259 children from ethnically diverse families were offered places in NCO's National and Regional programme and members were drawn from every corner of the UK including Perthshire, Cornwall, Pembrokeshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Devon and Guernsey. 113 national places were supported through NCO's financial aid programme, representing 20% of NCO's National membership.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

4. NCO 2020 Programme

NCO's original plans for 2020 included the continuation of its national and regional orchestral learning programme at the same level of activity as 2019.

In addition to these plans, NCO also intended to embark on a period of organisational change from 2020 onwards which was underpinned by a new strategy. Building on its founding principles of excellence and diversity, the new strategy placed child voice, creativity, and wellbeing at its centre. A detailed evaluation framework was established so that the charity could assess the outcomes for children over a three-year period.

To support the new strategy, additional plans included additional access activities for children of all ages and abilities to engage with orchestral playing. Partnership plans were in place with Music Education Hubs (MEH) in Bristol and Manchester to support this activity. NCO had also developed relationships with five MEH's through its 2020 regional orchestra programme and 24 MEH musicians were nominated to join NCO's regional programme for 2020. Extra investment in social leadership training for staff and older NCO members had begun to support an inclusive environment for all participants as well as peer to peer mentoring.

Due to Covid-19, the NCO board took the decision at a meeting on 15 May 2020 to cancel all 2020 activities and rollover the entire membership to 2021. The only live activity to take place in 2020 was the first regional orchestra rehearsal day for all six orchestras which took place in February.

Very quickly NCO switched to online activities and began a series of Friday afternoon webinars, which were intended to be something for families to look forward to at the end of each week of lockdown. Expertly curated and hosted by NCO's Artistic and Education Director, Catherine Arlidge, they were so popular they continued for 12 weeks and featured inspirational guests including conductor Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla, saxophonist Jess Gillam, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, category finalists from the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2020 competition, members of the National Youth Orchestra and musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Opera House.

NCO Online 2020

In June, NCO worked with MB Associates to carry out an extensive consultation with children, parents/guardians and freelance music and pastoral teams to find out what they thought children were missing most from NCO during lockdown, and how a new digital programme might work best for everyone involved. 707 survey responses were received, and the three top priorities were: to feel happy and have fun; to learn new musical skills; and to make friends.

Every aspect of NCO's 2020 digital programme, NCO online, was built with these three outcomes in mind. NCO online ran for three weeks over the summer and was tailored separately towards younger (7-11) and older (12-14) children. Over 438 children took part and there were 171 sessions and 351 resources created all of which were made available via a specially commissioned, safe and child-friendly, password protected new website.

NCO children took part in fun Taskmaster Challenges each week, created their own Musical Postcards performances, and had Escape Room adventures, as well as Instrumental Masterclasses, Inspirational Webinars, Listening Challenges and Section Meet-Ups with their music tutors. The three weeks culminated in a mass multi-track performance of a specially commissioned 'NCO Mambo', which included choreography, DIY percussion and improvisation and compiled out of 990 video submissions by children.

Working again with MB Associates, NCO evaluated the programme through surveys and focus groups to ascertain the impact of the programme and progress towards the three stated outcomes for children. This evaluation proved invaluable in terms of informing the 2021 NCO Online programme.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

The average sign-up rate across NCO musicians for NCO Online was 61%. This was considerably higher for new musicians (75%) and those in receipt of a full bursary (86%). 108 children were supported through NCO's bursary programme to take part in NCO Online 2020.

5. Profile and Engagement

NCO's profile increased significantly throughout the year with excellent press coverage including a live interview on BBC Radio 3's In Tune programme with the Artistic and Educational Director, two days ahead of the live stream video release of the NCO Mambo. Articles covering NCO Online were published including a feature in The Strad and to date, the NCO Online Summer Celebration video has received 3,842 views and the NCO Mambo has been watched 3,812 times.

NCO Online 2020 was highly commended in the Classical Music Digital Awards 2020 in the 'Youth Organisation of the Year' category.

Social media following also increased to 2,161 on Instagram, 4,870 on Facebook, 4,378 on Twitter and with a total of 36 videos uploaded to You Tube during the year, 2,270 subscribers and 887,361 views.

6. Auditions

Given the cancellation of NCO's activity programme due to covid-19, the 2020 membership was 'rolled over' so that members were offered the opportunity to take part in NCO 2021 without having to re-audition. As a result, around 85% of young musicians remained in membership into 2021. NCO will launch its 2021 online auditions process for 2022 membership in early July 2021.

7. Financial Aid and Access

NCO remains committed to ensuring that any child with potential, regardless of financial circumstances, should be enabled to take up an NCO place. With help from the generous support of The Leverhulme Trust and The Linder Foundation, along with several additional funders, NCO awarded a total of 124 bursaries (£11,001) in 2020 to support participation in NCO Online.

8. Progression

NCO's unique work with the UK's youngest musicians is the first vital stage in a development that nurtures youth musicianship on to youth orchestras and beyond. NCO alumni are represented in professional orchestras across the world and many notable conductors and soloists first found their musical inspiration with NCO. In 2019 94 members of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain's were former musicians of NCO.

9. Future Plans

NCO continued to plan for the return of residential courses and regional activity in 2021 in order to provide opportunities for 2020 members who opted to remain in membership the following year. However, at a board meeting on 1 April 2021, having considered all current guidance provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England, Trustees made the difficult decision to cancel all residential activity during the current year.

Uncertainty around social distancing requirements into the summer months made NCO's planned orchestral activity too susceptible to late cancellation, despite considerable, approved mitigations and detailed discussions with host venues. The charity aims to deliver local, replacement orchestral days in the autumn of 2021, on the basis that social distancing is no longer required.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

NCO Online 2021

However, the charity delivered an extensive digital programme, NCO Online 2021 which lasts 3.5 months and engaged 600 children drawn from the 2020/2021 membership as well as some new, younger players recruited at the start of the year.

The programme continues to be built around 5 key themes with live content and resources accessed via the purpose-built website:

- **Inspiration** - Webinars with special guests, Parent Webinars, Tutor welcome videos
- **My Instrument** - Musical sectionals, Orchestral Workshops, Listening Challenges and NYO/LSO sessions.
- **Let's Create** - NCO On the Move Multitrack, Wallace & Gromit soundtrack competition, Improvisation sessions,
- **Wellbeing** - Fitness and wellbeing sessions
- **Pick 'n Mix** - Social activity, quizzes and Taskmaster

Highlights up until the midway point include:

- A series of inspirational webinars hosted by NCO Artistic & Educational Director Catherine Arlidge with special
 - o Jim Parkyn and Julian Knott of Aardman Animations
 - o Improvisation with Stephen Mangan, Xhosa Cola and Katie Foster
 - o Opera brothers Mark & Wynne Evans of Go Compare
 - o A special parent's session on the Development of Young Musicians with Kadie and Stuart Kanneh-Mason
- Creative sessions with Jonathan James to prepare members to write their own soundtrack to a clip from Wallace & Gromit, A Matter of Loaf and Death, focussing on building skills in improvisation.
- Fitness and wellbeing sessions with Ninja Warrior Henry Cooke, Sarah Upjohn and Tom Taffinder to improve posture and look after mental health as musicians.
- Orchestral Workshops and Musical Sectionals with instrumental tutors & social staff
- A host of social activities for NCO members to get to know each other including Mega Socials, Social Sectionals, NCO Animal Themed Quiz with fancy dress, Taskmaster and Escape Room challenges.
- Sectional workshops for senior members with musicians of **London Symphony Orchestra**
- Mentoring sessions for senior members led by musicians from the **National Youth Orchestra**

NCO Online in Numbers at mid-way point

Since the programme launched, NCO has delivered:

- 129 Musical Sectionals
- 78 Orchestral Workshops
- 39 LSO sectional workshops per instrument
- 26 NYO Mentor sessions per instrument
- 21 Live@5 webinars
- A total of 401 live events- that's 18,045 minutes or 300 hours or 13 days!

Members have engaged with the online programme by submitting:

- 386 videos to the On the Move multitrack piece
- 102 images and Musical Postcard videos to the NCO Online Gallery
- 42 Taskmaster challenges
- 39 Wallace & Gromit original soundtracks
- That's a total of 569 submissions from members!

The NCO Online website contains:

- 715 audio, video, document, or sheet music resources

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

- 641 users
- 51 videos available on catch up for members to watch later.
- With a total of 1856 catch up video views!

Two significant developments in 2021 are an open Trustee recruitment and induction process as part of an ongoing governance review to enhance existing skills and networks on the NCO board as well as achieve greater diversity and lived experiences to inform and support the charity's future strategy. In addition, in March 2021, the charity relocated its administrative base from Weston Super Mare to the Paintworks development in Bristol. Over the coming months, NCO will develop local networks and partnerships with other arts and educational organisations as well as businesses and make its home in this vibrant and creative city.

Going concern

NCO's Board and Finance Committee convened regularly since March 2020 to review the charity's financial position and future plans. The board is mindful that a strong reserves position at the start of 2020, alongside mitigating actions, and successful fundraising to date have combined to enable the charity to continue to not only operate but also innovate through its digital activities. The charity's expected loss in 2021 is significantly mitigated due to a Cultural Recovery Fund grant of £210,000 alongside continued growth in fundraising and ongoing cost savings.

NCO's board does not anticipate any further losses in 2021, with any replacement activity in the autumn supported by re-purposed grants. Due to ongoing uncertainty about how social distancing may impact NCO's live activities in 2022, the NCO board will continue to monitor budgets and consider several options and financial scenarios should this be necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

1 Governing document

The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 February 1990 having acquired the whole of the assets, liabilities and activities of the National Children's Orchestra, being a charitable trust created by a deed of trust dated 16 August 1978. The company was set under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under revised Articles of Association, adopted by the Board on 14 August 2019.

The company adapted its name from The National Children's Orchestra to The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, to better reflect its activities. This was approved by the Board and implemented with the approval of the Charity Commission on 10 July 2012.

In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

2 Trustees Recruitment

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of company law and under the Memorandum and Articles of Association are known as and referred to within this report and the financial statements as 'Trustees'.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

It is the practice of the Board to ensure that a balance of skills is maintained within the Trustees, and that NCO has effective leadership in all aspects of its work. This applies to the operations of the Board as a whole and also to the Finance Committee.

The Board will advertise in publications and online for new Trustees when required and undertake a regular skills audit to inform that open selection process.

The Chair of Trustees and executive team will normally induct a new trustee through a number of familiarisation sessions, including, for example, attending concerts and visiting courses. The sessions aim to introduce the trustee to NCO and its operating context, business plans and financial position. Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees or by ordinary resolution of the Trustees (in their capacity as Members) at a general meeting.

3 Organisational Structure

Trustees meet at least four times a year to approve strategic, artistic, financial and governance policies. The Board is supported by NCO's senior management team Sophie Lewis (Managing Director) and Catherine Arlidge (Artistic and Educational Director).

In addition, the Finance Committee meets four times a year to review in more detail the financial controls, governance, risk management and investment performance of the charity.

The Managing Director and Artistic and Educational Director are supported by an informal Music Advisory Group (consisting of Music Tutors and conductors).

4 Objectives and aims

The Objects stated in the Charity's Articles of Association are:

- (a) To advance education and in particular to advance the education and training in music and orchestral playing of children and young persons through the formation of an orchestra or orchestras composed of such persons.
- (b) Such other charitable purpose or charitable purposes as the Trustees may in their absolute discretion think fit and which they consider are necessary or desirable for the attainment of the above objects or may be connected with the same or which have some affinity or purpose with those objects or may (whether so connected or having such affinity or not) conveniently be conducted or combined with them.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 15. Total income comprised £341,797 for unrestricted funds, £41,000 for restricted funds. Total expenditure was £544,826 in unrestricted expenditure and £11,001 in restricted expenditure. At 31 December 2020 the reserves of the charity were £630,365 of which £122,650 are restricted.

The Charity benefited from £21,952 in Orchestral Tax Relief and £14,180 in Gift Aid in the accounting period.

1 Reserves Policy

Of unrestricted funds £11,718 may only be realised through the sale of fixed assets. £32,631 is held in designated funds, primarily relating to the property liabilities the charity may face on expiry of its present lease. Accordingly, £463,366 is available as free reserves.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

This reserve is maintained to ensure that the activities of NCO can continue for an appropriate period in any year when donations to the charity and income fall short of expenditure. Fundraising activities to secure donations to the charity are ongoing and NCO's strategy has been reviewed and renewed in response to the current challenging fundraising environment and the impact of the pandemic. The receipt of membership fees and box office income is highly seasonal, as are contractual liabilities incurred in connection with providing these activities.

Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on NCO's programme and financial position, NCO's Trustees are currently reviewing the charity's free reserves policy. The reserves target in 2019 was £651,000.

2 Restricted Reserves

These funds are maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only specific disbursements may be made. An explanation of each restricted reserve and the purposes for which it may be expended are given in Section 20 below. Apart from the two reserves noted below, there are no specific periods of time during which these funds must be expended. Over the next three years, NCO intends to draw down specific restricted reserves to support the charity's ongoing mission and objectives.

The charity maintains a **Bursary Fund** to ensure that financial assistance is available to cover all or part of the costs of membership of any child whose family qualifies in the year of membership. The Board considers that a fund should be maintained for this purpose that is equivalent to approximately one year of anticipated expenditure, assuming fundraising continues. In the year under review, the requirement for bursary funding was significantly reduced in line with an adapted programme of activity due to the pandemic. Therefore, grants were either approved to be repurposed to support core and/or NCO Online costs or deferred to 2021.

Accordingly, the Bursary Fund was drawn down by £11,001. The remaining balance is £31,742.

3 Risk Management

The Trustees and Executive team meet regularly to review major internal and external strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. Trustees annually review principal risks, policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks as well as measures designed to minimise or manage the potential impact in the event that those risks present themselves.

Trustees consider there to be three key risks to the charity:

a. Covid-19

The impact of covid-19 on both NCO's financial position and ability to plan live activities presents an ongoing risk to the charity as government guidance for social distancing, and in particular for national youth orchestras, continues to evolve although is improving. NCO Trustees will continue to monitor the situation through regular reporting and meetings and will develop alternative plans if required for the charity's 2022 programme.

b. Child Protection and Safeguarding

The well-being and safety of all children and young musicians whilst engaged in NCO activities is of paramount importance. The Board undertakes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice. All staff and volunteers at NCO must have a full current Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Training is provided for staff at the start of every residency and all staff must complete a basic online child safeguarding course. Additional training is undertaken by senior residency and administrative staff.

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

c. Fundraising

Every year, NCO needs to raise c. £500,000 to subsidise its overall programme of activity, provide financial aid through its bursary and scholarship programmes and support core costs. The Executive team regularly report to the board and finance committee on secured income against targets and to monitor strategies for fundraising and the risks therein.

4 Development 2020 & 2021

2020

The onset of COVID-19 meant NCO could not capitalise on its emerging organisational strategy for fundraising. This impacted the charity's ability to fundraise from new grant makers and engage new individual supporters. NCO initially planned to raise an additional £100k+ in new grants attached to this strategy.

Not being a publicly funded organisation or in any multi-year partnerships with major grant makers limited NCO's ability to access immediate emergency funding in 2020.

However, every one of the charity's established supporters renewed their support in 2020. Bolstered by a successful fundraising appeal, this means the charity has kept (proportionally) on track with fundraising this year.

NCO adjusted its budget for restricted raised income to meet the reduced needs of digital bursaries. This means that, with the full agreement of our funders, NCO either re-purposed or deferred several bursary grants and donations which enabled a healthy bursary fund for 2021.

2021

NCO's initial fundraising for 2021 prioritised securing funding for our digital programme, NCO Online, and associated organisational overheads. In February we secured a significant grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation to help us deliver NCO Online and further some vital strategic work. NCO Online was further supported by a generous grant from The Linder Foundation, who also provided additional bursary funding for participating children.

In March NCO was fortunate enough to receive a grant of £210,000 from the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund via the Arts Council of England. This grant was awarded to help mitigate the loss of income from the COVID-19 pandemic, and in recognition of the importance of its work and future plans.

NCO has been gratified to be rewarded with a full renewal of all other grant relationships alongside several new funding partnerships. Some funders have also permitted the repurposing of funding as NCO's plans were inevitably affected by the ongoing pandemic. This flexibility has been vital and gratefully received.

NCO is currently running a fundraising appeal to further mitigate against some of the financial losses of COVID-19. Alongside other key support from individuals via existing Giving Schemes, and an ongoing sponsorship with The Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), this has further bolstered our 2021 fundraising efforts.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Registered Company number
02471385 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

803026

Registered office

Saffery Champness LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place, Clifton
Bristol BS8 1BQ

Principal Office

Unit 2.3 Streamline
436-441 Paintworks
Bristol BS4 3AS

Trustees

Louise Mitchell (Chair)
Janet Baker (Honorary Treasurer)
Charles Bligh (resigned 4 February 2021)
George Caird
Miranda Francis
Fiona Harvey
Andrew Kemble
Jonathan Mayes
William Norris
Claire Thompson
Brian Weir
Howard Williams

Finance Committee Members

Janet Baker (Hon. Treasurer)
Charles Bligh
George Caird
Andrew Kemble
Jonathan Mayes
Clare Thompson

Founder

Vivienne Price MBE

Senior Management Team

Sophie Lewis Managing Director
Catherine Arlidge MBE Artistic and Educational Director

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
64 High Street
Epsom Surrey KT19 8AT

Report of the Trustees
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
For the year ended 31 December 2020

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Saffery Champness LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the board of trustees on..... 2 July 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
J Baker - Trustee

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ;or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page xx, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales .

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members and trustees of National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Strong (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date:
St Catherine's Court
Berkeley Place
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1BQ

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	218,839	41,000	259,839	345,021
Charitable activities	4				
Auditions		-	-	-	17,268
Concerts		60	-	60	61,478
Regionals		19,081	-	19,081	65,673
Membership fees		64,500	-	64,500	741,500
Other trading activities	5	16,163	-	16,163	28,925
Investments	6	1,202	-	1,202	2,128
Other		21,952	-	21,952	199,372
Total		<u>341,797</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>382,797</u>	<u>1,461,365</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	60,934	-	60,934	133,690
Charitable activities	8				
Residencies (including online)		449,072	-	449,072	835,528
Auditions		-	-	-	117,264
Concerts		410	-	410	116,460
Bursaries and Scholarships		-	11,001	11,001	157,438
Regionals		34,410	-	34,410	110,936
Total		<u>544,826</u>	<u>11,001</u>	<u>555,827</u>	<u>1,471,316</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>2,047</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(202,244)	29,999	(172,245)	(7,904)
Transfers between funds	19	<u>1,954</u>	<u>(1,954)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	19	(200,290)	28,045	(172,245)	(7,904)
Total funds brought forward		708,005	94,605	802,610	810,514
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>507,715</u>	<u>122,650</u>	<u>630,365</u>	<u>802,610</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
	Note				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	11,718	-	11,718	30,227
Investments	15	13,480	-	13,480	13,480
		<u>25,198</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,198</u>	<u>43,707</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	16	271,114	-	271,114	253,688
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>401,907</u>	<u>122,650</u>	<u>524,557</u>	<u>716,835</u>
		<u>673,021</u>	<u>122,650</u>	<u>795,671</u>	<u>970,523</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(190,504)	-	(190,504)	(211,620)
Net current assets		<u>482,517</u>	<u>122,650</u>	<u>605,167</u>	<u>758,903</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		507,715	122,650	630,365	802,610
Net assets		<u>507,715</u>	<u>122,650</u>	<u>630,365</u>	<u>802,610</u>
Restricted funds	19			122,650	94,605
Unrestricted funds:	19			507,715	708,005
Total charity funds				<u>630,365</u>	<u>802,610</u>

The notes at pages 19 to 31 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 2 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



L Mitchell - Trustee



J Baker - Trustee

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash generated from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(215,432)	(310,543)
Interest paid		-	(2,773)
Taxation refund		<u>21,952</u>	<u>208,188</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(193,480)</u>	<u>(105,128)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,379)
Interest received		1,202	653
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>1,202</u>	<u>(726)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	2	(192,278)	(105,854)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>716,835</u>	<u>822,689</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>524,557</u>	<u>716,835</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(172,244)	(7,904)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	18,508	19,945
Gains on investments	-	(2,047)
Interest received	(1,202)	(653)
Interest paid	-	2,773
Tax refund due	(21,952)	(199,372)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(17,426)	21,716
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(21,116)</u>	<u>(145,001)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(215,432)	(310,543)

2 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January		At 31
	2020	Cash flow	December 2020
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	716,835	(192,278)	524,557
Total	<u>716,835</u>	<u>(192,278)</u>	<u>524,557</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Statutory information

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee and domiciled in England and Wales. The Charity is registered in England and Wales, Registered Company number 2471385, Registered Charity number 803026. The registered office is St Catherine's Court, Berkeley Place, Bristol, BS8 1BQ, and the Principal office is Unit 2.3, Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Arncliffe, Leeds, LS16 5PS.

The principal activity of the Charity is to foster and develop the early musical talent of children aged between 7 and 14 years from across the UK, providing world-class opportunities for orchestral training and performance.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and SORP (FRS 102) the financial reporting standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Companies Act 2006.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies which are described above, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

Assets are written down over their estimated useful lives. The actual lives of the assets may differ from these estimates. The lives of the assets are kept under review and adjusted as appropriate.

Allocation of costs between activities

As a small charity many costs incurred, including staff time, cover more than one activity. These costs are allocated to activities based on the key cost drivers and best estimates of staff time on each activity.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

In particular:

Donations are recognised when the amount of the donation is known and the receipt of funds is probable.

Legacies are recognised when the amount is known with reasonable certainty and the receipt of funds is probable. This may be earlier than the date of receipt of funds where appropriate notification has been received from those dealing with the estate.

Membership income is recognised in the accounting year the membership relates to. Any advance payments of membership are deferred to the period to which they relate.

Audition income is recognised when the auditions have taken place.

Income from Concerts and Regionals is recognised once the event has taken place. Any advance payments are deferred.

Income from trading activities is recognised upon sale of the associated merchandise.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants relate to bursaries and scholarships for attending the courses run by the Charity. Where a member of the Orchestra awarded a grant does not attend, the associated grant is cancelled.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to the different activities of the charity on an actual basis where possible. Where costs incurred relate to a number of activities these are apportioned on the basis of time spent on those activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Short leasehold	-	over the life of the lease
Music and Instruments	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	16.67% on cost

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Items purchased for less than £200 are not capitalised and are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission under number 803026. Because of its charitable status The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain is exempt from United Kingdom taxation on its surplus income and capital gains.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors that are receivable within one year and do not constitute a financing transaction are recorded at the undiscounted amount expected to be received, net of any impairment.

Those that are receivable after more than one year or constitute a financing transaction are recorded initially at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently at amortised costs, net of impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Investments

Investments are carried at their market value with movements in the market value being taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

3 Donations and legacies

	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations	208,759	341,340
Furlough grant received	36,046	-
Gift Aid tax recovered	14,180	3,621
Miscellaneous income	854	60
	<u>259,839</u>	<u>345,021</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Auditions	-	17,268
Concert income	60	61,478
Regionals	19,081	65,673
Membership fees	64,500	741,500
	<u>83,641</u>	<u>885,919</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Merchandising income	16,163	28,925
	<u>16,163</u>	<u>373,946</u>

6 Investment income

	2020	2019
	£	£
COIF dividend	-	1,476
Investment income	1,202	401
Interest receivable - trading	-	252
	<u>1,202</u>	<u>2,129</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

7 Raising funds

	2020	2019
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	39,022	83,061
Other costs	8,766	18,002
	<u>47,788</u>	<u>101,063</u>
Other trading activities		
Purchases	13,146	32,627
Staff costs	-	-
	<u>13,146</u>	<u>32,627</u>
Total	<u>60,934</u>	<u>133,690</u>

8 Charitable activities costs

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	Support costs (see note 10)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Residencies (including online)	47,612	-	401,460	449,072
Auditions	-	-	-	-
Concerts	410	-	-	410
Bursaries and scholarships	-	11,001	-	11,001
Regionals	34,410	-	-	34,410
	<u>82,432</u>	<u>11,001</u>	<u>401,460</u>	<u>494,893</u>

9 Grants payable

	2020	2019
	£	£
Bursaries and scholarships	<u>11,001</u>	<u>144,212</u>

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grant	<u>11,001</u>	<u>144,212</u>

All grants relate to bursaries provided to individuals as a subsidy towards their membership fees and travel costs.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

10 Support costs

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Residencies (including online)	347,320	33,802	20,338	401,460
Auditions	-	-	-	-
Concerts	-	-	-	-
Bursaries and Scholarships	-	-	-	-
Regionals	-	-	-	-
	<u>347,320</u>	<u>33,802</u>	<u>20,338</u>	<u>401,460</u>

11 Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Auditor' remuneration	7,140	3,738
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	2,580	3,000
Depreciation - owned assets	18,509	19,945

12 Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses in respect of attendance at board meetings during the period totalled £nil (2019: £342 was paid to 1 trustees).

13 Staff costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	303,386	278,003
Social security costs	24,099	27,218
Pension costs	6,745	3,737
	<u>334,230</u>	<u>308,958</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2020	2019
£	£
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>

There were no employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000.

The Orchestras employed 57 freelancers during the year (2019: 185), who worked a total of 392 days (2019: 1,907 days).

The social staff provide pastoral support for the members of the Orchestras, whilst tutors help with the musical elements. These staff are paid on a per session basis.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Short leasehold £	Music and Instruments £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	38,109	124,045	72,018	45,148	279,320
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>38,109</u>	<u>124,045</u>	<u>72,018</u>	<u>45,148</u>	<u>279,320</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2020	38,109	113,609	66,652	30,723	249,093
Charge for the year	-	7,728	3,257	7,524	18,509
At 31 December 2020	<u>38,109</u>	<u>121,337</u>	<u>69,909</u>	<u>38,247</u>	<u>267,602</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>2,708</u>	<u>2,109</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>11,718</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>5,366</u>	<u>14,425</u>	<u>30,227</u>

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2020	13,480
Revaluations	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>13,480</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	<u>13,480</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>13,480</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

16 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	14,180	780
Prepayments	35,610	53,536
Tax recoverable	221,324	199,372
	<u>271,114</u>	<u>253,688</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	127,165	13,405
Social security and other taxes	180	8,681
Other creditors	42,000	52,224
Accruals	21,159	137,310
	<u>190,504</u>	<u>211,620</u>

Included within other creditors above is deferred income, further information on this is provided in note 24.

18 Leasing agreements

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Within one year	29,009	18,020
Between one and five years	20,233	8,776
	<u>49,242</u>	<u>26,796</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £20,656 (2019: £18,020).

19 Movement in Funds

	At 1/1/20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/12/20
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	675,374	(202,244)	1,954	475,084
Unrestricted - designated funds				
IT Replacement fund	7,131	-	-	7,131
Office move	25,500	-	-	25,500
	<u>708,005</u>	<u>(202,244)</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>507,715</u>
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	1,743	29,999	-	31,742
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
E Rorison winter award	4,231	-	-	4,231
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	18,677	-	-	18,677
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
General manager salary	1,954	-	(1,954)	-
	<u>94,605</u>	<u>29,999</u>	<u>(1,954)</u>	<u>122,650</u>
Total funds	<u>802,610</u>	<u>(172,245)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>630,365</u>

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	341,797	(544,826)	785	(202,244)
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	41,000	(11,001)	-	29,999
E Rorison winter award	-	-	-	-
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	-	-	-
Music support	-	-	-	-
General manager salary	-	-	-	-
	41,000	(11,001)	-	29,999
Total funds	382,797	(555,827)	785	(172,245)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/19 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	659,252	16,554	(432)	675,374
IT replacement fund	7,131	-	-	7,131
Office move	25,500	-	-	25,500
	691,883	16,554	(432)	708,005
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	23,573	(21,830)	-	1,743
Scholarship fund	1,792	-	-	1,792
Leverhulme scholarship fund	-	(432)	432	-
E Rorison winter award	4,431	(200)	-	4,231
Access and progression	17,470	-	-	17,470
F Guthrie	1,522	-	-	1,522
Vivienne Price memorial fund	22,627	(3,950)	-	18,677
1978 association	47,216	-	-	47,216
General manager salary	-	1,954	-	1,954
	118,631	(24,458)	432	94,605
Total funds	810,514	(7,904)	-	802,610

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Comparative net movement of funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	1,318,065	(1,303,558)	2,047	16,554
Restricted funds				
Bursary fund	103,000	(124,830)	-	(21,830)
Leverhulme scholarship fund	15,000	(15,432)	-	(432)
E Rorison winter award	-	(200)	-	(200)
Vivienne Price memorial fund	-	(3,950)	-	(3,950)
Music support	300	(300)	-	-
General manager salary	25,000	(23,046)	-	1,954
	<u>143,300</u>	<u>(167,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(24,458)</u>
Total funds	<u>1,461,365</u>	<u>(1,471,316)</u>	<u>2,047</u>	<u>(7,904)</u>

Designated funds:

IT replacement fund

This fund is to provide for future IT expenditure and replacement as a condition of the restricted donation from Fidelity towards IT equipment.

Office move fund

NCO has an obligation under its office lease arrangements to make good the premises on expiry of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the costs cannot be reliably quantified

Restricted funds:

Bursary fund

This fund is maintained through annual fundraising activities. NCO receives specific donations from which only bursary payments may be made. Distributions are made annually to support the membership of children from lower income families who might otherwise not be able to take up their places. As well as contributions to all or part of orchestra membership fees, financial assistance is also available towards the costs of travelling to courses, overnight accommodation for families who have long distances to travel, subsidised concert tickets and NCO regional orchestra rehearsal fees. Awards are made against a sliding scale on the basis of annual household income. Applications are scrutinised, and awards made, by an external panel of experts independent of NCO. The NCO Board regularly reviews bursary expenditure and scales to ensure that NCO is offering as much help as fundraising allows.

Scholarship fund

The Scholarship fund is to be used for scholarships to be granted at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Leverhulme Scholarship fund

The Leverhulme Scholarship Fund was established to administer scholarships funded by the Everhulme Trust. Selection of Leverhulme Scholars is based on talent and musical potential, as opposed to bursary awards, which are made on the basis of financial circumstances.

E Rorison winter award

Elizabeth Rorison, a former trustee of NCO, bequeathed £5,000 towards an annual winter concert award.

Access and progression

This fund represents money received to support the outreach activities.

F Guthrie

Mrs Faith Guthrie, a former NCO Trustee, generously supports certain NCO projects and provides bursaries from time to time.

Vivienne Price memorial fund

This fund has been established through donations made to NCO in memory of Vivienne Price MBE, NCO's Founding Patron, and the proceeds of a 'Grade-One-athon' fundraising activity undertaken by NCO tutors, Trustees and staff during 2015. The proceeds will be distributed over time at the discretion of the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor towards: scholarships for children who might not otherwise be able to take up their places, an annual prize to a member of Under 13 Orchestra, and the purchase of musical equipment for the general benefit of current and future members of NCO orchestras.

1978 Association

This fund represents money donated by Mr John and Mrs Faith Guthrie to support the establishment of a legacy fund for the charity

General Manager

This fund represents amounts received towards the costs of the new general manager.

Music support

This fund represents amounts received towards the cost of music hire.

Transfers between funds

The transfers between funds represents the contribution from restricted funds towards core activities of the charity and the purchase of fixed assets, as agreed by the donor, for use in core activities.

20 Employee benefit obligations

Pension contributions amounting to £6,745 (2019: £6,424) were recognised as an expense in the SoFA in respect of the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme. These costs are charged in full to unrestricted funds.

21 Contingent liabilities

The client has an obligation under their rental lease to make good the property at the end of the lease. No provision has been made for this liability as the cost cannot be reliably quantified.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

22 Related party disclosures

During the year a number of the trustees made donations to the Charity, these were made without condition.

During the year 1 trustee was paid a total of £1,200 for services as tutor.

During the previous year 3 trustees and persons closely connected to them were paid a total of £7,925 for services as tutors/conductors on the courses and at the concerts and for adjudicating at the auditions. In addition to this, expenses were paid to them totalling £908 in respect of these services.

The fees paid were in line with those paid to other conductors and tutors providing similar services to the Charity.

23 Deferred income

Accruals and deferred income includes the following items of income which have been deferred as at 31 December 2020:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Membership deferred at 1 January 2020	50,742	88,541
Released to income in the year	(50,742)	(88,541)
Membership deferred at 31 December 2020	42,000	50,742
	<u>42,000</u>	<u>50,742</u>

Membership relates to the calendar year, places are awarded at the end of the previous year and fees are often received in advance of the start of that year. In accordance with the accounting policy, membership income received in relation to the following year is deferred.

24 Post balance sheet events

As detailed further in the Trustees report, the Trustees made the difficult decision to cancel all residential activity during 2021 due to uncertainty around social distancing requirements. The charity aims to deliver local, replacement orchestral days in the autumn of 2021, on the basis that social distancing is no longer required. The charity is continuing to deliver an extensive digital programme, NCO Online 2021.

The charity moved premises in May 2021 to Unit 2.3 Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Bristol BS4 3AS.

National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

25 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from			
Donations and legacies	201,721	143,300	345,021
Charitable activities			
Auditions	17,268	-	17,268
Concerts	61,478	-	61,478
Regionals	65,673	-	65,673
Membership fees	741,500	-	741,500
Other trading activities	28,925	-	28,925
Investment income	2,128	-	2,128
Other income	199,372	-	199,372
Total	1,318,065	143,300	1,461,365
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	133,690	-	133,690
Charitable activities			
Residencies	811,982	23,546	835,528
Auditions	117,264	-	117,264
Concerts	116,460	-	116,460
Bursaries and scholarships	13,226	144,212	157,438
Regionals	110,936	-	110,936
Total	1,303,558	167,758	1,471,316
Net gains on investments	2,047	-	2,047
Net Income/(Expenditure)	16,554	(24,458)	(7,904)
Transfers between funds	(432)	432	-
Net movement in funds	16,122	(24,026)	(7,904)
Total funds brought forward	691,883	118,631	810,514
Total funds carried forward	708,005	94,605	802,610