

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108128

Details

Known as Ulster Touring Opera

Status Received

Company number [666680](#)

Registered 2021-08-13

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

Contact

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1 Weaver's Court
Linfield Road
Belfast
Bt12 5gh
BT12 5GH

Phone 07891961342

Email info@ulstertouringopera.com

Website ulstertouringopera.com

Activities

Purposes: The Company's objects (the Objects) are specifically restricted to the following: a) to advance the education of the general public through the presentation of opera and other dramatic, musical and performing arts; and b) to further the development of public appreciation and taste in opera and the said arts. The intended beneficiaries of this cross-border company are the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. [Nothing in the articles will authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes, which are not charitable in accordance with section 3 of the Charities Act 2009] For the avoidance of doubt, the system of law governing the articles of association of the charity is the law of Northern Ireland.

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

How the charity works:

Advice/advocacy/information,Arts,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Education/training

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),General public,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£119,356	£133,523	£0	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr James Donnelly		
Mr Robert James Thicknesse		
Mrs Joanne Wright		
Ms Anne Doherty		
Ms Jane Monari		
Ms Karen Geraldine Mcshane		
Ms Marie-Louise Muir		

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC108128

Company Registration No. NI666680 (Northern Ireland)

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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**ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Trustees	Ms Anne Doherty Ms Karen McShane Ms Marie-Louise Muir Mr Robert Thicknesse Mr James Donnelly Ms Jane Monari Mrs J Wright	(Appointed 4 September 2024)
Secretary	Mr James Donnelly	
Charity number	NIC108128	
Company number	NI666680	
Registered office	177 Belmont Road Belfast BT4 2AE	
Independent examiner	Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA Moore (N.I.) LLP 4th Floor Donegall House 7 Donegall Square North Belfast BT1 5GB	
Bankers	AIB 35 University Road Belfast BT7 1ND	

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Ulster Touring Opera's objectives are to advance the education of the general public through the presentation of opera and to further the development of public appreciation and understanding of the art form. The charity seeks to widen access to opera through cross-border touring, participatory activity, artist development, and the exploration of digital and immersive technologies.

In delivering its charitable objects, Ulster Touring Opera aims to ensure that audiences and participants can engage with opera in ways that are accessible, relevant, and of high artistic quality, whether through live performance, youth and community participation, or digital formats.

The objectives can be split into two sections:

Artistic Objectives:

- To provide creative and professional opportunities for opera practitioners in Northern Ireland and beyond
- To operate a flexible and responsive organisation capable of supporting artistic ambition and risk
- To develop artists and ideas through collaboration and partnership
- To build strong and sustainable relationships with touring venues and cultural partners

Research and Development Objectives

- To explore new technologies and formats for opera presentation and distribution
- To build partnerships within the immersive technology sector
- To develop organisational skills and capacity in preparation for increased digital activity

In reviewing and developing Ulster Touring Opera's activities and future plans, the Trustees give careful consideration to the public benefit arising from the charity's work and have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. The Trustees consider that the activities described in this report demonstrate clear and measurable public benefit.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and Performance

Co-presented Touring Production: Handel's *Messiah*

During the 2024–25 financial year, Ulster Touring Opera co-presented a staged touring production of *Messiah* in collaboration with Merry Opera Company. The production toured widely across Northern Ireland between November and December 2024, with performances in Belfast, Carrickfergus, Derry/Londonderry, Coleraine, Lisburn, Stormont and Portico Arts Centre.

This distinctive staging reimagined the oratorio as a fully memorised, costumed performance, using the architecture of each venue as the set. Performers moved throughout the space and among the audience, creating an intimate and immersive experience that emphasised the work's themes of humanity, hope, and reconciliation.

The tour featured predominantly Northern Ireland-based professional singers, alongside a Northern Irish conductor and organists, providing high-quality performance opportunities and supporting professional development. The production reached an audience of over 1,200 people.

Ulster Youth Opera: *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*

Ulster Touring Opera continued to expand its Ulster Youth Opera programme through a large-scale participatory project based on Jonathan Wilcocks' *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. Delivered in partnership with Spark Opera and regional choral organisations, the project involved young people aged 7–18 from across Northern Ireland.

The project was delivered through a program of workshops culminating in two public performances on 29 March 2025 at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. Participants included members of Enniskillen Youth Opera and Belfast Youth Opera, alongside St Columb's Cathedral Children's Choir and students from the Royal School Armagh. The cathedral setting provided a professional and aspirational environment for performance and collaboration.

Evaluation evidence demonstrated clear public benefit. Seventy-five per cent of participants reported feeling less lonely and more socially connected, while 81.8% reported a positive impact on how they felt about themselves and their lives. Artistic development outcomes were strongly evidenced, with 87.5% of parents observing improvements in singing and acting skills and 81.3% noting increased confidence. All parents surveyed expressed a desire for further opera opportunities of this kind.

The Trustees consider this project to be a strong example of the charity's role in advancing education, widening access to opera, and delivering meaningful social and wellbeing outcomes for young people.

Artist Development and Sector Support: Composer in Residence

During the year, Ulster Touring Opera supported the delivery of an Arts Council of Northern Ireland Minority Ethnic Artist Residency Programme. As UTO's first Composer in Residence, Anna Ramzy received mentoring, professional support, and access to performers and development opportunities.

Anna decided to create a scene from Oscar Wilde's beloved comedy 'Lady Windemere's Fan', and a scene from the opera was workshopped on Friday 5th July 2024 with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, soprano Anna Gregg and baritone Eoin Foran.

East - West Collaboration and Cultural Exchange

Ulster Touring Opera engaged in interregional collaboration through its involvement in *Nia Ben Aur*, presented at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in August 2024. This collaboration was supported by a Culture Ireland grant. The project involved collaboration between Irish and Welsh artists and cultural organisations and formed part of a large-scale public programme at one of Wales's most significant cultural events.

The performances reached a live audience of over 2,000 people across two performances, with further reach anticipated through broadcast on S4C. The project demonstrated Ulster Touring Opera's capacity to support artistic exchange, contribute to international cultural dialogue, and extend the reach of Irish artists and stories to new audiences.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Research and Development: Immersive Technology and HoloEdge Digital

During the year, Ulster Touring Opera continued strategic investment in research and development focused on immersive technology. This included the establishment of UTO's first wholly owned trading subsidiary company HoloEdge Digital Ltd. This new company was set up with legal guidance from Edwards & Co. and aims to explore commercial options for the work that UTO has undertaken in this field.

A major strand of this work was the development of a prototype headset-based platform capable of presenting augmented reality, virtual reality, and two-dimensional opera content within a single environment. This work was supported by an Innovate UK Creative Catalyst Grant.

Existing digital works created by Ulster Touring Opera were successfully migrated and tested on the platform, alongside work by internationally renowned companies such as Irish National Opera, demonstrating the potential to extend the life and reach of previously created content.

Financial review

The organisation returned net expenditure for the year of £14,167 (2024: net income of £4,509). At 30th March 2025 the total funds of the charity amounted to £196 deficit (2024: £14,086) comprising of negative unrestricted reserves of £10,490 and restricted reserves of £10,294.

The charity will aim, where possible, to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to three months of core operating costs.

Core operating costs include essential overheads required to sustain the organisation, such as staffing, governance, administration, and basic operational expenses, but exclude costs that are fully supported by restricted project funding.

This level of reserves is considered an aspirational target rather than a fixed requirement, recognising that UTO operates within a predominantly project-funded environment and that reserve levels may fluctuate depending on funding cycles, programme delivery, and strategic investment.

The Trustees acknowledge that the unrestricted reserves are overdrawn and the charity is technically insolvent at the year end; the trustees have addressed this post year end and have plans in place to grow unrestricted reserves.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Ulster Touring Opera maintains robust financial controls, contractual procedures, and safeguarding practices consistent with sector best practice.

Risk assessment processes are reviewed regularly, and external advice is sought where appropriate. Safeguarding arrangements include the use of Access NI processes for all staff and freelancers working with children and young people.

Plans for future periods

In the next financial year, Ulster Touring Opera plans to:

- Continue the expansion of the Ulster Youth Opera programme, including activity in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry
- Develop further touring and co-presented productions
- Build on international collaboration and cultural exchange
- Continue to champion new and diverse voices in opera across Northern Ireland
- Explore sustainable income streams through digital innovation and partnership

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Structure, governance and management

UTO's first year of operations began with registration with Companies House on 23rd December 2019 by founder and Artistic Director Dafydd Hall Williams. As UTO was set up with the intention of achieving charity status, it was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms Anne Doherty

Ms Karen McShane

Ms Marie-Louise Muir

Mr Robert Thicknesse

Mr James Donnelly

Ms Jane Monari

Mrs Nuala Trainor

(Resigned 7 May 2024)

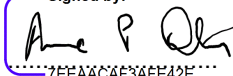
Mrs J Wright

(Appointed 4 September 2024)

The Trustees bring a wide range of experience from the arts, media, finance, engineering, and creative industries and are responsible for setting strategy, ensuring good governance, and overseeing the charity's activities.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Signed by:



Ms Anne Doherty

Trustee

26/3/2026

Date:

**ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Ulster Touring Opera Ltd for the purposes of company law, 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:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- (ii) 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
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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 I believe that attention should be drawn to the following matters.

Whilst the accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis, at 30 March 2025 the charity's total funds were overdrawn by £196. Unrestricted funds were overdrawn by £10,490 whilst restricted funds showed a credit balance of £10,294.

This is mainly due to the fact that the charity has focused on securing restricted sources of income for projects in the past.

The trustees have put plans in place to secure unrestricted income to address this situation; they anticipate having positive reserves going forwards.

Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA
for and on behalf on Moore (N.I.) LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB
Dated:

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Charitable activities	3	8,476	110,880	119,356	12,277	77,732
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	4	14,907	118,616	133,523	9,850	73,223
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers						
		(6,431)	(7,736)	(14,167)	2,427	4,509
Gross transfers between funds						
		(7,025)	7,025	-	(2,186)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the period/ Net (outgoing)/incoming resources						
		(13,456)	(711)	(14,167)	241	4,509
Other recognised gains and losses						
Other gains or losses	10	(115)	-	(115)	-	-
Net movement in funds						
		(13,571)	(711)	(14,282)	241	4,509
Fund balances at 1 April 2024						
		3,081	11,005	14,086	2,840	9,577
Fund balances at 31 March 2025						
		(10,490)	10,294	(196)	3,081	14,086

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		-		1,234
Current assets					
Debtors	12	334		824	
Cash at bank and in hand		4,163		13,096	
		<u>4,497</u>		<u>13,920</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(4,693)</u>		<u>(1,068)</u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			<u>(196)</u>		<u>12,852</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(196)</u>		<u>14,086</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	14	10,294		11,005	
Unrestricted funds	15	(10,490)		3,081	
			<u>(196)</u>		<u>14,086</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

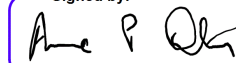
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26/3/2026

Signed by:



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 Ms Anne Doherty

Trustee

Company registration number NI666680 (Northern Ireland)

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 177 Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2AE.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees acknowledge the net negative reserves reported at the year end. This was as a result of the timing of certain expenditure which occurred in advance of the entitlement to corresponding income received post year end, across both restricted and unrestricted reserves. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	4 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Charitable activities	8,476	-	8,476	9,777	-	9,777
Grants receivable	-	110,880	110,880	2,500	65,455	67,955
	<u>8,476</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>119,356</u>	<u>12,277</u>	<u>65,455</u>	<u>77,732</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
ACNI funded projects	-	16,986	16,986	-	17,528	17,528
Bank of Ireland Business with Arts	-	-	-	-	5,400	5,400
Belfast City Council	-	17,000	17,000	-	10,000	10,000
Ulster University Arts Works	-	-	-	-	20,977	20,977
Other	-	-	-	2,500	9,750	12,250
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council	-	-	-	-	1,800	1,800
Artwork Fund	-	38,570	38,570	-	-	-
Innovate UK	-	34,938	34,938	-	-	-
Culture Ireland	-	3,386	3,386	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>65,455</u>	<u>67,955</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	43,963	20,440
Depreciation and impairment	1,234	3,151
Software costs	49,954	2,319
Venue hire	2,240	3,469
Advertising	9,585	4,637
Production costs	14,392	31,580
Insurance	1,365	1,132
Sundry	1,183	1,138
Bank charges	249	272
Legal and professional	2,134	-
Subscriptions	341	485
Postage and printing	206	89
Travel	2,873	2,279
	<u>129,719</u>	<u>70,991</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Governance	3,804	2,232
	<u>133,523</u>	<u>73,223</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	14,907	9,850
Restricted funds	118,616	63,373
	<u>133,523</u>	<u>73,223</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination fees	-	2,520	2,520	1,800
Independent Examiner fees for other services	-	1,284	1,284	432
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,804</u>	<u>3,804</u>	<u>2,232</u>
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	<u>-</u>	<u>3,804</u>	<u>3,804</u>	<u>2,232</u>

Governance costs includes costs paid relating to independent examiners of £2,520 for independent examination fees and £1,284 for other accountancy services.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,520	1,800
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	1,234	2,296
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	855
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

7 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration during the period, nor did the Trustees claim any expenses.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025	2024
Number	Number
2	1
<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	43,963	20,440
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	23,769	20,441
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10 Other gains and losses

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) upon:		
Foreign exchange	115	-

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	9,184
At 31 March 2025	9,184
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	7,950
Depreciation charged in the year	1,234
At 31 March 2025	9,184
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	-
At 31 March 2024	1,234

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	184	-
Prepayments and accrued income	150	824
	334	824

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	2,665	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,028	1,068
	4,693	1,068

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
	11,005	110,880	(118,616)	7,025	10,294
	<u>11,005</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>(118,616)</u>	<u>7,025</u>	<u>10,294</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	6,737	65,455	(63,373)	2,186	11,005
	<u>6,737</u>	<u>65,455</u>	<u>(63,373)</u>	<u>2,186</u>	<u>11,005</u>

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,081	8,476	(14,907)	(7,025)	(115)	(10,490)
	<u>3,081</u>	<u>8,476</u>	<u>(14,907)</u>	<u>(7,025)</u>	<u>(115)</u>	<u>(10,490)</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,840	12,277	(9,850)	(2,186)	-	3,081
	<u>2,840</u>	<u>12,277</u>	<u>(9,850)</u>	<u>(2,186)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,081</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	(10,490)	10,294	(196)
	<u>(10,490)</u>	<u>10,294</u>	<u>(196)</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	-	1,234	1,234
Current assets/(liabilities)	3,081	9,771	12,852
	<u>3,081</u>	<u>11,005</u>	<u>14,086</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year .

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC108128

Company Registration No. NI666680 (Northern Ireland)

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE CONTENTS

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ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Ms Anne Doherty Ms Karen McShane Ms Marie-Louise Muir Mr Robert Thicknesse Mr James Donnelly Ms Jane Monari Mrs Nuala Trainor
Secretary	Mr James Donnelly
Charity number	NIC108128
Company number	NI666680
Registered office	177 Belmont Road Belfast BT4 2AE
Independent examiner	Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA Moore N.I. (LLP) 4th Floor Donegall House 7 Donegall Square North Belfast BT1 5GB
Bankers	AIB 35 University Road Belfast BT7 1ND

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

UTO's objects are to advance the education of the general public through the presentation of opera, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the art form. Through cross-border touring, innovative outreach projects and immersive technology UTO enables greater access to opera. UTO is committed to ensuring audiences enjoy the physical and digital content it creates, whether they are attending one of UTO's cross-border touring productions, or engaging with an augmented reality opera experience using a smartphone.

The objectives can be split into two sections:

Artistic Objectives:

- to provide creative opportunities for opera practitioners on the north of the island of Ireland and beyond
- to run a flexible and lean organisation enabling artistic risk
- to develop talent and ideas through partnerships
- to develop excellent working relationships with UTO's existing and future touring venues in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Research and Development Objectives

- to build partnerships within the immersive technology sector on the island of Ireland and beyond
- to explore a range of volumetric capture options
- to develop skills within UTO in preparation for an increase in immersive technology work

The strategies employed to achieve these objectives in the year covered by these accounts include releasing the augmented reality app for release on iOS through cloud storage solutions, and developing strategic partners for the funding and delivery of School workshops and Ulster Youth Opera. In UTO's fourth year, the company has built upon the projects delivered in the previous year in the live touring and immersive technology sectors.

In reviewing and developing UTO's activities and future plans, careful consideration is given to the public benefit arising from UTO's work. The Trustees take particular account of the Charity Commission NI's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity. The Trustees consider that the work of the charity will provide considerable benefit to the public as illustrated by the activities described in this report

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and Performance

Opera and Orchards

Ulster Touring Opera delivered Opera & Orchards in partnership with Armagh City Choir, the Ulster String Quartet, and Armagh Cider at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh, on 10th February 2024. This innovative project fostered community engagement, artistic excellence, and sustainability, aligning with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's five-year strategy to inspire, connect, and lead.

UTO worked closely with Armagh City Choir, providing a series of workshops that culminated in the choir performing alongside professional soloists in a public concert. Audience responses were overwhelmingly positive, with attendees rating the performance 4.7 out of 5 stars. Notably, 78% of surveyed audience members expressed a desire for more opera events in their local area, reinforcing the project's success in cultivating new audiences.

The initiative also demonstrated significant wellbeing benefits for the choir members, with 76% feeling more connected to others and 96% appreciating the opportunity to perform alongside professional artists. The event successfully deepened engagement with classical music while also broadening UTO's reach and impact within the community.

Ulster Youth Opera and School Workshops

As part of Ulster Touring Opera's commitment to developing young artists and expanding access to opera across Northern Ireland, the *Ulster Youth Opera* programme continued its impactful work in 2024. With the support of the ACNI Rural Engagement Arts Programme, UTO delivered a series of monthly workshops in Enniskillen, aimed at 8-13-year-olds and 14-18-year-olds. These sessions introduced young participants to opera through a blend of singing, acting, and movement, facilitated by professional opera singers, directors, and pianists.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Skill Development:** 100% of surveyed parents reported that their child's singing and acting skills had improved.
- **Wellbeing Benefits:** 77% of parents observed an increase in their child's confidence, while 62% noted they were happier since joining.
- **Social Engagement:** Over half of the participants made new friends through the workshops.
- **Access to Opera in Rural Areas:** All surveyed parents expressed a strong desire for more opera opportunities in County Fermanagh, highlighting the programme's role in filling a cultural gap.

A key takeaway was the positive impact on mental health awareness, with participants reporting increased understanding of wellbeing. However, some found it difficult to identify where to seek support, suggesting a potential area for further development in future workshops.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

UTO Composer in Residence Programme

From November 2023 to March 2024, Ulster Touring Opera (UTO) successfully delivered the initial stages of its Composer in Residence Programme, a significant initiative aimed at fostering new opera composition talent in Northern Ireland. Supported by the National Lottery Minority Ethnic Artists Mentoring & Residency Programme (SIAP) through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI), this programme represents a major step in UTO's commitment to developing diverse voices in opera.

The residency provided an early-career composer with a unique opportunity to develop their artistic practice under the guidance of leading figures in the opera and classical music industry. The selected composer, Anna Ramzy, has already brought a distinctive perspective to the field, blending her multicultural background (Egyptian, Irish, and English) with classical training and a passion for experimentation.

By March 2024, Anna had:

- Composed the first drafts of a 5-10 minute opera scene, exploring new compositional approaches.
- Received 31 hours of mentorship from industry professionals including Dafydd Hall Williams (director/producer), Greg Caffrey (composer), and Giselle Allen (opera singer).
- Refined her composition through iterative collaboration with mentors and professional performers.

Launch of the AR Opera App on the Apple Store

In September 2023, Ulster Touring Opera achieved a major milestone in digital innovation with the launch of its AR Opera app on the Apple Store. This pioneering application represents a bold step forward in the integration of opera and augmented reality (AR) technology, offering a new way for audiences to engage with the art form.

The AR Opera app was designed to enhance audience engagement, allowing users to experience opera in an interactive and immersive way directly from their mobile devices. By leveraging AR technology, the app brings high-quality, digitally enhanced opera performances into users' personal spaces, broadening access beyond traditional theatre settings.

Key features of the app include:

- Augmented Reality Staging, enabling users to view opera performances within their own environment through AR technology.
- Multi-angle Viewing Options, providing an intimate and customisable experience.
- Integrated Subtitles and Contextual Content, offering insights into the production, composers, and performers.
- Immersive Audio, delivering a high-fidelity listening experience.
- Strategic Significance and Industry Innovation

The launch of the AR Opera app aligns with UTO's vision of blending classical artistry with cutting-edge digital technology. It also serves as a proof of concept for the wider potential of immersive opera experiences, particularly for audiences in rural and international settings who may not have easy access to live performances.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review

Total income received of £77,732 for the year ended 31st March 2024 (£124,502 for 2023), with net expenditure of £73,223 (£124,168 for 2023). Funds carried forward at the end of the year totalled £14,086, being made up of £11,005 of restricted funds and £3,081 of unrestricted.

The trustees are currently working to establish a reserves policy.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

UTO has previously completed a robust verification process conducted by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Vincent Crossey, establishing that the company's risk management, contracting and financial procedures are in line with the best practice expected of a professional arts organisation.

Dafydd Hall Williams completed the Risk Assessment Awareness Course run by Regenerate, and has completed a range of risk assessments, including those for events held during the pandemic. To ensure best practice, UTO has undertaken a peer review of the risk assessment documents for similar sized organisations, in order to compare UTO's assessment process against their rehearsal and performance processes.

In October 2022 Ulster Touring Opera signed a service agreement with the Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative, which enables the FRCI to submit Access NI documents on behalf of UTO as a registered umbrella organisation. This is in line with UTO's safeguarding policy, and all company members who deliver work in schools are processed via Access NI.

Plans for future periods

The next financial year will see the expansion of the Youth Opera programme to branches in Belfast and Derry. Ulster Touring Opera will collaborate on a Northern Ireland wide tour of Handel's Messiah in partnership with the Merry Opera Company in autumn 2024.

UTO will collaborate with National Eisteddfod Wales to bring the Irish story of Nia Ben Aur to thousands of in-person and broadcast audiences through partnerships with Culture Ireland and Six Dance Collective.

UTO will launch a new trading subsidiary company dedicated to commercialising its immersive technology intellectual property. This will coincide with the exploration of Virtual Reality devices with the view to building a platform for content distribution.

Structure, governance and management

UTO's first year of operations began with registration with Companies House on 23rd December 2019 by founder and Artistic Director Dafydd Hall Williams. As UTO was set up with the intention of achieving charity status, it was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms Anne Doherty
Ms Karen McShane
Ms Marie-Louise Muir
Mr Robert Thicknesse
Mr James Donnelly
Ms Jane Monari
Mrs Nuala Trainor

The current Trustees of Ulster Touring Opera have been recruited to the board during the period covered by these accounts. Drawn from the arts, events, accounting, engineering, journalism and creative industries sectors, this group of professionals represents a diverse, experienced and passionate governing body, well suited to the task of overseeing the organisation's initial years of growth.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms Anne Doherty
Trustee

13 February 2025

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ulster Touring Opera Ltd for the purposes of company law, 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:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- (ii) 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
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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.

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA
for and on behalf on Moore (N.I.) LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB
Dated: 13 February 2025

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:						
Charitable activities	3	12,277	65,455	77,732	18,979	124,502
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	4	9,850	63,373	73,223	20,467	124,168
Net incoming resources before transfers		2,427	2,082	4,509	(1,488)	334
Gross transfers between funds		(2,186)	2,186	-	-	-
Net income for the period/ Net movement in funds		241	4,268	4,509	(1,488)	334
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		2,840	6,737	9,577	4,328	9,244
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		3,081	11,005	14,086	6,738	9,578

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	10		-		855
Tangible assets	11		1,234		3,530
			<u>1,234</u>		<u>3,530</u>
					4,385
Current assets					
Debtors	12	824		5,715	
Cash at bank and in hand		13,096		546	
		<u>13,920</u>		<u>6,261</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,068)		(1,068)	
Net current assets			<u>12,852</u>		<u>5,193</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>14,086</u>		<u>9,578</u>
Net assets			<u>14,086</u>		<u>9,578</u>
			<u><u>14,086</u></u>		<u><u>9,578</u></u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	14	11,005		6,738	
Unrestricted funds		3,081		2,840	
			<u>14,086</u>		<u>9,578</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 13 February 2025



Ms Anne Doherty
Trustee

Company registration number NI666680 (Northern Ireland)

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 177 Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2AE.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Website	4 years straight line
---------	-----------------------

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	4 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

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

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	9,777	-	9,777	18,979	-	18,979
Grants receivable	2,500	65,455	67,955	-	105,523	105,523
	12,277	65,455	77,732	18,979	105,523	124,502
Grants receivable for core activities						
ACNI funded projects	-	17,528	17,528	-	12,454	12,454
Bank of Ireland Business with Arts	-	5,400	5,400	-	21,919	21,919
Belfast City Council	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Ulster University Arts Works	-	20,977	20,977	-	-	-
Queen's University Belfast	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Other	2,500	9,750	12,250	-	26,650	26,650
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council FAP Grant	-	1,800	1,800	-	2,000	2,000
NI Screen Development Fund	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500
	2,500	65,455	67,955	-	105,523	105,523

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	20,440	17,164
Depreciation and impairment	3,151	3,151
Software costs	2,319	26,791
Venue hire	3,469	2,541
Advertising	4,637	6,341
Production costs	31,580	63,653
Insurance	1,132	461
Sundry	1,138	1,367
Bank charges	272	303
Subscriptions	485	786
Postage and printing	89	218
Travel	2,279	-
	70,991	122,776
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Governance	2,232	1,392
	73,223	124,168
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	9,850	20,467
Restricted funds	63,373	103,701
	73,223	124,168

5 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Independent examination fees	-	1,800	1,800	960
Independent Examiners' fees for other services	-	432	432	432
	-	2,232	2,232	1,392
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	2,232	2,232	1,392

Governance costs includes costs paid relating to independent examiners of £1,800 for independent examination fees and £432 for other accountancy services.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6	Net movement in funds	2024	2023
		£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,800	960
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,296	2,296
Amortisation of intangible assets	855	855
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

7 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration during the period.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2024	2023
Number	Number
1	1
<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	20,440	17,164
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	20,441	17,164
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Intangible fixed assets

	Website
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	3,420
Amortisation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	2,565
Amortisation charged for the year	855
At 31 March 2024	3,420
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 31 March 2023	855

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	9,184
At 31 March 2024	9,184
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	5,654
Depreciation charged in the year	2,296
At 31 March 2024	7,950
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	1,234
At 31 March 2023	3,530

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	4,932
Prepayments and accrued income	824	783
	824	5,715

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,068</u>	<u>1,068</u>

14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	<u>6,737</u>	<u>65,455</u>	<u>(63,373)</u>	<u>2,186</u>	<u>11,005</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
	<u>4,916</u>	<u>105,523</u>	<u>(103,701)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,738</u>

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>2,840</u>	<u>12,277</u>	<u>(9,850)</u>	<u>(2,186)</u>	<u>3,081</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>4,328</u>	<u>18,979</u>	<u>(20,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,840</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	-	1,234	1,234
Current assets/(liabilities)	3,081	9,771	12,852
	<u>3,081</u>	<u>11,005</u>	<u>14,086</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:			
Intangible fixed assets	-	855	855
Tangible assets	-	3,530	3,530
Current assets/(liabilities)	2,840	2,353	5,193
	<u>2,840</u>	<u>6,738</u>	<u>9,578</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year .

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Annual report

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

UTO's objects are to advance the education of the general public through the presentation of opera, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the art form. Through cross-border touring, innovative outreach projects and immersive technology UTO enables greater access to opera. UTO is committed to ensuring audiences enjoy the physical and digital content it creates, whether they are attending one of UTO's cross-border touring productions, or engaging with an augmented reality opera experience using a smartphone.

The objectives can be split into two sections:

Artistic Objectives:

- to provide creative opportunities for opera practitioners on the north of the island of Ireland and beyond
- to run a flexible and lean organisation enabling artistic risk
- to develop talent and ideas through partnerships
- to develop excellent working relationships with UTO's existing and future touring venues in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Research and Development Objectives

- to build partnerships within the immersive technology sector on the island of Ireland and beyond
- to explore a range of volumetric capture options
- to develop skills within UTO in preparation for an increase in immersive technology work

The strategies employed to achieve these objectives in the year covered by these accounts include releasing the augmented reality app for release on iOS through cloud storage solutions, and developing strategic partners for the funding and delivery of School workshops and Ulster Youth Opera. In UTO's fourth year, the company has built upon the projects delivered in the previous year in the live touring and immersive technology sectors.

In reviewing and developing UTO's activities and future plans, careful consideration is given to the public benefit arising from UTO's work. The Trustees take particular account of the Charity Commission NI's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity. The Trustees consider that the work of the charity will provide considerable benefit to the public as illustrated by the activities described in this report

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and Performance

Opera and Orchards

Ulster Touring Opera delivered Opera & Orchards in partnership with Armagh City Choir, the Ulster String Quartet, and Armagh Cider at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh, on 10th February 2024. This innovative project fostered community engagement, artistic excellence, and sustainability, aligning with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's five-year strategy to inspire, connect, and lead.

UTO worked closely with Armagh City Choir, providing a series of workshops that culminated in the choir performing alongside professional soloists in a public concert. Audience responses were overwhelmingly positive, with attendees rating the performance 4.7 out of 5 stars. Notably, 78% of surveyed audience members expressed a desire for more opera events in their local area, reinforcing the project's success in cultivating new audiences.

The initiative also demonstrated significant wellbeing benefits for the choir members, with 76% feeling more connected to others and 96% appreciating the opportunity to perform alongside professional artists. The event successfully deepened engagement with classical music while also broadening UTO's reach and impact within the community.

Ulster Youth Opera and School Workshops

As part of Ulster Touring Opera's commitment to developing young artists and expanding access to opera across Northern Ireland, the *Ulster Youth Opera* programme continued its impactful work in 2024. With the support of the ACNI Rural Engagement Arts Programme, UTO delivered a series of monthly workshops in Enniskillen, aimed at 8-13-year-olds and 14-18-year-olds. These sessions introduced young participants to opera through a blend of singing, acting, and movement, facilitated by professional opera singers, directors, and pianists.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Skill Development:** 100% of surveyed parents reported that their child's singing and acting skills had improved.
- **Wellbeing Benefits:** 77% of parents observed an increase in their child's confidence, while 62% noted they were happier since joining.
- **Social Engagement:** Over half of the participants made new friends through the workshops.
- **Access to Opera in Rural Areas:** All surveyed parents expressed a strong desire for more opera opportunities in County Fermanagh, highlighting the programme's role in filling a cultural gap.

A key takeaway was the positive impact on mental health awareness, with participants reporting increased understanding of wellbeing. However, some found it difficult to identify where to seek support, suggesting a potential area for further development in future workshops.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

UTO Composer in Residence Programme

From November 2023 to March 2024, Ulster Touring Opera (UTO) successfully delivered the initial stages of its Composer in Residence Programme, a significant initiative aimed at fostering new opera composition talent in Northern Ireland. Supported by the National Lottery Minority Ethnic Artists Mentoring & Residency Programme (SIAP) through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI), this programme represents a major step in UTO's commitment to developing diverse voices in opera.

The residency provided an early-career composer with a unique opportunity to develop their artistic practice under the guidance of leading figures in the opera and classical music industry. The selected composer, Anna Ramzy, has already brought a distinctive perspective to the field, blending her multicultural background (Egyptian, Irish, and English) with classical training and a passion for experimentation.

By March 2024, Anna had:

- Composed the first drafts of a 5-10 minute opera scene, exploring new compositional approaches.
- Received 31 hours of mentorship from industry professionals including Dafydd Hall Williams (director/producer), Greg Caffrey (composer), and Giselle Allen (opera singer).
- Refined her composition through iterative collaboration with mentors and professional performers.

Launch of the AR Opera App on the Apple Store

In September 2023, Ulster Touring Opera achieved a major milestone in digital innovation with the launch of its AR Opera app on the Apple Store. This pioneering application represents a bold step forward in the integration of opera and augmented reality (AR) technology, offering a new way for audiences to engage with the art form.

The AR Opera app was designed to enhance audience engagement, allowing users to experience opera in an interactive and immersive way directly from their mobile devices. By leveraging AR technology, the app brings high-quality, digitally enhanced opera performances into users' personal spaces, broadening access beyond traditional theatre settings.

Key features of the app include:

- Augmented Reality Staging, enabling users to view opera performances within their own environment through AR technology.
- Multi-angle Viewing Options, providing an intimate and customisable experience.
- Integrated Subtitles and Contextual Content, offering insights into the production, composers, and performers.
- Immersive Audio, delivering a high-fidelity listening experience.
- Strategic Significance and Industry Innovation

The launch of the AR Opera app aligns with UTO's vision of blending classical artistry with cutting-edge digital technology. It also serves as a proof of concept for the wider potential of immersive opera experiences, particularly for audiences in rural and international settings who may not have easy access to live performances.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review

Total income received of £77,732 for the year ended 31st March 2024 (£124,502 for 2023), with net expenditure of £73,223 (£124,168 for 2023). Funds carried forward at the end of the year totalled £14,086, being made up of £11,005 of restricted funds and £3,081 of unrestricted.

The trustees are currently working to establish a reserves policy.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

UTO has previously completed a robust verification process conducted by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Vincent Crossey, establishing that the company's risk management, contracting and financial procedures are in line with the best practice expected of a professional arts organisation.

Dafydd Hall Williams completed the Risk Assessment Awareness Course run by Regenerate, and has completed a range of risk assessments, including those for events held during the pandemic. To ensure best practice, UTO has undertaken a peer review of the risk assessment documents for similar sized organisations, in order to compare UTO's assessment process against their rehearsal and performance processes.

In October 2022 Ulster Touring Opera signed a service agreement with the Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative, which enables the FRCI to submit Access NI documents on behalf of UTO as a registered umbrella organisation. This is in line with UTO's safeguarding policy, and all company members who deliver work in schools are processed via Access NI.

Plans for future periods

The next financial year will see the expansion of the Youth Opera programme to branches in Belfast and Derry. Ulster Touring Opera will collaborate on a Northern Ireland wide tour of Handel's Messiah in partnership with the Merry Opera Company in autumn 2024.

UTO will collaborate with National Eisteddfod Wales to bring the Irish story of Nia Ben Aur to thousands of in-person and broadcast audiences through partnerships with Culture Ireland and Six Dance Collective.

UTO will launch a new trading subsidiary company dedicated to commercialising its immersive technology intellectual property. This will coincide with the exploration of Virtual Reality devices with the view to building a platform for content distribution.

Structure, governance and management

UTO's first year of operations began with registration with Companies House on 23rd December 2019 by founder and Artistic Director Dafydd Hall Williams. As UTO was set up with the intention of achieving charity status, it was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms Anne Doherty
Ms Karen McShane
Ms Marie-Louise Muir
Mr Robert Thicknesse
Mr James Donnelly
Ms Jane Monari
Mrs Nuala Trainor

The current Trustees of Ulster Touring Opera have been recruited to the board during the period covered by these accounts. Drawn from the arts, events, accounting, engineering, journalism and creative industries sectors, this group of professionals represents a diverse, experienced and passionate governing body, well suited to the task of overseeing the organisation's initial years of growth.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms Anne Doherty
Trustee

13 February 2025

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Annual return

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ulster Touring Opera Ltd for the purposes of company law, 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:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- (ii) 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
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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.

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA
for and on behalf on Moore (N.I.) LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB
Dated: 13 February 2025

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Accounts

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	18,979	105,523	124,502	11,625	58,024	69,649
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	20,467	103,701	124,168	6,170	60,710	66,880
Net (expenditure)/income for the period/ Net movement in funds		(1,488)	1,822	334	5,455	(2,686)	2,769
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		4,328	4,916	9,244	(1,127)	7,602	6,475
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		2,840	6,738	9,578	4,328	4,916	9,244

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	9		855		1,710
Tangible assets	10		3,530		5,826
			<u>4,385</u>		<u>7,536</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	11	5,715		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		546		4,608	
		<u>6,261</u>		<u>4,608</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(1,068)</u>		<u>(2,900)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>5,193</u>		<u>1,708</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>9,578</u>		<u>9,244</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			6,738		4,916
Unrestricted funds			2,840		4,328
			<u>9,578</u>		<u>9,244</u>

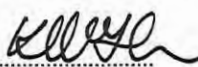
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 Sep 2023



 Ms Karen McShane
 Trustee

Company registration number NI666680

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 177 Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2AE.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Website	4 years straight line
---------	-----------------------

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	4 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

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

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	18,979	-	18,979	6,125	-	6,125
Grants receivable	-	105,523	105,523	5,500	58,024	63,524
	<u>18,979</u>	<u>105,523</u>	<u>124,502</u>	<u>11,625</u>	<u>58,024</u>	<u>69,649</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
ACNI funded projects	-	12,454	12,454	-	-	-
Future Screens NI funded by Department for Communities	-	21,919	21,919	-	-	-
Future Creatives	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
NI Screen XRX	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Queen's University Belfast	-	5,000	5,000	-	15,000	15,000
Other	-	26,650	26,650	-	8,024	8,024
Trust funding	-	-	-	5,500	-	5,500
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council FAP Grant	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
NI Screen Development Fund	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	7,500	7,500	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>105,523</u>	<u>105,523</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>58,024</u>	<u>63,524</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	17,164	16,022
Depreciation and impairment	3,151	3,151
Software costs	26,791	15,166
Venue hire	2,541	1,228
Advertising	6,341	3,817
Production costs	63,653	22,688
Insurance	461	944
Sundry	1,367	2,063
Bank charges	303	297
Subscriptions	786	120
Postage and printing	218	484
	<u>122,776</u>	<u>65,980</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	<u>1,392</u>	<u>900</u>
	<u>124,168</u>	<u>66,880</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	20,467	6,170
Restricted funds	103,701	60,710
	<u>124,168</u>	<u>66,880</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination fees	-	960	960	900
Auditors' fees for non-audit work	-	432	432	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>900</u>
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	<u>-</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>900</u>

Governance costs includes costs of the independent examiners of £960 for independent examination fees and £432 for other accountancy services.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration during the period.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	17,164	16,022
	<u>17,164</u>	<u>16,022</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

9 Intangible fixed assets

	Website
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	3,420
	<u>3,420</u>
Amortisation and impairment	
At 1 April 2022	1,710
Amortisation charged for the year	855
	<u>2,565</u>
At 31 March 2023	2,565
	<u>2,565</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2023	855
	<u>855</u>
At 31 March 2022	1,710
	<u>1,710</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures and fittings	
	£	
Cost		
At 1 April 2022		9,184
At 31 March 2023		<u>9,184</u>
Depreciation and impairment		
At 1 April 2022		3,358
Depreciation charged in the year		<u>2,296</u>
At 31 March 2023		<u>5,654</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2023		<u><u>3,530</u></u>
At 31 March 2022		<u><u>5,826</u></u>
11 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	4,932	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>783</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>5,715</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,068</u>	<u>2,900</u>

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Intangible fixed assets	-	855	855	-	1,710	1,710
Tangible assets	-	3,530	3,530	-	5,826	5,826
Current assets/(liabilities)	2,840	2,353	5,193	4,328	(2,620)	1,708
	<u>2,840</u>	<u>6,738</u>	<u>9,578</u>	<u>4,328</u>	<u>4,916</u>	<u>9,244</u>

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year .

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Annual report

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 18 June 2021, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

UTO's objects are to advance the education of the general public through the presentation of opera, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the art form. Through cross-border touring, innovative outreach projects and immersive technology UTO enables greater access to opera. UTO is committed to ensuring audiences enjoy the physical and digital content it creates, whether they are attending one of UTO's cross-border touring productions, or engaging with an augmented reality opera experience using a smartphone.

The objectives can be split into two sections:

Artistic Objectives:

- to provide creative opportunities for opera practitioners on the north of the island of Ireland and beyond
- to run a flexible and lean organisation enabling artistic risk
- to develop talent and ideas through partnerships
- to develop excellent working relationships with UTO's existing and future touring venues in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- to undertake a flagship tour in Spring 2023

Research and Development Objectives

- to build partnerships within the immersive technology sector on the island of Ireland and beyond
- to explore a range of volumetric capture options
- to develop skills within UTO in preparation for an increase in immersive technology work

The strategies employed to achieve these objectives in the year covered by these accounts include undertaking a fully staged production in venues previously visited with the *A Night at the Opera* concert series, preparing the augmented reality app for release on iOS through cloud storage solutions, and developing strategic partners for the funding and delivery of School workshops and Ulster Youth Opera. In UTO's third year, the company has built upon the projects delivered in the previous year in the live touring and immersive technology sectors.

In reviewing and developing UTO's activities and future plans, careful consideration is given to the public benefit arising from UTO's work. The Trustees take particular account of the Charity Commission NI's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity. The Trustees consider that the work of the charity will provide considerable benefit to the public as illustrated by the activities described in this report.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and Performance

The Barber of Seville tour 2023

Spring 2023 was be a key period for the company. UTO produced *The Barber of Seville*, its first fully staged cross-border tour. This production toured to two venues in the Republic of Ireland and two venues in Northern Ireland, with the MAC Belfast as a significant new partner.

The production opened at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh on Saturday 4th February 2023 and toured to the An Grianán theatre Letterkenny on 10.02.23, MAC Belfast on 15.02.23 (sold out) and Townhall Arts Space Cavan on 17.02.23.

Two Northern Irish winners of the Glenarm Festival of Voice joined a company of nine singers, as Malachy Frame performed the role of Basilio and Peter Harris covered the role of Count Almavia as well as performing tenor chorus. Northern Irish rising star Sarah Richmond made her role debut as Rosina and Thomas Chenhall played Figaro. Jack Roberts sang the role of Count Almaviva, having won acclaim for this performance of Lensky at the Opera Holland Park Young Artist Eugene Onegin. Wyn Pencarreg and Lorena Paz Nieto performed the roles of Dr. Bartolo and Berta.

The accompaniment for the production expanded on the success of the *A Night at the Opera* tour, adding clarinet to the piano accompaniment. Exceptional pianist and conductor Gary Matthewman was the Musical Director for the production. Critical acclaim was garnered from respected publications such as Opera Now magazine, which will feature a review in the May 2023 edition:

"Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* demands delicacy, fluency, and finesse of its performers. During its 15th February performance at Belfast's MAC, Ulster Touring Opera's company demonstrated capacity on all fronts in its delivery of Dafydd Hall Williams' witty staging of this comic masterpiece"

Sarah McCleave, **** Review in Opera Now May 2023

UTO collaborated with Thrive to collect feedback from audiences. The results demonstrate the company's ability to provide significant benefit to existing and new audiences:

- Of the people who said they 'definitely would' recommend a UTO event, 64% had never been to a UTO event before.
- UTO doubled the percentage of people between the ages of 25-34 between 2022 and 2023
- UTO doubled the amount of people identifying as disabled in the audience, totalling 16% of respondents who identify as D/deaf or disabled, or have a long-term health condition.

UTO collected a significant number of qualitative responses to *The Barber of Seville* which further evidences the impact of the company's work:

"Having it near where I live was wonderful. Didn't have to travel."

"Now that I know of your existence, I will endeavor to attend most of your productions. I would normally attend the Market Place Theatre in Armagh, but I was unable to make it, so I chose the MAC. I do hope more productions go to the Market Place."

AR Opera Belfast and Dublin premieres

Following the premiere of AR Don Giovanni at the SXSW Festival 2022, UTO brought this experience home through premieres in Belfast and Dublin. The Dublin Premiere took place at the ARVR Innovate conference on 15th June 2022, where Dafydd Hall Williams demonstrated the App as well as taking part in the Creative Industries panel discussion which is available to view on YouTube. The Belfast premiere took place at 2 Royal Avenue on 7th December 2022, where UTO invited members of the public to attend and enjoy the AR Operas for the first time.'

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Buttercrane Opera Flash Mob

UTO developed its relationship with Arts & Business NI to reach audiences in unexpected locations, such as business parks and shopping centres. On Monday 2nd May 2022 the company surprised shoppers at the Buttercrane Centre in Newry with an unforgettable performance, supported by Arts & Business NI. Tenor Patrick Hyland, pianist Keith McAlister and eight other performers undertook a Flash Mob of Puccini's classic opera aria with chorus 'Nessun Dorma'. The piece was performed at three different points in the day, and footage of the event has now been watched on YouTube over 4,000 times.

NI Screen Development Fund

With support from NI Screen through the Screen Development Fund, UTO worked with Belfast-based games development company Whitepot to bring the AR Opera demonstrator developed during the XRX programme to the iOS App Store and to a global market using cloud-based technology. While this work was completed in the 2023-24 financial year, a significant portion of this work was undertaken during the period of these accounts. As well as creating an engaging immersive experience, UTO has created unique intellectual property around the dissemination of volumetrically captured performance that UTO is looking to develop further.

Spring 2023 School Opera Workshops and Opera on the Lough Concert

The Fermanagh Choral Society secured an ACNI Rural Arts Engagement Programme grant in partnership with Ulster Touring Opera and the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The grant supported an ambitious programme of engagement in Spring 2023, including an Opera on the Lough concert featuring the Choral Society as well as UTO's soloists, and an extensive school opera workshop programme.

The concert took place on 9th February 2023 at the Ardhowen, and included a professional pianist, mezzo-soprano and baritone as well as the Fermanagh Choral Society. 100% of the Choral Society members agreed that it felt rewarding to sing alongside professional opera singers, and 95% agreed that they felt happier after participating in the project. 87% of Choral Society Members felt that the project made them feel more connected to others in the Choral Society.

There was significant demand for the free schools' workshops: all of the workshops were fully booked within one week of release, and the team were able to deliver the project to 640 children. 25 workshops were delivered between 17th January 2023 and 14th February 2023 in areas such as Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge, Brookeborough, Garrison, Enniskillen, Newtownbutler, Donagh, Ederney, Irvinestown, Aghadrumsee, Lisnaskea and Florencecourt.

The feedback from the children demonstrates that the workshops made a significant impact on their mood and sense of wellbeing. A quote from the report by Thrive confirms this:

"We saw a massive improvement in emotional levels as a result of the school workshops: before the workshops, 54% of students were happy. After the workshops, this metric increased to 76% of students."
Thrive report 2023

76% of the children who took part in the project agreed that they should do more music and drama workshops in schools, there is compelling data to support the need for this kind of positive impact on the lives of children in Fermanagh.

The impact of this project's work was recognised by the BBC, who sent a reporter to attend one of the workshops at the Ardhowen Theatre.

ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Ulster Youth Opera

UTO is committed to a long-term approach to engagement in the areas in which it works. The company secured support from the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Fund and the ACNI Young People and Wellbeing Fund to support a new and innovative Ulster Youth Opera programme in partnership with the Ardhowen, Enniskillen. The programme delivers workshops to young people between the ages of 8-18 for a heavily subsidised rate of £3 per workshop. Participants develop their music and drama skills, as well as building confidence and benefiting from the proven wellbeing benefits of community arts engagement.

The first session was held on Thursday 16th March 2023, with an 8-13 session between 5pm and 6.45pm and a 14-18 session between 7pm and 9pm. The pilot stage of the programme will conclude in December 2023, and UTO is working with Thrive to conduct an ongoing evaluation process of the programme.

Financial review

Total income received of £124,502 for the period ended 31st March 2023, with net expenditure of £124,168 and funds at the period end of £9,578 (restricted funds £6,738 and unrestricted funds of £2,840).

The trustees are currently working to establish a reserves policy.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

UTO has previously completed a robust verification process conducted by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Vincent Crossey, establishing that the company's risk management, contracting and financial procedures are in line with the best practice expected of a professional arts organisation.

Dafydd Hall Williams completed the Risk Assessment Awareness Course run by Regenerate, and has completed a range of risk assessments, including those for events held during the pandemic. To ensure best practice, UTO has undertaken a peer review of the risk assessment documents for similar sized organisations, in order to compare UTO's assessment process against their rehearsal and performance processes.

In October 2022 Ulster Touring Opera signed a service agreement with the Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative, which enables the FRCI to submit Access NI documents on behalf of UTO as a registered umbrella organisation. This is in line with UTO's safeguarding policy, and all company members who deliver work in schools are processed via Access NI.

Plans for future periods

The next financial year will see a focus on the growth and expansion of Ulster Youth Opera, both within Enniskillen, and also in new venues across Northern Ireland. Ulster Touring Opera will be appearing in the Belfast International Festival for the first time, both as a partner in an ACNI Organisation Digital Evolution partnership led by poetry company Quotidian, and also presenting the premiere of the Kraina song cycle by Anselm McDonnell and performed by Rebecca Murphy and Cahal Masterson.

UTO will develop its links to corporate partners, including a partnership event with Armagh Cider: Operas & Orchards. The event will take place in February 2024 and will involve UTO soloists, the Ulster String Quartet and the Armagh City Choir. This marks an important development for the company as it begins to partner with ensembles in NI rather than utilising piano for accompaniment.

This year will also enable UTO to act on the evaluation and conclusions from the spring 2023 tour, in preparation for the next cross-border tour. In particular, the company will research how to better apply the recommendations in the Theatre Green Book in future productions so that UTO can become a role model in sustainable opera production.

Finally, UTO will release the AR Opera app for free on the iOS app store platform. Following the release of the app, the company will seek a means to commercialise the AR Opera project and its associated IP for the Meta Quest 3 and Apple Vision Pro headsets.

**ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Structure, governance and management

UTO's first year of operations began with registration with Companies House on 23rd December 2019 by founder and Artistic Director Dafydd Hall Williams. As UTO was set up with the intention of achieving charity status, it was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms Catherine McCann	(Resigned 23 March 2023)
Ms Anne Doherty	
Ms Karen McShane	
Ms Marie-Louise Muir	
Dr Hyojung Sun	(Resigned 23 March 2023)
Mr Robert Thicknesse	
Mr James Donnelly	(Appointed 23 March 2023)
Ms Jane Monari	(Appointed 23 March 2023)
Mrs Nuala Trainor	(Appointed 23 March 2023)

The current Trustees of Ulster Touring Opera have been recruited to the board during the period covered by these accounts. Drawn from the arts, events, accounting, engineering, journalism and creative industries sectors, this group of professionals represents a diverse, experienced and passionate governing body, well suited to the task of overseeing the organisation's initial years of growth.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms Karen McShane
Trustee

Date: 4 DEC 2023

Ulster Touring Opera Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108128

Annual return

**ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ULSTER TOURING OPERA LTD**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ulster Touring Opera Ltd for the purposes of company law, 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:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- (ii) 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
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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.

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

R. I. Peters Gallagher

Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA
for and on behalf on Moore (N.I.) LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB
Dated: *4 DECEMBER 2023*