

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102506

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-07-23

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

Contact

Address Queen's University Belfast
University Road (Music Building)
Belfast
Bt7 1nn
BT7 1NN

Phone 07791953812

Email info@hardrainensemble.com

Website www.hardrainensemble.com

Activities

Purposes: The Association is established for the advancement, improvement, production, performance and promotion of music, arts and culture and in particular but not exclusively the art and science of modern and contemporary chamber music and associated arts and skills, the advancement of musical education and the promotion of the benefit of the inhabitants (hereinafter called the “beneficiaries”) resident in Northern Ireland (“hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability/ability, race, ethnic origin, political, religious or other opinion by associating the statutory and local authorities, voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance musical education and culture and in particular: (a) to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of public events, performances and concerts, recitals, productions, information and training, classes, workshops and the organisation of exhibitions of works and events as the Committee shall in their absolute discretion determine; (b) to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music with the object of developing aesthetic appreciation and to encourage appreciation for and participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music; (c) to advance education through the promotion and support of modern and contemporary chamber music, and in this respect, promoting concerts using postgraduate soloists and local composers of music for the benefit of their education; (d) to encourage the artistic creativity and enhance the general knowledge and understanding of the beneficiaries in modern and contemporary chamber music and related musical, cultural and artistic activities; (e) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts, Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Education/training, Research/evaluation, Youth development

Who the charity helps: General public, Physical disabilities, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£139,755	£128,530	£0	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Katy Radford		
Mr Andrew Jones		
Mr Carl Whyte		
Mr Jonny Mcgeown		
Mr Paul O'reilly		

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Accounts

NI CHARITY REF - 102506

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE

(a charitable association)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025

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CHARITY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Prentice	CHAIR
Paul O'Reilly	TREASURER
Jonny McGeown	SECRETARY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Donald R Minshull FCA

ACCOUNTANT

Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
364 Lisburn Road
BELFAST
BT9 6GL

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Queen's University Belfast
School of Arts English and Languages
Sonic Arts Research Centre
4 Cloreen Park
BELFAST
BT9 5HN

NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER

102506

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of the company, present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP and confirm that the reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation was the Charities SORP (FRS102).

TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity during the financial year were as stated on page 2.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are

- to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of events, performances, information, exhibitions and training as the Committee shall determine
- to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music to develop appreciation and encourage participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music
- to advance education through the promotion and support of modern and contemporary chamber music and, in this respect, promoting concerts using postgraduate soloists and local composers of music for the benefit of their education
- to encourage the artistic creativity and enhance the general knowledge and understanding of the beneficiaries in modern and contemporary chamber music and related musical and cultural activities
- to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the charity has obtained funding from many sources. This has enabled it to take part in the following activities and events locally

- Gallery Music at the Ulster Museum
- Sound of Belfast at SARC
- Distant Plains at the Harty Room
- Ink Still Wet in Derry/Londonderry and Belfast
- Solas Charity Concert at the Waterfront Hall
- Featured Young Artists at the Harty Room
- Songs of Travel at the Harty Room
- Pierette at the Harty Room

along with the following media broadcasts

- BBC Radio 3 New Music Show
- CD release of LUCA by Grainne Mulvery on 'The Tyndall Effect'
- BBC Radio Ulster interviews and on Classical Connections

and workshops

- UYO at the Harty Room
- NI Film Scoring School in Derry/Londonderry
- Ulster Touring Opera at SARC
- Scotland workshops at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and St Andrews University
- Cityside Sessions supported by Arts & Business Northern Ireland
- Queen's University Belfast performance classes, composition workshops and recording sessions

Along with these activities there were also audience engagement events including pop up performances

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

at the Ulster Museum, Making Music Day at the Linen Quarter, Bedford Street and Cityside open rehearsals and pop-up performances.

Nationally and Internationally the charity has performed at NEXT in Berlin, Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin, the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series in Limerick, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Sheffield University and at the Piers Hellawell Portrait in St Andrews.

With this increase in engagements many more opportunities have been created for local and international guest conductors, instrumentalists and singers.

As a result of all of the above the objectives are being achieved in a very positive manner.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related parties to report save the board of trustees, and no transactions to report.

RESULTS

The surplus for the year was £11,225 (2024: £ 5,808)

CHARITABLE STATUS

The charity is an unincorporated charitable association. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under reference number 102506.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits flowing from the purposes

- (1) The benefits flowing from this purpose are in the the raising of awareness of art/music as a passive or active activity that enables the population to enhance their quality of life through participation/ engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities. The improvement of interpretation of this music offers the population a quality of provision in line with other major cities. In addition, we believe that communities can now benefit, socially and culturally, from exposure to this music that has been previously difficult to access
- (2),The benefit which flows from these is that the organisation broadens the understanding and enriches
- (3) cultural awareness, particularly in young people, for contemporary music. We make this music accessible through a programme of workshops enabling engagement and participation. More widely we improve awareness of the music amongst the general public through our promotion and concert programming
- (4) The benefit flowing from this purpose is seen in the boost the existence of our organisation provides to musical artists locally, both performers and composers. The ensemble encourages the appreciation of art music, that originates in our community, by the wider local community. The ensemble encourages players and composers to become involved in music that is non-commercial, but has instead genuine creative artistic merit at its core
- (5) The benefit flowing from this purpose is in the broadening out of the general remit of the ensemble as a means of attracting and building new audiences of people within the community for this music. Benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven and evidenced through monitoring the breadth of music that we promote throughout our seasons, noting the number of local composers programmed and number of local works performed, the number of premiere performances and the number of repeat performances. Audience surveys are used at events to assess audience satisfaction – information is collated and used to inform future events thereby improving the direct benefit to the public. In workshops students and participants are surveyed to ensure that they are benefiting directly from the event. Activities such as the organisation's engagement with art students demonstrate the broadening of our activities where we feel the music might benefit a wider audience base or attract young people outside the spectrum of modern and contemporary music and encourage them to become actively or passively involved. Our work in specially organized workshops with young composers and performers and through a series of pre-concert talks given throughout our programme, helps young people improve the technical language required to communicate and helps them build confidence in their creative and expressive abilities. This benefit is demonstrated in and evidenced by an improved capability and facility in their studies as a result. Letters of recommendation from their professors are testament to this outcome. No harm arises from our purpose. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are that musicians and composers, who are the subject of our season's focus, stand to benefit in terms of their own professional experience,

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

PUBLIC BENEFIT (continued)

and while the organization seeks to "promote contemporary music" as stated in its objects, artists careers will be promoted as incidental to that. Normally HRSE do not charge for educational workshops and concert activities have pricing arrangements to include concessions for unemployed. Indeed, we have use "test drive the arts", a facility that allows anyone to sign up for pre-allocated tickets at no charge to allow them to engage with our ensemble for the first time.

The beneficiaries are the general public and young people (14-25 year olds) and no one connected to the organisation gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY

Reserves at 31 March 2024 were £31,024 . The company's core expenditure is well controlled due to the nature of the operations. It continues to expand its charitable and fund raising activities to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The profile of expenditure is as agreed with the funders when applicable.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements if identified as such. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impact of the coronavirus restrictions are now over five years ago. Activities are fully back to normal and there has been no impact on the charity's sustainability due to the relatively low overhead model. The trustees are satisfied that the charity can continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees, having considered the charity's income streams, financial means and strategy for dealing with issues such as the impact of Covid-19, over the next 12-18 months, are satisfied that the going concern basis is appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS

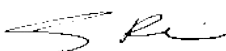
As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 the charity is exempt from the statutory audit requirement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Donald R Minshull FCA of Minshull & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, offers himself for re-appointment.



Gail Prentice
Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Date 29 May 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble**

I have examined the financial statements, on pages 7 to 12, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI, as required under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act
2. The the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1. to 4. listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Donald R Minshull FCA
Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Date 29 May 2025

*19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN BT28 2GN*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INCOME	Note	2025			2024
		£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Workshop & Concert Fees		-	14,978	14,978	3,478
Radio Fees		-	6,703	6,703	-
Donations		-	1,003	1,003	760
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>					
Revenue grants and contracts credited	6	116,794	-	116,794	104,017
Other income		-	-	-	1,500
<i>Investment Income</i>					
Bank interest		-	277	277	70
		116,794	22,961	139,755	109,825
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Artists Fees		50,352	2,364	52,716	39,635
Travel and Accommodation Expenses		17,287	1,373	18,660	12,364
Piano Expenses		840	-	840	900
Commissions		6,625	-	6,625	7,206
Workshop & Concert Fees		1,705	-	1,705	2,020
Score Hire		1,097	408	1,505	190
Other Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	281	281	-
		(77,906)	(4,426)	(82,332)	(62,315)
Income less charitable activities direct costs		38,888	18,535	57,423	47,510
Charitable activities - support costs					
Insurance		-	811	811	675
Equipment repairs and leasing		-	52	52	710
Postage, stationery and office supplies		-	8	8	13
Advertising and publicity		6,085	4,425	10,510	6,139
Artistic Director & Concert Manager		31,956	534	32,490	31,675
Bank interest and charges		-	273	273	281
Depreciation		-	73	73	40
Sundry expenses		-	168	168	377
Governance costs					
Accountancy & Audit Fees		447	597	1,044	1,140
Legal and professional fees		400	369	769	652
		(38,888)	(7,310)	(46,198)	(41,702)
Net in/(out)ward resources for the period 2		-	11,225	11,225	5,808
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2024		-	19,799	19,799	13,991
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2025		-	31,024	31,024	19,799

The charity made no other gains or losses during the year other than those stated above
The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

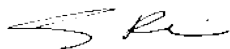
	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		571		560
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		3,520		2,000	
Cash at bank and on hand		29,663		26,906	
		<u>33,183</u>		<u>28,906</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	-		6,895	
Accruals		2,730		2,772	
		<u>2,730</u>		<u>9,667</u>	
Net Current Assets			30,453		19,239
Net Assets			<u>31,024</u>		<u>19,799</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve			31,024		19,799
Restricted Funds			-		-
Balance at 31 March 2025			<u>31,024</u>		<u>19,799</u>

For the financial year in question the charity was entitled to exemption under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 relating to small charities. No one has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved, and authorised to be issued, by the Board of Trustees on the date below and signed on its behalf by



Gail Prentice
Trustee

Date 29 May 2025

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the

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

(b) Reconciliation With Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have decided that in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 no restatement of comparative items was required.

(c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The company reports -£11,225 cash outflow for the year and the trustees have formulated a strategy that will secure the immediate future of the company for the next 12 to 18 months and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

(d) Income

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, of a revenue nature, is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not repayable to the funder.

Capital grants are amortised in line with the depreciation of the associated assets, the purchase of which has been funded by said grants.

(e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the item by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company, normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the financial institution.

(g) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the company. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity that the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the company's work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

(h) **Expenditure and Irrecoverable Value Added Tax**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading
- expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the company
- governance and support costs include all other costs

Unrecovered Value Added Tax is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(i) **Support Costs**

Support costs are disclosed separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) **Tangible Fixed Assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £200 or more are stated in the accounts at original cost less depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives, using the following annual rate :

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10.00% -	33.33%
----------------------------------	----------	--------

(k) **Debtors**

Debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

(l) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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

(m) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts.

(n) **Financial Instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

(p) **Charity status and members liability**

The charity is an unincorporated association. The members are the trustees as listed page 2.

2. DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING:

Accountancy Fees	£ 694
Examination Fees	350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

3. TRUSTEES

The trustees received no emoluments nor expenses during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

Number of personnel

The average weekly number of persons engaged by the charity, excluding trustees, during the year was:

	2025 number	2024 number
Managerial and administration	2	2
	2	2
The remuneration paid to these persons was	£	£
Artistic Director and Concert Manager	32,490	31,675
	32,490	31,675

No individuals had personal benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: £nil). As the above persons are self employed there are no associated pension costs.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
at 1 April 2024	640	640
Additions	84	84
	724	724
at 31 March 2025	724	724
DEPRECIATION		
at 1 April 2024	80	80
Charge for the Year	73	73
	153	153
at 31 March 2025	153	153
NET BOOK VALUE		
at 31 March 2025	571	571

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

6. RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS AND FEES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Funder - Arts Council Northern Ireland	53,007	79,411
Queen's University Belfast/Ulster University	16,415	8,510
Culture Ireland	3,520	3,251
British Council	7,000	5,500
Performing Rights Society Fund	27,220	13,000
Arts & Business Northern Ireland	6,185	-
Belfast City Council	1,800	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amounts received in year	115,147	109,672
Amount accrued at 1 April 2023	(2,000)	(1,000)
Amount deferred at 1 April 2023	6,895	240
Amount accrued at 31 March 2024	3,520	2,000
Amount deferred at 31 March 2024	-	(6,895)
Capital grant received	(6,768)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	116,794	104,017
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

	Opening Balance	Income/ Credits	Expenditure/ Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	50,904	(50,904)	-
Queen's University Belfast/Ulster University	-	16,415	(16,415)	-
Culture Ireland	-	7,040	(7,040)	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	-	27,220	(27,220)	-
British Council	-	7,230	(7,230)	-
Arts & Business Northern Ireland	-	6,185	(6,185)	-
Belfast City Council	-	1,800	(1,800)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	116,794	(116,794)	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions to note.

9. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is an unincorporated association. The charity's Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's reference can be found on the company information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Accounts

NI CHARITY REF - 102506

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE

(a charitable association)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Queen's University Belfast
School of Arts English and Languages
Sonic Arts Research Centre
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NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER

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TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity during the financial year were as stated on page 2.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are

- to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of events, performances, information, exhibitions and training as the Committee shall determine
- to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music to develop appreciation and encourage participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music
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- to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the charity has obtained funding from many sources. This has enabled it to take part in the following activities and events

- A New Beginning concert at Queen's University Belfast
- Under The Sky concert at Queen's University Belfast
- Ink Still Wet VII premieres
- Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble Featured Young Artists Recital
- Plugged In International Woman's Day concert
- Ulster Youth Orchestra join concert at Harty Room, Queen's University, Belfast
- Classical:NEXT Showcase Concert at Holzmarkt, Berlin
- Gallery Music concerts at the Ulster Museum and Hugh Lane Gallery
- Workshops for clarinet, flute, composition, duo , other ensembles and audio engineering
- Continuing to build a library of recordings, online
- Commissions for Raymond Deane, Stephen Gardner, Rebecca Doherty, Sarah Colgan, Orly Watson, Sam Chambers, Laura Heneghan and Kevin Free

therefore the objectives are being achieved in a very positive manner.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related parties to report save the board of trustees, and no transactions to report.

RESULTS

The surplus for the year was £5,808 (2023: £ 13,517 deficit)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

CHARITABLE STATUS

The charity is an unincorporated charitable association. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under reference number 102506.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits flowing from the purposes

- (1) The benefits flowing from this purpose are in the the raising of awareness of art/music as a passive or active activity that enables the population to enhance their quality of life through participation/ engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities. The improvement of interpretation of this music offers the population a quality of provision in line with other major cities. In addition, we believe that communities can now benefit, socially and culturally, from exposure to this music that has been previously difficult to access
- (2),The benefit which flows from these is that the organisation broadens the understanding and enriches
- (3) cultural awareness, particularly in young people, for contemporary music. We make this music accessible through a programme of workshops enabling engagement and participation. More widely we improve awareness of the music amongst the general public through our promotion and concert programming
- (4) The benefit flowing from this purpose is seen in the boost the existence of our organisation provides to musical artists locally, both performers and composers. The ensemble encourages the appreciation of art music, that originates in our community, by the wider local community. The ensemble encourages players and composers to become involved in music that is non-commercial, but has instead genuine creative artistic merit at its core
- (5) The benefit flowing from this purpose is in the broadening out of the general remit of the ensemble as a means of attracting and building new audiences of people within the community for this music. Benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven and evidenced through monitoring the breadth of music that we promote throughout our seasons, noting the number of local composers programmed and number of local works performed, the number of premiere performances and the number of repeat performances. Audience surveys are used at events to assess audience satisfaction – information is collated and used to inform future events thereby improving the direct benefit to the public. In workshops students and participants are surveyed to ensure that they are benefiting directly from the event. Activities such as the organisation's engagement with art students demonstrate the broadening of our activities where we feel the music might benefit a wider audience base or attract young people outside the spectrum of modern and contemporary music and encourage them to become actively or passively involved. Our work in specially organized workshops with young composers and performers and through a series of pre-concert talks given throughout our programme, helps young people improve the technical language required to communicate and helps them build confidence in their creative and expressive abilities. This benefit is demonstrated in and evidenced by an improved capability and facility in their studies as a result. Letters of recommendation from their professors are testament to this outcome. No harm arises from our purpose. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are that musicians and composers, who are the subject of our season's focus, stand to benefit in terms of their own professional experience, and while the organization seeks to "promote contemporary music" as stated in its objects, artists careers will be promoted as incidental to that. Normally HRSE do not charge for educational workshops and concert activities have pricing arrangements to include concessions for unemployed. Indeed, we have use "test drive the arts", a facility that allows anyone to sign up for pre-allocated tickets at no charge to allow them to engage with our ensemble for the first time.

The beneficiaries are the general public and young people (14-25 year olds) and no one connected to the organisation gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY

Reserves at 31 March 2024 were £19,799 . The company's core expenditure is well controlled due to the nature of the operations. It continues to expand its charitable and fund raising activities to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The profile of expenditure is as agreed with the funders when applicable.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements if

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY (continued)

identified as such. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impact of coronavirus restrictions meant that there had been a reduction in physical in-person gatherings for performances and workshops and an increase in online activity. Now back to normal there has been no impact on the charity's sustainability due to the relatively low overhead model. The trustees are satisfied that the charity can continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees, having considered the charity's income streams, financial means and strategy for dealing with issues such as the impact of Covid-19, over the next 12-18 months, are satisfied that the going concern basis is appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS

As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 the charity is exempt from the statutory audit requirement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Donald R Minshull FCA of Minshull & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, offers himself for re-appointment.



Gail Prentice
Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Date 17 June 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

I have examined the financial statements, on pages 7 to 12, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI, as required under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act
2. The the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1. to 4. listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Donald R Minshull FCA
Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Date 17 June 2024

*19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN BT28 2GN*

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOME	Note	2024		2023	
		£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Concert Fees		-	3,478	3,478	23,575
Donations		-	760	760	1,355
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>					
Revenue grants and contracts credited	6	104,017	-	104,017	60,820
Other income		-	1,500	1,500	50
<i>Investment Income</i>					
Bank interest		-	70	70	30
		104,017	5,808	109,825	85,830
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Artists Fees		39,635	-	39,635	35,645
Travel and Accommodation Expenses		12,364	-	12,364	13,233
Accommodation		-	-	-	-
Piano Expenses		900	-	900	150
Equipment Purchase		-	-	-	-
Commissions		7,206	-	7,206	6,500
Prizes		-	-	-	-
Workshop Fees		2,020	-	2,020	2,036
Score Hire		190	-	190	553
Total		(62,315)	-	(62,315)	(58,117)
Income less charitable activities direct costs		41,702	5,808	47,510	27,713
Charitable activities - support costs					
Insurance		675	-	675	452
Equipment repairs and leasing		710	-	710	549
Postage, stationery and office supplies		13	-	13	142
Advertising and publicity		6,139	-	6,139	5,112
Artistic Director & Concert Manager		31,675	-	31,675	33,000
Bank interest and charges		281	-	281	127
Depreciation		40	-	40	40
Sundry expenses		377	-	377	284
Governance costs					
Accountancy & Audit Fees		1,140	-	1,140	900
Legal and professional fees		652	-	651	625
Total		(41,702)	-	(41,702)	(41,230)
Net in/(out)ward resources for the period 2		-	5,808	5,808	(13,517)
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2023		-	13,991	13,991	27,508
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2024		-	19,799	19,799	13,991

The charity made no other gains or losses during the year other than those stated above
The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		560		600
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		2,000		1,000	
Cash at bank and on hand		26,906		13,531	
		<u>28,906</u>		<u>14,531</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	6,895		240	
Accruals		2,772		900	
Other taxes		-		-	
		<u>9,667</u>		<u>1,140</u>	
Net Current Assets			19,239		13,391
Net Assets			<u>19,799</u>		<u>13,991</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve			19,799		13,991
Restricted Funds			-		-
Balance at 31 March 2024			<u>19,799</u>		<u>13,991</u>

For the financial year in question the charity was entitled to exemption under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 relating to small charities. No one has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved, and authorised to be issued, by the Board of Trustees on the date below and signed on its behalf by

Gail Prentice
Trustee

Date 17 June 2024

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the

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

(b) Reconciliation With Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have decided that in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 no restatement of comparative items was required.

(c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The company reports -£5,808 cash outflow for the year and the trustees have formulated a strategy that will secure the immediate future of the company for the next 12 to 18 months and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

(d) Income

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, of a revenue nature, is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not repayable to the funder.

Capital grants are amortised in line with the depreciation of the associated assets, the purchase of which has been funded by said grants.

(e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the item by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company, normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the financial institution.

(g) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the company. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity that the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the company's work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

(h) **Expenditure and Irrecoverable Value Added Tax**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading
- expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the company
- governance and support costs include all other costs

Unrecovered Value Added Tax is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(i) **Support Costs**

Support costs are disclosed separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) **Tangible Fixed Assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £200 or more are stated in the accounts at original cost less depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives, using the following annual rate :

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25.00% -	33.33%
----------------------------------	----------	--------

(k) **Debtors**

Debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

(l) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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

(m) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts.

(n) **Financial Instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

(p) **Charity status and members liability**

The charity is an unincorporated association. The members are the trustees as listed page 2.

2. DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING:

Accountancy Fees	£ 790
Examination Fees	350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

3. TRUSTEES

The trustees received no emoluments nor expenses during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

Number of personnel

The average weekly number of persons engaged by the charity, excluding trustees, during the year was:

	2024 number	2023 number
Managerial and administration	2	2
	2	2
The remuneration paid to these persons was	£	£
Artistic Director and Concert Manager	31,675	33,000
	31,675	33,000

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: £nil). As the above persons are self employed there are no associated pension costs.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
at 1 April 2023	640	640
Additions	-	-
	640	640
DEPRECIATION		
at 1 April 2023	40	40
Charge for the Year	40	40
	80	80
NET BOOK VALUE		
at 31 March 2024	560	560

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

6. RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS AND FEES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Funder - Arts Council Northern Ireland	79,411	26,827
Queen's University Belfast	8,510	13,885
Culture Ireland	3,251	6,348
British Council	5,500	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	13,000	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amounts received in year	109,672	60,060
Amount accrued at 1 April 2023	(1,000)	-
Amount deferred at 1 April 2023	240	-
Amount accrued at 31 March 2024	2,000	1,000
Amount deferred at 31 March 2024	(6,895)	(240)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	104,017	60,820
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

	Opening Balance	Income/ Credits	Expenditure/ Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	74,986	(74,986)	-
Queen's University Belfast	-	7,510	(7,510)	-
Culture Ireland	-	3,251	(3,251)	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
British Council	-	5,270	(5,270)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	104,017	(104,017)	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions to note.

9. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is an unincorporated association. The charity's Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's reference can be found on the company information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Annual report



Chairperson's Report Annual General Meeting Tuesday 18th June 2024

Chairperson: Gail Prentice.

The report below aims to give an overview of the 2023-24 season, focusing on its content, management, funding and issues that arose. Much of the contents of this report will have been aired and discussed previously, at quarterly meetings, however a summary is provided below.

The Season

The 23/24 season comprised a total of 9 concerts:

A NEW BEGINNING opening concert at Harty Room, QUB, Belfast
Thursday 26th October 2023

UNDER THE SKY concert at Sonic Lab, QUB, Belfast
Friday 1st December 2023

INK STILL WET VII Exclusive world premieres at Sonic Lab, QUB, Belfast
Saturday 27th January 2024

HRSE FEATURED YOUNG ARTISTS at Harty Room, QUB, Belfast
Thursday 8th February 2024

PLUGGED IN International Women's Day Concert at Sonic Lab, QUB, Belfast
Friday 8th March 2024

Ulster Youth Orchestra Joint concert at Harty Room, Belfast
Sunday 7th April 2024

Classical:NEXT Showcase Concert at Holzmarkt, Berlin
Wednesday 15th May 2024

GALLERY MUSIC Concerts
Ulster Museum - Saturday 1st June 2024
Hugh Lane Gallery - Sunday 2nd June 2024

Performances:

All scheduled concerts took place as planned, except for some expected personnel changes due to illness.

In addition, members of HRSE gave the following 8 workshops at QUB:

QUB Clarinet Workshop for Undergraduate Student work
Fri 27th Oct 2023

QUB Duo Workshop for Undergraduate Student work (Violin & Cello)
Mon 4th Dec 2023

QUB Flute Workshop for Undergraduate Student work (Composition 2)
Tues 5th Dec 2023

QUB PhD Composition Workshop (Lara Weaver) with Full Ensemble
Thurs 25th Jan 2024

QUB Introduction to Solo Flute Workshop for Undergraduate Student work (Composition 1)
31st Jan 2024

QUB Ensemble Audio Engineering Workshop
Sonic Lab, QUB, Belfast - Saturday 9th March 2024

QUB Flute & Piano Duo Workshop 1 (Composition 1)
McMordie Hall, QUB, Belfast - Wednesday 13th March 2024

QUB Flute & Piano Duo Workshop 2 (Composition 1)
McMordie Hall, QUB, Belfast - Wednesday 24th April 2024

And we have one more to complete:

QUB PhD Composition Workshop (Robert Coleman) with Full Ensemble
7th July 2024

Recording:

This year the ensemble has continued to build up their library of online recordings with multiple live recordings from concerts throughout the season. This is a very valuable resource, not only to HRSE in terms of promotion and cataloguing performances, but also a lifeline for the composers represented who use these videos for crucial development opportunities.

Commissions:

Commissions for this season included two commissions for Raymond Deane and Stephen Gardner from Arts Council Ireland. We also had the usual three PRSf funded works from early career composers and this year they were from Rebecca Doherty, Sarah Colgan and Orly Watson. The Peter Rosser competition yielded three finalists and the premiere of works by Sam Chambers (winner), Laura Heneghan and Kevin Free. We received funding in January from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Commissions award for which Gareth Williams and Deirdre Gribbin are currently writing for our 24/25 season. Unfortunately, our application to Arts Council Ireland was unsuccessful. However other new works are in process for premiere by HRSE and we have recently received pieces by Dominique Lemaitre and Geoff Hannan. Next year's call for proposals for our PRSf commissions will open next Friday 28th June 2024 and close on Friday 16th August. Selection will be made by 1st September 2024.

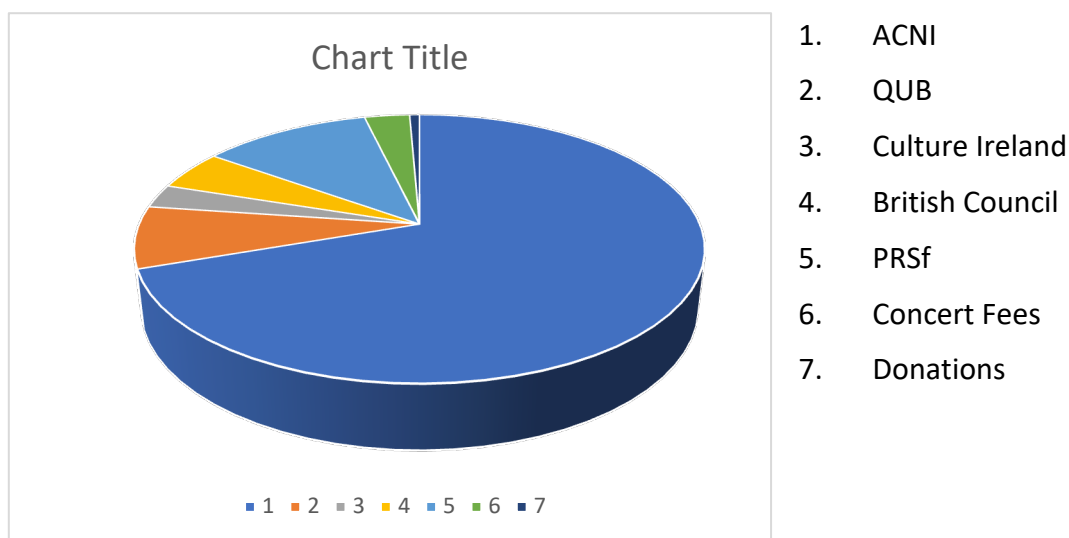
Funding:

The season's activities were supported through successful funding applications which included the **ACNI Project Funding for Organisations, PRSf Talent Development Partnership** and funds accessed through QUB's **Hamilton Harty Bursary**. Additional funding was awarded by **British Council** for the purpose of participating in their UK/Poland projects in 2025 for which plans are progressing. HRSE also accessed funds from **Culture Ireland** and **Belfast City Council** (both awaiting payment) in order to participate in a high-profile Showcase concert at Classical:NEXT in Berlin in May.

The remainder of HRSE's income came from earned income and profits from workshop fees after performers had been paid.

HRSE heard recently that whilst it will again be supported through the **PRSf Talent Development Partnership** for 2024/25, PRSf have altered and widened their scheme and HRSE will unfortunately not be supported during 2025-27. It was suggested that HRSE must demonstrate more diversity in the composers supported (or efforts towards such) but that we had made a very strong application and will be retained in terms of the talent development network and able to gain from continued association.

A breakdown of how HRSE was funded in 2023-24 is illustrated in the pie chart below.



Next Season's funding:

The annual application for **ACNI Project Funding** (Lottery Funds) was submitted on 6th May 2024 and decision is due in early-July. The Project Funding ceiling had been raised to £75K for 2023/24 and our application asked for an uplift on last year.

PRSf funding of £10k towards early career composer commissions, showcase and admin has been approved, though payments are still outstanding (final payment of last year's grant and first payment of this years).

Our **Industry Professional** budget remains at a maximum of £8k, and £6650 of funding was accessed this year (slightly less than normal due to the vacant Head of Composition post in Semester 2).

Our application to the **Hamilton Harty Bursary** is pending at this stage.

British Council has awarded us £10k for the UK/Poland project in 2025.

External bookings for upcoming concerts in 24/25 include Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Sheffield University, AzTak Festival, New Music Week St Andrews and a concert in Limerick for RTE Lyric FM.

Concert Income – Current Season:

Concert income for the season stands at **£3,624** and is itemised as follows:

- QUB Lunchtime Recital - £1000
- Hugh Lane Gallery (Dublin) - £1,864 (awaiting payment)
- Box Office - £760

Financial:

Draft annual accounts have recently been drawn up for the organisation by **Donald Minshull Chartered Accountants**, up to the end of March 2024. The accounts show an annual turnover of **£109,825** for the tax year 2023/24.

Partner Organisations:

HRSE's partnership with **QUB** has been maintained and we are currently confirming support for the coming season.

New partnerships this season were forged with **Ulster Touring Opera, Dumbworld** and **University of Ulster** and existing partnerships have been built upon with **Contemporary Music Centre, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Ulster Museum** and **Maiden Voyage Dance**.

Staffing:

The appointment of Aisling Agnew as Interim Artistic Director (taking up post in Sep 2023) has been a significant development in the organisation. As a founder member of the ensemble, Aisling's extended role at the organisation's helm brings renewed insight, direction, and enthusiasm to HRSE. Sinead Hayes has acted as Interim Concert Manager for the season and has also brought many skills, enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge to the organisation.

Press and Marketing:

This Season's brochure was a 25-page publication and was distributed in print extensively around the city. A PDF version was also distributed electronically and was made available to download on our website. We also printed season postcards with the artwork and concert details which were a great addition in advertising events.

The Ensemble's website was updated at the start of the season, and throughout, and has been used in conjunction with social media (twitter, Facebook and Instagram) to promote the organisation.

In addition, regular publicity campaigns using Mail Chimp were mounted in the run up to events. Other means of publicity, including our partner organisation's websites and mailing lists, have also been used extensively.

All our publicity and design work above was carried out by **Paula Caffrey**, an arrangement that has allowed the administrators time to focus on other matters. Their bespoke design led publicity and

social media work, in conjunction with their brochure design, ensures a corporate feel across all materials. This is an arrangement that works extremely well and the strong branding of the group is well-noted.

Audiences:

Our events have been very well attended this season, almost to capacity at some events. Only one concert had less than 50 audience members and most were close to 100. Though we still feel we would like to generate increased student attendance, we noticed new audiences this season and sense the group is reaching outside of its core regular audience. Wider media attention (and additional PR around the Classical:NEXT event) also helped to reach new listeners, and our pop-up events at Ulster Museum and the upcoming Make Music Day event on 21st June are all helping to increase HRSE's audience engagement.

Succession Planning:

Greg Caffrey finished his 10-year tenure last season and having shadowed this role, Aisling Agnew has been acting as Artistic Director throughout the current season. Following discussions with Music Officer Ciaran Scullion at Arts Council the role is currently being advertised and applicants for the position will be shortlisted by Gail Prentice and Greg Caffrey for interview on 24th June. The Concert Manager role will subsequently be advertised in July once the AD post has been finalized.

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Annual return

NI CHARITY REF - 102506

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE

(a charitable association)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

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CHARITY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Prentice	CHAIR
Paul O'Reilly	TREASURER
Jonny McGeown	SECRETARY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Donald R Minshull FCA

ACCOUNTANT

Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
364 Lisburn Road
BELFAST
BT9 6GL

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Queen's University Belfast
School of Arts English and Languages
Sonic Arts Research Centre
4 Cloreen Park
BELFAST
BT9 5HN

NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER

102506

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of the company, present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP and confirm that the reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation was the Charities SORP (FRS102).

TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity during the financial year were as stated on page 2.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are

- to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of events, performances, information, exhibitions and training as the Committee shall determine
- to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music to develop appreciation and encourage participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music
- to advance education through the promotion and support of modern and contemporary chamber music and, in this respect, promoting concerts using postgraduate soloists and local composers of music for the benefit of their education
- to encourage the artistic creativity and enhance the general knowledge and understanding of the beneficiaries in modern and contemporary chamber music and related musical and cultural activities
- to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the charity has obtained funding from many sources. This has enabled it to take part in the following activities and events

- A New Beginning concert at Queen's University Belfast
- Under The Sky concert at Queen's University Belfast
- Ink Still Wet VII premieres
- Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble Featured Young Artists Recital
- Plugged In International Woman's Day concert
- Ulster Youth Orchestra join concert at Harty Room, Queen's University, Belfast
- Classical:NEXT Showcase Concert at Holzmarkt, Berlin
- Gallery Music concerts at the Ulster Museum and Hugh Lane Gallery
- Workshops for clarinet, flute, composition, duo, other ensembles and audio engineering
- Continuing to build a library of recordings, online
- Commissions for Raymond Deane, Stephen Gardner, Rebecca Doherty, Sarah Colgan, Orly Watson, Sam Chambers, Laura Heneghan and Kevin Free

therefore the objectives are being achieved in a very positive manner.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related parties to report save the board of trustees, and no transactions to report.

RESULTS

The surplus for the year was £5,808 (2023: £ 13,517 deficit)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

CHARITABLE STATUS

The charity is an unincorporated charitable association. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under reference number 102506.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits flowing from the purposes

- (1) The benefits flowing from this purpose are in the the raising of awareness of art/music as a passive or active activity that enables the population to enhance their quality of life through participation/ engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities. The improvement of interpretation of this music offers the population a quality of provision in line with other major cities. In addition, we believe that communities can now benefit, socially and culturally, from exposure to this music that has been previously difficult to access
- (2),The benefit which flows from these is that the organisation broadens the understanding and enriches
- (3) cultural awareness, particularly in young people, for contemporary music. We make this music accessible through a programme of workshops enabling engagement and participation. More widely we improve awareness of the music amongst the general public through our promotion and concert programming
- (4) The benefit flowing from this purpose is seen in the boost the existence of our organisation provides to musical artists locally, both performers and composers. The ensemble encourages the appreciation of art music, that originates in our community, by the wider local community. The ensemble encourages players and composers to become involved in music that is non-commercial, but has instead genuine creative artistic merit at its core
- (5) The benefit flowing from this purpose is in the broadening out of the general remit of the ensemble as a means of attracting and building new audiences of people within the community for this music. Benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven and evidenced through monitoring the breadth of music that we promote throughout our seasons, noting the number of local composers programmed and number of local works performed, the number of premiere performances and the number of repeat performances. Audience surveys are used at events to assess audience satisfaction – information is collated and used to inform future events thereby improving the direct benefit to the public. In workshops students and participants are surveyed to ensure that they are benefiting directly from the event. Activities such as the organisation's engagement with art students demonstrate the broadening of our activities where we feel the music might benefit a wider audience base or attract young people outside the spectrum of modern and contemporary music and encourage them to become actively or passively involved. Our work in specially organized workshops with young composers and performers and through a series of pre-concert talks given throughout our programme, helps young people improve the technical language required to communicate and helps them build confidence in their creative and expressive abilities. This benefit is demonstrated in and evidenced by an improved capability and facility in their studies as a result. Letters of recommendation from their professors are testament to this outcome. No harm arises from our purpose. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are that musicians and composers, who are the subject of our season's focus, stand to benefit in terms of their own professional experience, and while the organization seeks to "promote contemporary music" as stated in its objects, artists careers will be promoted as incidental to that. Normally HRSE do not charge for educational workshops and concert activities have pricing arrangements to include concessions for unemployed. Indeed, we have use "test drive the arts", a facility that allows anyone to sign up for pre-allocated tickets at no charge to allow them to engage with our ensemble for the first time.

The beneficiaries are the general public and young people (14-25 year olds) and no one connected to the organisation gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY

Reserves at 31 March 2024 were £19,799 . The company's core expenditure is well controlled due to the nature of the operations. It continues to expand its charitable and fund raising activities to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The profile of expenditure is as agreed with the funders when applicable.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements if

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY (continued)

identified as such. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impact of coronavirus restrictions meant that there had been a reduction in physical in-person gatherings for performances and workshops and an increase in online activity. Now back to normal there has been no impact on the charity's sustainability due to the relatively low overhead model. The trustees are satisfied that the charity can continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees, having considered the charity's income streams, financial means and strategy for dealing with issues such as the impact of Covid-19, over the next 12-18 months, are satisfied that the going concern basis is appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS

As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 the charity is exempt from the statutory audit requirement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Donald R Minshull FCA of Minshull & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, offers himself for re-appointment.



Gail Prentice
Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Date 17 June 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

I have examined the financial statements, on pages 7 to 12, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI, as required under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act
2. The the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1. to 4. listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Donald R Minshull FCA
Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Date 17 June 2024

*19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN BT28 2GN*

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOME	Note	2024		2023	
		£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Concert Fees		-	3,478	3,478	23,575
Donations		-	760	760	1,355
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>					
Revenue grants and contracts credited	6	104,017	-	104,017	60,820
Other income		-	1,500	1,500	50
<i>Investment Income</i>					
Bank interest		-	70	70	30
		104,017	5,808	109,825	85,830
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Artists Fees		39,635	-	39,635	35,645
Travel and Accommodation Expenses		12,364	-	12,364	13,233
Accommodation		-	-	-	-
Piano Expenses		900	-	900	150
Equipment Purchase		-	-	-	-
Commissions		7,206	-	7,206	6,500
Prizes		-	-	-	-
Workshop Fees		2,020	-	2,020	2,036
Score Hire		190	-	190	553
Total		(62,315)	-	(62,315)	(58,117)
Income less charitable activities direct costs		41,702	5,808	47,510	27,713
Charitable activities - support costs					
Insurance		675	-	675	452
Equipment repairs and leasing		710	-	710	549
Postage, stationery and office supplies		13	-	13	142
Advertising and publicity		6,139	-	6,139	5,112
Artistic Director & Concert Manager		31,675	-	31,675	33,000
Bank interest and charges		281	-	281	127
Depreciation		40	-	40	40
Sundry expenses		377	-	377	284
Governance costs					
Accountancy & Audit Fees		1,140	-	1,140	900
Legal and professional fees		652	-	651	625
Total		(41,702)	-	(41,702)	(41,230)
Net in/(out)ward resources for the period 2		-	5,808	5,808	(13,517)
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2023		-	13,991	13,991	27,508
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2024		-	19,799	19,799	13,991

The charity made no other gains or losses during the year other than those stated above
The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		560		600
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		2,000		1,000	
Cash at bank and on hand		26,906		13,531	
		<u>28,906</u>		<u>14,531</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	6,895		240	
Accruals		2,772		900	
Other taxes		-		-	
		<u>9,667</u>		<u>1,140</u>	
Net Current Assets			19,239		13,391
Net Assets			<u>19,799</u>		<u>13,991</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve			19,799		13,991
Restricted Funds			-		-
Balance at 31 March 2024			<u>19,799</u>		<u>13,991</u>

For the financial year in question the charity was entitled to exemption under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 relating to small charities. No one has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved, and authorised to be issued, by the Board of Trustees on the date below and signed on its behalf by

Gail Prentice
Trustee

Date 17 June 2024

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the

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

(b) Reconciliation With Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have decided that in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 no restatement of comparative items was required.

(c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The company reports -£5,808 cash outflow for the year and the trustees have formulated a strategy that will secure the immediate future of the company for the next 12 to 18 months and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

(d) Income

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, of a revenue nature, is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not repayable to the funder.

Capital grants are amortised in line with the depreciation of the associated assets, the purchase of which has been funded by said grants.

(e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the item by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company, normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the financial institution.

(g) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the company. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity that the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the company's work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

(h) **Expenditure and Irrecoverable Value Added Tax**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading
- expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the company
- governance and support costs include all other costs

Unrecovered Value Added Tax is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(i) **Support Costs**

Support costs are disclosed separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) **Tangible Fixed Assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £200 or more are stated in the accounts at original cost less depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives, using the following annual rate :

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25.00% -	33.33%
----------------------------------	----------	--------

(k) **Debtors**

Debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

(l) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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

(m) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts.

(n) **Financial Instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

(p) **Charity status and members liability**

The charity is an unincorporated association. The members are the trustees as listed page 2.

2. DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING:

Accountancy Fees	£ 790
Examination Fees	350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

3. TRUSTEES

The trustees received no emoluments nor expenses during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

Number of personnel

The average weekly number of persons engaged by the charity, excluding trustees, during the year was:

	2024 number	2023 number
Managerial and administration	2	2
	2	2
The remuneration paid to these persons was	£	£
Artistic Director and Concert Manager	31,675	33,000
	31,675	33,000

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: £nil). As the above persons are self employed there are no associated pension costs.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
at 1 April 2023	640	640
Additions	-	-
	640	640
DEPRECIATION		
at 1 April 2023	40	40
Charge for the Year	40	40
	80	80
NET BOOK VALUE		
at 31 March 2024	560	560

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

6. RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS AND FEES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Funder - Arts Council Northern Ireland	79,411	26,827
Queen's University Belfast	8,510	13,885
Culture Ireland	3,251	6,348
British Council	5,500	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	13,000	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amounts received in year	109,672	60,060
Amount accrued at 1 April 2023	(1,000)	-
Amount deferred at 1 April 2023	240	-
Amount accrued at 31 March 2024	2,000	1,000
Amount deferred at 31 March 2024	(6,895)	(240)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	104,017	60,820
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

	Opening Balance	Income/ Credits	Expenditure/ Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	74,986	(74,986)	-
Queen's University Belfast	-	7,510	(7,510)	-
Culture Ireland	-	3,251	(3,251)	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
British Council	-	5,270	(5,270)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	104,017	(104,017)	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions to note.

9. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is an unincorporated association. The charity's Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's reference can be found on the company information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Accounts

NI CHARITY REF - 102506

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE

(a charitable association)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2023

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CHARITY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Prentice	CHAIR
Paul O'Reilly	TREASURER
Jonny McGeown	SECRETARY
James Cunningham	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Donald R Minshull FCA

ACCOUNTANT

Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
364 Lisburn Road
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BT9 6GL

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Queen's University Belfast
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Sonic Arts Research Centre
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BT9 5HN

NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER

102506

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP and confirm that the reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation was the Charities SORP (FRS102).

TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity during the financial year were as stated on page 2.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are

- to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of events, performances, information, exhibitions and training as the Committee shall determine
- to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music to develop appreciation and encourage participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music
- to advance education through the promotion and support of modern and contemporary chamber music and, in this respect, promoting concerts using postgraduate soloists and local composers of music for the benefit of their education
- to encourage the artistic creativity and enhance the general knowledge and understanding of the beneficiaries in modern and contemporary chamber music and related musical and cultural activities
- to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the charity has obtained funding from many sources. This has enabled it to take part in the following activities and events

- Hard Sonorities at Queen's University Belfast
- Ulster Youth Orchestra workshop and concert
- Corcoran in Dublin
- New Horizons at Queen's University Belfast
- Academy of Urbanism at Ulster Museum
- Schoenberg Revisited with Maiden Voyage Dance at Queen's University Belfast
- Musicahora Festival in Chile
- Various instrument performance workshops
- Augmented Vocality
- Ink Still Wet VI
- Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble Featured Young Artists Recital
- Inner as part of International Women's Day
- Various Pierrot Lunaire events and activities

therefore the objectives are being achieved in a very positive manner.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related parties to report save the board of trustees.

RESULTS

The deficit for the year was £13,517 (2022: £ 16,512 surplus)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

CHARITABLE STATUS

The charity is an unincorporated charitable association. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under reference number 102506.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits flowing from the purposes

- (1) The benefits flowing from this purpose are in the the raising of awareness of art/music as a passive or active activity that enables the population to enhance their quality of life through participation/ engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities. The improvement of interpretation of this music offers the population a quality of provision in line with other major cities. In addition, we believe that communities can now benefit, socially and culturally, from exposure to this music that has been previously difficult to access
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- (3) cultural awareness, particularly in young people, for contemporary music. We make this music accessible through a programme of workshops enabling engagement and participation. More widely we improve awareness of the music amongst the general public through our promotion and concert programming
- (4) The benefit flowing from this purpose is seen in the boost the existence of our organisation provides to musical artists locally, both performers and composers. The ensemble encourages the appreciation of art music, that originates in our community, by the wider local community. The ensemble encourages players and composers to become involved in music that is non-commercial, but has instead genuine creative artistic merit at its core
- (5) The benefit flowing from this purpose is in the broadening out of the general remit of the ensemble as a means of attracting and building new audiences of people within the community for this music. Benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven and evidenced through monitoring the breadth of music that we promote throughout our seasons, noting the number of local composers programmed and number of local works performed, the number of premiere performances and the number of repeat performances. Audience surveys are used at events to assess audience satisfaction – information is collated and used to inform future events thereby improving the direct benefit to the public. In workshops students and participants are surveyed to ensure that they are benefiting directly from the event. Activities such as the organisation's engagement with art students demonstrate the broadening of our activities where we feel the music might benefit a wider audience base or attract young people outside the spectrum of modern and contemporary music and encourage them to become actively or passively involved. Our work in specially organized workshops with young composers and performers and through a series of pre-concert talks given throughout our programme, helps young people improve the technical language required to communicate and helps them build confidence in their creative and expressive abilities. This benefit is demonstrated in and evidenced by an improved capability and facility in their studies as a result. Letters of recommendation from their professors are testament to this outcome. No harm arises from our purpose. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are that musicians and composers, who are the subject of our season's focus, stand to benefit in terms of their own professional experience, and while the organization seeks to "promote contemporary music" as stated in its objects, artists careers will be promoted as incidental to that. Normally HRSE do not charge for educational workshops and concert activities have pricing arrangements to include concessions for unemployed. Indeed, we have use "test drive the arts", a facility that allows anyone to sign up for pre-allocated tickets at no charge to allow them to engage with our ensemble for the first time.

The beneficiaries are the general public and young people (14-25 year olds) and no one connected to the organisation gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY

Reserves at 31 March 2023 were £13,991 . The company's core expenditure is well controlled due to the nature of the operations. It continues to expand its charitable and fund raising activities to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The profile of expenditure is as agreed with the funders when applicable.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements if

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY (continued)

identified as such. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impact of coronavirus restrictions meant that there had been a reduction in physical in-person gatherings for performances and workshops and an increase in online activity. Now back to normal there has been no impact on the charity's sustainability due to the relatively low overhead model. The trustees are satisfied that the charity can continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees, having considered the charity's income streams, financial means and strategy for dealing with issues such as the impact of Covid-19, over the next 12-18 months, are satisfied that the going concern basis is appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS

As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 the charity is exempt from the statutory audit requirement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Donald R Minshull FCA of Minshull & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, offers himself for re-appointment.

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Gail Prentice

Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Date 12 May 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

I have examined the financial statements, on pages 7 to 12, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI, as required under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act
2. The the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1. to 4. listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INCOME	Note	2023			2022	
		£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total	£
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
Concert Fees		-	23,575	23,575		6,564
Donations		-	1,355	1,355		1,066
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>						
Revenue grants and contracts credited	6	60,820	-	60,820		73,751
<i>Investment Income</i>						
Bank interest		-	30	30		198
		60,820	25,010	85,830		81,579
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
Artists Fees		29,105	6,540	35,645		24,442
Travel Expenses		7,764	-	7,764		-
Accommodation		1,101	4,369	5,469		3,049
Piano Expenses		-	150	150		-
Equipment Purchase		-	-	-		1,913
Commissions		6,500	-	6,500		4,500
Prizes		-	-	-		1,525
Workshop Fees		2,036	-	2,036		-
Score Hire		100	453	553		171
Total		(46,606)	(11,511)	(58,117)		(35,600)
Income less charitable activities direct costs		14,214	13,499	27,713		45,979
Charitable activities - support costs						
Insurance		248	204	452		1,213
Online Management		164	204	368		393
Equipment repairs and leasing		80	469	549		-
Postage, stationery and office supplies		-	142	142		-
Advertising and publicity		2,336	2,408	4,744		3,496
Artistic Director & Concert Manager		11,353	21,647	33,000		24,000
Training & conferences		-	-	-		200
Bank interest and charges		33	94	127		113
Depreciation		-	40	40		-
Sundry expenses		-	284	284		52
Governance costs						
Accountancy & Audit Fees		-	900	900		-
Legal and professional fees		-	624	624		-
Total		(14,214)	(27,016)	(41,230)		(29,467)
Net in/(out)ward resources for the period 2		-	(13,517)	(13,517)		16,512
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2022		-	27,508	27,508		10,996
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2023		-	13,991	13,991		27,508

The charity made no other gains or losses during the year other than those stated above
The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

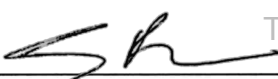
	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		600		-
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		1,000		-	
Cash at bank and on hand		13,531		28,070	
		<u>14,531</u>		<u>28,070</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	240		-	
Accruals		901		562	
Other taxes		-		-	
		<u>1,141</u>		<u>562</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>13,391</u>		<u>27,508</u>
Net Assets			<u>13,991</u>		<u>27,508</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve			13,991		27,508
Restricted Funds			-		-
Balance at 31 March 2023			<u>13,991</u>		<u>27,508</u>

For the financial year in question the charity was entitled to exemption under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 relating to small charities. No one has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved, and authorised to be issued, by the Board of Trustees on the date below and signed on its behalf by

 Type text here

Gail Prentice
Trustee

Date 12 May 2023

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the

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

(b) Reconciliation With Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have decided that in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 no restatement of comparative items was required.

(c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The company reports £13,517 cash outflow for the year and the trustees have formulated a strategy that will secure the immediate future of the company for the next 12 to 18 months and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

(d) Income

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, of a revenue nature, is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not repayable to the funder.

Capital grants are amortised in line with the depreciation of the associated assets, the purchase of which has been funded by said grants.

(e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the item by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company, normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the financial institution.

(g) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the company. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity that the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the company's work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

(h) **Expenditure and Irrecoverable Value Added Tax**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading
- expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the company
- governance and support costs include all other costs

Unrecovered Value Added Tax is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(i) **Support Costs**

Support costs are disclosed separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) **Tangible Fixed Assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £200 or more are stated in the accounts at original cost less depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives, using the following annual rate :

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25.00% -	33.33%
----------------------------------	----------	--------

(k) **Debtors**

Debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

(l) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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

(m) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts.

(n) **Financial Instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

(p) **Charity status and members liability**

The charity is an unincorporated association. The members are the trustees as listed page 2.

2. DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING:

Accountancy Fees	£
Examination Fees	550
	350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

3. TRUSTEES

The trustees received no emoluments nor expenses during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

Number of personnel

The average weekly number of persons engaged by the charity, excluding trustees, during the year was:

	2023 number	2022 number
Managerial and administration	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
The remuneration paid to these persons was	£	£
Artistic Director and Concert Manager	33,000	24,000
	<u>33,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: £nil). As the above persons are self employed there are no associated pension costs.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
at 1 April 2022	-	-
Additions	640	640
	<u>640</u>	<u>640</u>
at 31 March 2023	640	640
DEPRECIATION		
at 1 April 2022	-	-
Charge for the Year	40	40
	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
at 31 March 2023	40	40
NET BOOK VALUE		
at 31 March 2023	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

6. RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS AND FEES	2023	2022
	£	£
Funder - Arts Council Northern Ireland	26,827	55,925
Queen's University Belfast	13,885	3,350
Culture Ireland	6,348	-
Arts Council Northern Ireland - Stability and Renewal Fund	-	1,476
Performing Rights Society Fund	13,000	13,000
Total amounts received in year	60,059	73,751
Amount accrued at 31 March 2023	1,000	-
Amount deferred at 31 March 2023	(240)	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	60,820	73,751

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

	Opening Balance	Income/ Credits	Expenditure/ Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	26,587	(26,587)	-
Queen's University Belfast	-	14,885	(14,885)	-
Culture Ireland	-	6,348	(6,348)	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
Total	-	60,820	(60,820)	-

8. RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions to note.

9. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is an unincorporated association. The charity's Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's reference can be found on the company information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Annual report



Chairperson's Report Annual General Meeting Wed 31st May 2023

Chairperson: Gail Prentice.

The report below aims to give an overview of the 2022-23 season, focusing on its content, management, funding and issues that arose. Much of the contents of this report will have been aired and discussed previously, at biannual meetings, however a summary is provided below.

The Season

The 22/23 season comprised a total of 10 concerts:

5th September 2022 - Musicahora Festival, Chile

28th October 2022 - Augmented Vocality

27th January 2023 - Ink Still Wet VI

16th February 2023 - HRSE Featured Young Artists Recital

8th March 2023 - Inner, International Women's Day

28th March 2023 - Pierrot Lunaire (SARC)

29th March 2023 - Pierrot Lunaire (Seamus Heaney Homeplace)

30th March 2023 - Pierrot Lunaire Audio Recording

31 March 2023 - Pierrot Lunaire Video Recording

1st April 2023 - UYO Workshop and Concert.

26th May 2023 – French Connection

Two concerts are still pending:

16th June 2023 – Nieuwe Noten (Belfast)

18th June 2023 - Nieuwe Noten (Amsterdam)

In addition, members of HRSE gave the following 5 workshops at QUB:

24th Oct 2022 - Cello Workshop QUB

5th Dec 2022 - Flute & Violin Workshop

7th Dec 2022 - Solo Flute Workshop

27th April 2023 – Full Ensemble (incl. conductor) Year 3 Composition Workshop

28th April 2023 – Full Ensemble (incl. conductor) Audio Engineering Workshop

Recording

This year saw the ensemble make an audio and video recording of Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire. This took two full days in addition to what was a 4 day patch. The video is still in the process of editing, but we hope will be ready by the end of season.

The purpose of the video is for general promotional use on Youtube, however there may be an opportunity to release the work as a CD or online album in future.

Workshops

All workshops were completed this year on a face-to-face basis.

Performances:

All scheduled concerts took place as planned, except for some expected personnel changes due to illness and regular players being unavailable.

Commissions:

Commissions for this season included a new ACNI supported arrangement of a Greg Caffrey song cycle on text by Seamus Heaney. We also had the usual three PRSf funded works from early career composers. This year these were from Matt Dowie, Sam Kane and Aidan Maclean. The composer Ian Wilson received funding from **ACNI Creative Individuals Recovery Programme** to write a new work for contrabass clarinet and the ensemble which featured in our Ink Still Wet VI concert. Unfortunately, our application to the ACNI commissioning fund was unsuccessful. An application has been made to Arts Council Ireland

for two commissions for Raymond Deane and Stephen Gardner. The decision on this application is still pending.

Next year's call for proposals for our PRSf commissions closes this Friday 2nd June 2023. Selection will be made before 16th June 2023.

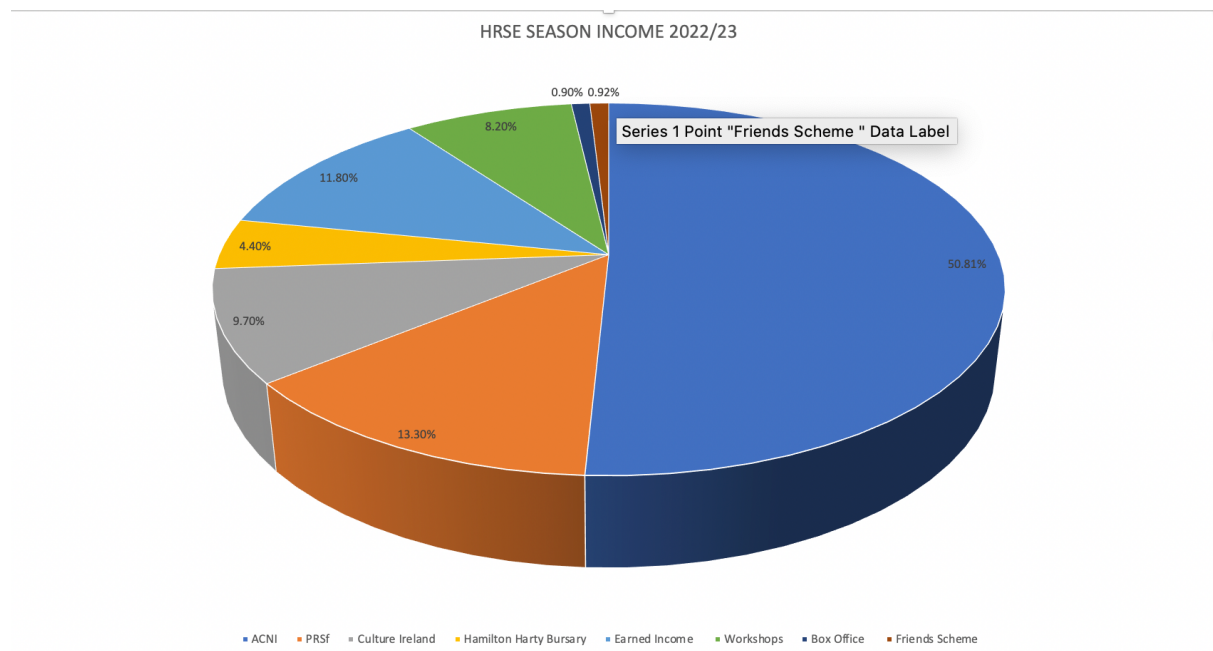
Funding:

The season's activities were supported through successful funding applications which included the **ACNI Project Funding for Organisations, PRSf Talent Development Partnership** and funds accessed through QUB's **Hamilton Harty Bursary**. Additional funding was sought in response to a call from **British Council** for the purpose of a 'scoping visit' to Poland to plan possible projects for 2025. HRSE also accessed funds from **Culture Ireland** to fund 2 concerts abroad: Musicahora (Chile) and Nieuwe Noten (Amsterdam).

The remainder of HRSE's income came from earned income and profits from workshop fees after performers had been paid.

HRSE is delighted to hear that it will once again be supported through the **PRSf Talent Development Partnership**. PRSf had informed us two years ago that it would not be supporting all its existing clients in the future. HRSE is one of the organisations to be retained in PRSf's portfolio of clients.

A breakdown of how HRSE is funded in 2021-22 is illustrated in the pie chart below.



Next Season's funding:

The annual application for **ACNI Project Funding** (Lottery Funds) is in the process of completion and is due on 5th June 2023. Decision is due in mid-July. The Project Funding ceiling has been raised to £75K for 2023/24. It is envisaged that our application will ask for an uplift on last year.

PRSF funding of £13k towards early career composer commissions, showcase and admin has been approved, though payments are still outstanding (final payment of last year's grant and first payment of this years).

Our **Industry Professional** budget remains at a maximum of £8k, and the full amount of funding was accessed this year.

Our application to the Hamilton Harty Bursary is pending at this stage.

Concert Income – Current Season:

Concert income for the season stands at **£10,428** and is itemised as follows:

- Birmingham Conservatoire (Augmented Vocality) - £6,000
- QUB Lunchtime Recital - £700
- Musicahora Chile - £1,864
- Nieuwe Noten (Amsterdam) - £1,864

Financial:

Interim annual accounts have recently been drawn up for the organisation by **Donald Minshull Chartered Accountants**, up to the end of March 2022, to facilitate future funding applications. The accounts show an annual turnover of **£85,830** for the tax year 2021/22.

Partner Organisations:

HRSE's partnership with **QUB** has been maintained and we are currently seeking support for the coming season.

New partnerships this season were forged with **Birmingham Conservatoire, Musicahora Festival, Chile** and with **Nieuwe Noten, Amsterdam**. Existing partnerships have been built upon with **Contemporary Music Centre** and **Ulster Youth Orchestra**.

Staffing:

The appointment of Aisling Agnew as Concert Manager (who took up post in Dec 2021) has continued to be one of the most significant developments in the organisation. Aisling was a founder member of the ensemble and her extended role in the organisation's administration brings renewed insight, commitment, and enthusiasm to HRSE. Aisling has been shadowing the Artistic Director during the current season. See below on Succession Planning.

Press and Marketing:

This Season's brochure was again a 40-page publication and was distributed online only. Next season we are planning a return to a hard copy brochure.

A PDF version was distributed electronically and was made available to download on our website.

The Ensemble's website was updated at the start of the season, and throughout, and has been used in conjunction with social media (twitter, Facebook and Instagram) to promote the organisation.

In addition, regular publicity campaigns using Mail Chimp were mounted in the run up to events. Other means of publicity, including our partner organisation's websites and mailing lists, have also been used extensively.

All our publicity and design work above was carried out by **27Graphique**, an arrangement that has allowed the administrators time to focus on other matters. Their design led publicity and social media work, in conjunction with their brochure design, ensures a corporate feel across all materials. This is an arrangement that has worked extremely well now in its 2nd year of implementation.

Audience:

Our events have been reasonably well attended, though we feel we would benefit from improved student attendance. In particular, our Augmented Vocality, Ink Still Wet VI and Pierrot (Belfast) concerts were particularly well attended.

Succession Planning:

HRSE Artistic Director finishes his tenure with the ensemble at the end of June after 10 Years. Aisling Agnew has been shadowing this role during the current season and it is hoped that she will take on the responsibilities of Artistic Direction for a reviewable interim period of 6 months. Discussions with Music Officer Ciaran Scullion at Arts Council on 31st May 2023 confirmed that the Artistic Director's role can indeed be filled from within the organization for this limited time period. It was also suggested by Ciaran Scullion that another limited term appointment (again 6 months) can be made to cover the vacant Concert Manager position. After the 6-month interim period, both posts will have to be advertised. In exceptional circumstances the interim posts can be (at ACNI's discretion) extended to a maximum of 11 months.

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102506

Annual return

NI CHARITY REF - 102506

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE

(a charitable association)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2023

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Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
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CHARITY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Prentice	CHAIR
Paul O'Reilly	TREASURER
Jonny McGeown	SECRETARY
James Cunningham	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Donald R Minshull FCA

ACCOUNTANT

Minshull & Co
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
19 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
364 Lisburn Road
BELFAST
BT9 6GL

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Queen's University Belfast
School of Arts English and Languages
Sonic Arts Research Centre
4 Cloreen Park
BELFAST
BT9 5HN

NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY REFERENCE NUMBER

102506

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of the company, present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP and confirm that the reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation was the Charities SORP (FRS102).

TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity during the financial year were as stated on page 2.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are

- to promote and improve modern and contemporary chamber music and works of artistic merit for the public benefit by the provision of events, performances, information, exhibitions and training as the Committee shall determine
- to advance education and promote learning about the creative processes involved in the production and performance of modern and contemporary chamber music to develop appreciation and encourage participation in the performance of modern and contemporary chamber music
- to advance education through the promotion and support of modern and contemporary chamber music and, in this respect, promoting concerts using postgraduate soloists and local composers of music for the benefit of their education
- to encourage the artistic creativity and enhance the general knowledge and understanding of the beneficiaries in modern and contemporary chamber music and related musical and cultural activities
- to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose in connection with the art of modern and contemporary chamber music and other related musical, cultural and artistic activities as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the charity has obtained funding from many sources. This has enabled it to take part in the following activities and events

- Hard Sonorities at Queen's University Belfast
- Ulster Youth Orchestra workshop and concert
- Corcoran in Dublin
- New Horizons at Queen's University Belfast
- Academy of Urbanism at Ulster Museum
- Schoenberg Revisited with Maiden Voyage Dance at Queen's University Belfast
- Musicahora Festival in Chile
- Various instrument performance workshops
- Augmented Vocality
- Ink Still Wet VI
- Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble Featured Young Artists Recital
- Inner as part of International Women's Day
- Various Pierrot Lunaire events and activities

therefore the objectives are being achieved in a very positive manner.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related parties to report save the board of trustees.

RESULTS

The deficit for the year was £13,517 (2022: £ 16,512 surplus)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

CHARITABLE STATUS

The charity is an unincorporated charitable association. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under reference number 102506.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits flowing from the purposes

- (1) The benefits flowing from this purpose are in the the raising of awareness of art/music as a passive or active activity that enables the population to enhance their quality of life through participation/ engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities. The improvement of interpretation of this music offers the population a quality of provision in line with other major cities. In addition, we believe that communities can now benefit, socially and culturally, from exposure to this music that has been previously difficult to access
- (2),The benefit which flows from these is that the organisation broadens the understanding and enriches
- (3) cultural awareness, particularly in young people, for contemporary music. We make this music accessible through a programme of workshops enabling engagement and participation. More widely we improve awareness of the music amongst the general public through our promotion and concert programming
- (4) The benefit flowing from this purpose is seen in the boost the existence of our organisation provides to musical artists locally, both performers and composers. The ensemble encourages the appreciation of art music, that originates in our community, by the wider local community. The ensemble encourages players and composers to become involved in music that is non-commercial, but has instead genuine creative artistic merit at its core
- (5) The benefit flowing from this purpose is in the broadening out of the general remit of the ensemble as a means of attracting and building new audiences of people within the community for this music. Benefits are capable of being demonstrated, proven and evidenced through monitoring the breadth of music that we promote throughout our seasons, noting the number of local composers programmed and number of local works performed, the number of premiere performances and the number of repeat performances. Audience surveys are used at events to assess audience satisfaction – information is collated and used to inform future events thereby improving the direct benefit to the public. In workshops students and participants are surveyed to ensure that they are benefiting directly from the event. Activities such as the organisation's engagement with art students demonstrate the broadening of our activities where we feel the music might benefit a wider audience base or attract young people outside the spectrum of modern and contemporary music and encourage them to become actively or passively involved. Our work in specially organized workshops with young composers and performers and through a series of pre-concert talks given throughout our programme, helps young people improve the technical language required to communicate and helps them build confidence in their creative and expressive abilities. This benefit is demonstrated in and evidenced by an improved capability and facility in their studies as a result. Letters of recommendation from their professors are testament to this outcome. No harm arises from our purpose. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are that musicians and composers, who are the subject of our season's focus, stand to benefit in terms of their own professional experience, and while the organization seeks to "promote contemporary music" as stated in its objects, artists careers will be promoted as incidental to that. Normally HRSE do not charge for educational workshops and concert activities have pricing arrangements to include concessions for unemployed. Indeed, we have use "test drive the arts", a facility that allows anyone to sign up for pre-allocated tickets at no charge to allow them to engage with our ensemble for the first time.

The beneficiaries are the general public and young people (14-25 year olds) and no one connected to the organisation gains a private benefit which is more than incidental to carrying out the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY

Reserves at 31 March 2023 were £13,991 . The company's core expenditure is well controlled due to the nature of the operations. It continues to expand its charitable and fund raising activities to ensure it reaches as many people as possible. The profile of expenditure is as agreed with the funders when applicable.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements if

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW & RESERVES POLICY (continued)

identified as such. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impact of coronavirus restrictions meant that there had been a reduction in physical in-person gatherings for performances and workshops and an increase in online activity. Now back to normal there has been no impact on the charity's sustainability due to the relatively low overhead model. The trustees are satisfied that the charity can continue to endeavour to achieve its objectives.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees, having considered the charity's income streams, financial means and strategy for dealing with issues such as the impact of Covid-19, over the next 12-18 months, are satisfied that the going concern basis is appropriate.

FUTURE PLANS

As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 the charity is exempt from the statutory audit requirement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner, Donald R Minshull FCA of Minshull & Company, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, offers himself for re-appointment.

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Gail Prentice

Trustee

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Date 12 May 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble

I have examined the financial statements, on pages 7 to 12, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes of Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI, as required under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act
2. The the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1. to 4. listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INCOME	Note	2023			2022	
		£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total	£
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
Concert Fees		-	23,575	23,575		6,564
Donations		-	1,355	1,355		1,066
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>						
Revenue grants and contracts credited	6	60,820	-	60,820		73,751
<i>Investment Income</i>						
Bank interest		-	30	30		198
		60,820	25,010	85,830		81,579
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
Artists Fees		29,105	6,540	35,645		24,442
Travel Expenses		7,764	-	7,764		-
Accommodation		1,101	4,369	5,469		3,049
Piano Expenses		-	150	150		-
Equipment Purchase		-	-	-		1,913
Commissions		6,500	-	6,500		4,500
Prizes		-	-	-		1,525
Workshop Fees		2,036	-	2,036		-
Score Hire		100	453	553		171
Total		(46,606)	(11,511)	(58,117)		(35,600)
Income less charitable activities direct costs		14,214	13,499	27,713		45,979
Charitable activities - support costs						
Insurance		248	204	452		1,213
Online Management		164	204	368		393
Equipment repairs and leasing		80	469	549		-
Postage, stationery and office supplies		-	142	142		-
Advertising and publicity		2,336	2,408	4,744		3,496
Artistic Director & Concert Manager		11,353	21,647	33,000		24,000
Training & conferences		-	-	-		200
Bank interest and charges		33	94	127		113
Depreciation		-	40	40		-
Sundry expenses		-	284	284		52
Governance costs						
Accountancy & Audit Fees		-	900	900		-
Legal and professional fees		-	624	624		-
Total		(14,214)	(27,016)	(41,230)		(29,467)
Net in/(out)ward resources for the period 2		-	(13,517)	(13,517)		16,512
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2022		-	27,508	27,508		10,996
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2023		-	13,991	13,991		27,508

The charity made no other gains or losses during the year other than those stated above
The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		600		-
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		1,000		-	
Cash at bank and on hand		13,531		28,070	
		<u>14,531</u>		<u>28,070</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	240		-	
Accruals		901		562	
Other taxes		-		-	
		<u>1,141</u>		<u>562</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>13,391</u>		<u>27,508</u>
Net Assets			<u>13,991</u>		<u>27,508</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve			13,991		27,508
Restricted Funds			-		-
Balance at 31 March 2023			<u>13,991</u>		<u>27,508</u>

For the financial year in question the charity was entitled to exemption under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 relating to small charities. No one has required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Approved, and authorised to be issued, by the Board of Trustees on the date below and signed on its behalf by

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Gail Prentice
Trustee

Date 12 May 2023

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 - Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the

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

(b) Reconciliation With Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have decided that in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 no restatement of comparative items was required.

(c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The company reports £13,517 cash outflow for the year and the trustees have formulated a strategy that will secure the immediate future of the company for the next 12 to 18 months and on that basis the charity is a going concern.

(d) Income

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, of a revenue nature, is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not repayable to the funder.

Capital grants are amortised in line with the depreciation of the associated assets, the purchase of which has been funded by said grants.

(e) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the item by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the company, normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the financial institution.

(g) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the company. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity that the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the company's work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

(h) **Expenditure and Irrecoverable Value Added Tax**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading
- expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the company
- governance and support costs include all other costs

Unrecovered Value Added Tax is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(i) **Support Costs**

Support costs are disclosed separately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) **Tangible Fixed Assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £200 or more are stated in the accounts at original cost less depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives, using the following annual rate :

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25.00% -	33.33%
----------------------------------	----------	--------

(k) **Debtors**

Debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

(l) **Cash at Bank and in Hand**

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

(m) **Creditors and Provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts.

(n) **Financial Instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) **Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement**

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow statement on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

(p) **Charity status and members liability**

The charity is an unincorporated association. The members are the trustees as listed page 2.

2. DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING:

Accountancy Fees	£
Examination Fees	550
	350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

3. TRUSTEES

The trustees received no emoluments nor expenses during the period.

4. PERSONNEL

Number of personnel

The average weekly number of persons engaged by the charity, excluding trustees, during the year was:

	2023 number	2022 number
Managerial and administration	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
The remuneration paid to these persons was	£	£
Artistic Director and Concert Manager	33,000	24,000
	<u>33,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: £nil). As the above persons are self employed there are no associated pension costs.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
at 1 April 2022	-	-
Additions	640	640
	<u>640</u>	<u>640</u>
at 31 March 2023	640	640
DEPRECIATION		
at 1 April 2022	-	-
Charge for the Year	40	40
	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
at 31 March 2023	40	40
NET BOOK VALUE		
at 31 March 2023	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(continued)

6. RESTRICTED FUND GRANTS AND FEES	2023	2022
	£	£
Funder - Arts Council Northern Ireland	26,827	55,925
Queen's University Belfast	13,885	3,350
Culture Ireland	6,348	-
Arts Council Northern Ireland - Stability and Renewal Fund	-	1,476
Performing Rights Society Fund	13,000	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amounts received in year	60,059	73,751
Amount accrued at 31 March 2023	1,000	-
Amount deferred at 31 March 2023	(240)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	60,820	73,751
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

	Opening Balance	Income/ Credits	Expenditure/ Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	26,587	(26,587)	-
Queen's University Belfast	-	14,885	(14,885)	-
Culture Ireland	-	6,348	(6,348)	-
Performing Rights Society Fund	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	60,820	(60,820)	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. RELATED PARTY

There were no related party transactions to note.

9. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble is an unincorporated association. The charity's Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's reference can be found on the company information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).