

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103028

Details

Known as	SSO
Status	Received
Registered	2015-06-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	47 Creevytenant Road Ballynahinch Bt24 8uj BT24 8UJ
Phone	02892639002
Email	info@studiosymphony.org.uk
Website	www.studiosymphony.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: To advance education and to promote the arts for the benefit of the public primarily but not exclusively in Northern Ireland and its environs (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”), and to foster a knowledge of and an appreciation for the art and science of orchestral music for the benefit of the general public by: (i) Promoting the study and rehearsal of orchestral music; (ii) The presentation of public concerts and lectures; (iii) Educating the general public about orchestral music by the provision of public performances and concerts.

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

How the charity works: Arts, Education/training

Who the charity helps: Adult training, General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£19,156	£21,582	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Paula Gibson		
Mr Alan, Scott Greenlee		
Mr Eoghan O'reilly		
Mr Patrick Macaree		
Mr Philip, Hadrian Stanley		
Mrs Alison, Valerie Bell		
Mrs Gillian Acheson		
Mrs Paula Klein		
Ms Bernagh, Christine Brims		

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Accounts

COMPANY NO: NI 046714

CHARITY NUMBER XR 59938

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MICRO-ENTITY ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Independent Examiner's Report on the

Financial Statements to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

As the charity trustees, (and also directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the 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

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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 386 of the companies Act 2006
2. that the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Standard applicable in the UK
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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 of Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Accounting Solutions

Accounting Solutions
49a High Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 7HS

18th November 2025
Date:

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	<u>£</u>	<u>2025</u> <u>£</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>£</u>
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	18,213	18,213	20,615
	18,213		20,615
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(240)		(216)
Net Current Assets		17,973	20,399
Long Term Liabilities		—	—
Total Assets Less Liabilities		<u>17,973</u>	<u>20,399</u>
Retained Reserves			
Retained Reserves b/f		20,399	18,610
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>(2,426)</u>	<u>1,789</u>
		<u>17,973</u>	<u>20,399</u>

For the year ending 31/03/2025, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income		
Subscriptions	6,795	7,368
Friends of SSO	811	675
Ticket & Programme Sales	8,251	7,808
Gift Aid Claim	1,156	1,044
Retirement Dinner	-	25
Donations & Grants	150	1,300
Fundraising Activities	961	1,117
Tea & Coffee Sales	239	365
Catering	<u>793</u>	<u>490</u>
	<u>19,156</u>	<u>20,192</u>
Expenditure		
Conductor & Leader	6,400	6,230
Professionals	3,904	1,604
Music Hire	1,429	708
Hall Hire	6,440	5,932
Catering Expenses	1,005	569
Printing Costs	698	447
Transport Costs	312	1,052
Administration	312	724
Insurance & Subscriptions	371	195
Concert Expenses	77	121
Accountancy	240	216
Bank & Card Fees	254	283
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>140</u>	<u>322</u>
	<u>21,582</u>	<u>18,403</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>(2,426)</u>	<u>1,789</u>

Approval of Account

The foregoing Income & Expenditure Account was approved by the committee and signed on its behalf by

Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Notes to the Micro-Entity Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Income

This represents the amount derived from concert performances, donations, subscriptions and fund raising events.

(c) Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by HMRC under reference XR 59938.

2. Share Capital

The Studio Symphony Orchestra is a company limited by guarantee and without share capital.

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Accounts

COMPANY NO: NI 046714

CHARITY NUMBER XR 59938

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MICRO-ENTITY ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Independent Examiner's Report on the

Financial Statements to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

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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 of Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Accounting Solutions

Accounting Solutions
49a High Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 7HS

24th September 2024
Date:

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	<u>20,615</u>	<u>18,820</u>
	20,615	18,820
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(216)</u>	<u>(210)</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>20,399</u>	<u>18,610</u>
Long Term Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets Less Liabilities	<u>20,399</u>	<u>18,610</u>
Retained Reserves		
Retained Reserves b/f	18,610	16,237
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<u>1,789</u>	<u>2,373</u>
	<u>20,399</u>	<u>18,610</u>

For the year ending 31/03/2024, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.


Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

9 / 11 / 2024

Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	7,368	7,550
Friends of SSO	675	495
Ticket & Programme Sales	7,808	7,129
Gift Aid Claim	1,044	-
Retirement Dinner	25	1,240
Donations & Grants	1,300	291
Fundraising Activities	1,117	593
Tea & Coffee Sales	365	265
Fundraising & Catering	490	414
	<u>20,192</u>	<u>17,977</u>
Expenditure		
Conductor & Leader	6,230	7,425
Professionals	1,604	2,194
Music Hire	708	704
Hall Hire	5,932	1,760
Catering Expenses	569	1,149
Printing Costs	447	719
Transport Costs	1,052	-
Administration	724	39
Insurance & Subscriptions	195	248
Fundraising Expenses	121	154
Accountancy	216	210
Bank & Card Fees	283	461
Miscellaneous expenses	322	541
	<u>18,403</u>	<u>15,604</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>1,789</u>	<u>2,373</u>

Approval of Account

The foregoing Income & Expenditure Account was approved by the committee and signed on its behalf by


Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

9/11/2024

Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Notes to the Micro-Entity Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Income

This represents the amount derived from concert performances, donations, subscriptions and fund raising events.

(c) Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by HMRC under reference XR 59938.

2. Share Capital

The Studio Symphony Orchestra is a company limited by guarantee and without share capital.

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Annual report

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Company No. NI 046714

Charity No. NIC103028

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

For the year to 31st March 2024

Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees of the Studio Symphony Orchestra are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024.

Summary of Events

Four public concerts:

Summer Concert – St. Comgall's Parish Hall, Bangor – 3rd June 2023

Conductor: Philip Walton

Leader: Zuzanna Edmonds

Violin Soloist: Ioana Petcu-Colan

Rachmaninov - Vocalise

Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending

Mendelssohn – Symphony No 3 (Scottish)

Autumn concert – St. Comgall's Parish Hall, Bangor 14th October 2023

Conductor: Tanya Houghton

Leader: Zuzanna Edmonds

Soloist: Rosalie Curlett

Tchaikovsky - Waltz & Polonaise from Eugene Onegin Op.24

Sibelius - Valse Triste Op. 44

Saint-Saëns - Cello Concerto No 1 in A Minor

Brahms - Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op.90

Christmas Concert - Island Arts Centre, Lisburn – 25th November 2023

Conductor: Philip Walton

Leader: Zuzanna Edmonds

Coleridge-Taylor – Christmas Overture

Rimsky-Korsakov – Polonaise from Christmas Eve Suite

Delius – Sleigh Ride

Audience carol - O Come All Ye Faithful

Prokofiev – Troika from Lieutenant Kije

Tchaikovsky – Christmas Waltz

Vivaldi – Winter

Leroy Anderson – Sleigh Ride

Leopold Mozart – Sleigh Ride (with audience participation)

Rimsky-Korsakov – Dance of the Tumblers

Mussorgsky – Introduction and Gopak from Sorochintsy Fair

Irving Berlin - White Christmas
Audience Carol – Hark the Herald Angels
Leroy Anderson – A Christmas Festival
Martin and Blane - Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Orchestral Masterpieces concert – Elmwood Hall, Belfast – 9th March 2024

Conductor: Tanya Houghton

Leader: Zuzanna Edmonds

Bassoon: Greg Topping

Sibelius – Karelia Suite

Weber – Bassoon Concerto

Tchaikovsky – Symphony No. 4

32 full orchestra rehearsals.

Accounts

Please see our accounts attached to this submission.

It will be noted that there was a surplus of £1,789 for the year leaving a retained reserve of £20,399.

Analysis of Concert costs for the 2023/24 reporting period:

Concert	Payments	Receipts	Surplus/(Loss)
Summer Concert – St. Comgall's, Bangor	£1,253.51	£1,620.80	£367.29
Autumn concert – St. Comgall's, Bangor	£1,096.70	£1,658.00	£561.30
Christmas Concert - Island Arts Centre, Lisburn	£683.59	£1,884.70	£1,201.11
Orchestral Masterpieces concert – Elmwood Hall, Belfast	£2,107.33	£2,645.00	£537.67

Analysis of Costs

Costs can be seen in the accompanying accounts. The biggest cost is for the services of our Conductor and Leader (£6,230). These are for our main professional musical direction and cannot be avoided if we are to realise our objectives as a charity. The amount for Hall Hire (£5,932) includes for rehearsals as well as concert venues.

Income 2023/24

Subscriptions	£7,368.00
Friends of the SSO	£675.00
Tickets and programme sales	£7,808.00
Gift Aid Claim	£1,044.00
Retirement Dinner	£25.00
Donations & Grants	£1,300.00
Fundraising activities	£1,117.00
Tea & Coffee	£365.00
Fundraising & Catering	£490.00
Total	£20,192.00

Governing Process and Constitution

The Studio Symphony Orchestra is constituted as a Northern Ireland Company, limited by guarantee. We are therefore governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association, which have been submitted to the Charity Commission. We are obliged to lodge accounts with Companies House annually and also with HMRC if required. The AGM for the 2022-2023 season was held on 6th June 2023 (i.e., during the reporting period for this Trustees Report).

Charity Trustees

Board members become eligible to be appointed as Charity Trustees.

The following were Trustees on 31st March 2024:

Mrs Gillian Acheson
Mrs Alison Bell
Ms Bernagh Brims
Dr Paula Gibson
Mr Alan Greenlee
Mrs Paula Klein
Mr Paddy McAree
Mr Eoghan O'Reilly
Mr Philip Stanley

Demonstration of Public Benefit of The Studio Symphony Orchestra in the year ended 31st March 2024

The purpose of The Studio Symphony Orchestra is twofold:

1. To provide education and training in orchestral music playing to the public in Northern Ireland through orchestral general and sectional (string, wind and percussion) rehearsals of a range of music given by trained orchestral musicians.

The activity includes working with choirs to perform a wide range of choral works.

The benefit flowing from this is that the participants can have a greater understanding of and skill in playing a wide range of orchestral music.

Success of this can be demonstrated through member surveys, participation levels and quality of performances (gauged through feedback from newspaper critics and tutors).

There is no perceived harm in this purpose.

The intended beneficiaries are members of the public over 18 years old who have trained to a standard in music which will enable them to participate. The Studio Symphony Orchestra does not audition potential members. People who wish to join are invited to participate in rehearsals so that they can themselves judge whether they can benefit from membership. The orchestra has reduced membership costs for senior citizens, students and those who are unwaged.

There is a private benefit to members who are teachers in that their musical abilities and knowledge in pursuit of teaching will be enhanced, but this incidental and a necessary part of the activity.

Demonstration of this purpose during year ended 31st March 2024

Rehearsals for the 2023-24 season commenced in August 2023 and continued for the entire season, up to May 2024.

2. To promote the art and appreciation of orchestral music to the general public in Northern Ireland by the presentation of public concerts, performances and lectures.

The benefit from this is a greater understanding of the works performed and a provision of performances of works which would be unlikely for the Ulster Orchestra to perform (for example Richard Strauss's Alpine Symphony which requires an orchestra of 120+ musicians and therefore very expensive to put on).

Success in this can be judged by audience surveys and audience numbers.

There is no perceived harm in this activity.

The beneficiaries of this are the general public in Northern Ireland and the members of the orchestra who are performing.

As in the first purpose, members of the orchestra who are music teachers can derive a private benefit from performances and lectures but this is incidental and a necessary part of the activity.

Demonstration of this purpose during year ended 31st March 2024

Performance of four public concerts to over 750 audience members, in Belfast, Bangor and Lisburn.

Provision of detailed programme notes for every concert to allow audience members to fully appreciate the music being performed. These are original notes, written by members. They are also published on our website to maximise accessibility.

Explanation by our conductors of the works being performed helps to give audiences a greater understanding of the music being played. This is an expert commentary by a professional musician.

Provision of information to members and public through our website and other social media.

This statement was approved by the Trustees on 17 January 2025.

Eoghan O'Reilly

Trustee

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Annual return

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Independent Examiner's Report on the

Financial Statements to the Trustees

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Accounting Solutions

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49a High Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 7HS

24th September 2024
Date:

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Accounts

COMPANY NO: NI 046714

CHARITY NUMBER XR 59938

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MICRO-ENTITY ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Accounting Solutions

Accounting Solutions
49a High Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 7HS

3rd December 2023

Date:

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	<u>18,820</u>	<u>16,417</u>
	18,820	16,417
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(210)</u>	<u>(180)</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>18,610</u>	<u>16,237</u>
Long Term Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets Less Liabilities	<u><u>18,610</u></u>	<u><u>16,237</u></u>
Retained Reserves		
Retained Reserves b/f	16,237	15,715
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<u>2,373</u>	<u>522</u>
	<u><u>18,610</u></u>	<u><u>16,237</u></u>

For the year ending 31/03/2023, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.


Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

22/12/2023
Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income		
Subscriptions	7,550	1,000
Friends of SSO	495	-
Ticket & Programme Sales	7,129	
Gift Aid Claim	-	2,053
Retirement Dinner	1,240	-
Donations & Grants	291	-
Fundraising Activities	593	-
Tea & Coffee Sales	265	-
Fundraising events	414	-
	<u>17,977</u>	<u>3,053</u>
Expenditure		
Conductor & Leader	7,425	1,120
Professionals	2,194	-
Music Hire	704	68
Hall Hire	1,760	945
Catering Expenses	1,149	-
Printing Costs	719	-
Insurance & Subscriptions	248	193
Fundraising Expenses	154	-
Accountancy	210	180
Bank & Card Fees	461	25
Miscellaneous expenses	580	-
	<u>15,604</u>	<u>2,531</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>2,373</u>	<u>522</u>

Approval of Account

The foregoing Income & Expenditure Account was approved by the committee and signed on its behalf by



Eoghan O'Reilly
Director

22/12/2023

Date

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Notes to the Micro-Entity Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Income

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The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Annual report

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Company No. NI 046714

Charity No. NIC103028

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

For the year to 31st March 2023

Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees of the Studio Symphony Orchestra are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023.

Summary of Events

Four public concerts:

Summer Concert – St. Comgall's, Bangor – 28th May 2022

Conductor: David Openshaw

Leader/Soloist: Ottoline Maas

Schubert - Overture "Rosamunde"

Beethoven - Romance in F

Rossini - Overture "Semiramide"

Dvorak - Symphony No.8

Autumn concert – Bangor Abbey 1st October 2022

Conductor: Martin Wall

Weber - Overture Euryanthe

Schubert - 8th Symphony 'Unfinished'

Dvorak - Czech Suite in D major

Mozart - Divertimento in D major K136

Beethoven Concert - Island Arts Centre, Lisburn - 26th November 2022

Conductor: David Openshaw

Violin: Tamás Kocsis

Beethoven – Fidelio Overture

Beethoven – Violin Concerto

Beethoven – movements from Symphonies No. 5, 6 & 9

Orchestral Masterpieces concert – Elmwood Hall, Belfast – 25 March 2023

Conductor: David Openshaw

Piano: Michael McHale

Shostakovich – Festive Overture

Mozart – Piano Concerto 'Jeunehomme' K.271

Shostakovich – Symphony No. 12

32 full orchestra rehearsals.

Accounts

Please see our accounts attached to this submission.

It will be noted that there was a surplus of £2,373 for the year leaving a retained reserve of £18,610.

Analysis of Concert costs for the 2022/23 reporting period:

Summer Concert – St. Comgall's, Bangor	Deficit of £251.00
Autumn concert – Bangor Abbey	Surplus of £1,248.00
Beethoven Concert - Island Arts Centre, Lisburn	Surplus of £618.00
Orchestral Masterpieces concert – Elmwood Hall, Belfast	Straddles two financial years; Surplus of £528.00 in 2022/23, Deficit of £1,952.00 in 2023/24

Analysis of Costs

Costs can be seen in the accompanying accounts. The biggest cost is for the services of our Conductor and Leader (£7,425). These are for our main professional musical direction and cannot be avoided if we are to realise our objectives as a charity.

Income 2022/23

Subscriptions	£7,550.00
Friends of the SSO	£495.00
Tickets and programme sales	£7,129.00
Retirement Dinner	£1,240.00
Donations & Grants	£291.00
Fundraising activities	£593.00
Tea & Coffee	£265.00
Fundraising events	£414.00
Total	£17,977.00

Governing Process and Constitution

The Studio Symphony Orchestra is constituted as a Northern Ireland Company, limited by guarantee. We are therefore governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association, which have been submitted to the Charity Commission. We are obliged to lodge accounts with Companies House annually and also with HMRC if required. The AGM for the 2021-2022 season was held on 31st May 2022 (i.e., during the reporting period for this Trustees Report). This was the first AGM since 2019 owing to the pandemic.

Charity Trustees

Board members become eligible to be appointed Charity Trustees.

The following were Trustees on 31st March 2023:

Mrs Alison Bell
Ms Bernagh Brims
Dr Paula Gibson
Mr Alan Greenlee
Mr Paddy McAree
Mr Eoghan O'Reilly
Mr Philip Stanley

Demonstration of Public Benefit of The Studio Symphony Orchestra in the year ended 31st March 2023

The purpose of The Studio Symphony Orchestra is twofold:

1. To provide education and training in orchestral music playing to the public in Northern Ireland through orchestral general and sectional (string, wind and percussion) rehearsals of a range of music given by trained orchestral musicians.

The activity includes working with choirs to perform a wide range of choral works.

The benefit flowing from this is that the participants can have a greater understanding of and skill in playing a wide range of orchestral music.

Success of this can be demonstrated through member surveys, participation levels and quality of performances (gauged through feedback from newspaper critics and tutors).

There is no perceived harm in this purpose.

The intended beneficiaries are members of the public over 18 years old who have trained to a standard in music which will enable them to participate. The Studio Symphony Orchestra does not audition potential members. People who wish to join are invited to participate in rehearsals so that they can themselves judge whether they can benefit from membership. The orchestra has reduced membership costs for senior citizens, students and those who are unwaged.

There is a private benefit to members who are teachers in that their musical abilities and knowledge in pursuit of teaching will be enhanced, but this incidental and a necessary part of the activity.

Demonstration of this purpose during year ended 31st March 2023

The first post-pandemic concert performance by the Orchestra took place on 28th May 2022.

Rehearsals for the 2022-23 season commenced in August 2022 and continued for the entire season, up to May 2023. This was the first complete season by the Orchestra since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. To promote the art and appreciation of orchestral music to the general public in Northern Ireland by the presentation of public concerts, performances and lectures.

The benefit from this is a greater understanding of the works performed and a provision of performances of works which would be unlikely for the Ulster Orchestra to perform (for example Richard Strauss's Alpine Symphony which requires an orchestra of 120+ musicians and therefore very expensive to put on).

Success in this can be judged by audience surveys and audience numbers.

There is no perceived harm in this activity.

The beneficiaries of this are the general public in Northern Ireland and the members of the orchestra who are performing.

As in the first purpose, members of the orchestra who are music teachers can derive a private benefit from performances and lectures but this is incidental and a necessary part of the activity.

Demonstration of this purpose during year ended 31st March 2023

Performance of four public concerts to over 600 audience members, in Belfast, Bangor and Lisburn.

Provision of detailed programme notes for every concert to allow audience members to fully appreciate the music being performed. These are original notes, written by members. They are also published on our website to maximise accessibility.

Explanation by our conductors of the works being performed helps to give audiences a greater understanding of the music being played. This is an expert commentary by a professional musician.

Provision of information to members and public through our website and other social media.

This statement was approved by the Trustees on 16th January 2024.

Eoghan O'Reilly

Trustee

The Studio Symphony Orchestra

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103028

Annual return

THE STUDIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Independent Examiner's Report on the

Financial Statements to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

As the charity trustees, (and also directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the 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

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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 386 of the companies Act 2006
2. that the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Standard applicable in the UK
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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 of Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Accounting Solutions

Accounting Solutions
49a High Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 7HS

3rd December 2023

Date: