

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

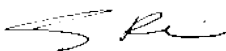
As stated above the charity continues in its attempt to find relevant funders and projects to further its objectives in the coming years.

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	-
Total		(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
Total		(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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

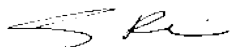
	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed Assets	5		571		560
Current Assets					
Grants receivable		3,520		2,000	
Cash at bank and on hand		29,663		26,906	
		<u>33,183</u>		<u>28,906</u>	
Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Revenue grants deferred	6	-		6,895	
Accruals		2,730		2,772	
		<u>2,730</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%
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(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	694
	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

	Fixtures & Fittings £	TOTAL £
COST		
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	-
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)	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities	116,794	104,017

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)	-
Total	-	116,794	(116,794)	-

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 (£).