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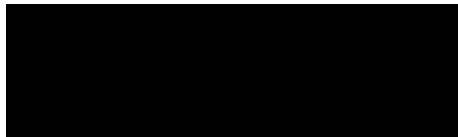
# **Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**

## **Report and Accounts**

31 March 2025

Registered Charity No: SC003924

**Trustees**



**Hon Treasurer**



**Registered Office**

39 Elmbank Crescent  
Glasgow  
G24PT

**Auditor**

RSM UK Audit LLP  
3rd Floor  
2 Semple Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 BBL

**Bankers**

The Royal Bank of Scotland  
1 Moncrieff Street  
Paisley  
PA32AW

**Investment Manager**

Murphy Wealth  
Sutherland House 3th Floor  
149 St Vincent Street  
Glasgow  
G25NW

## Trustees' report

### Objectives and activities

Scottish Opera Endowment Trust was established in 1971 on the initiative of Sir John Noble. It is an independent charitable trust whose purpose is to give financial support to the activities of the Scottish Opera group of companies.

### Performance and financial information

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 show that the charity's net income was £933,421 (2024 - £585,572). Grants authorised by the trustees amounted to £18,000 (2024 - £16,000).

The trustees gratefully acknowledge generous donations during the year from the estates of [REDACTED]

The unrestricted funds at 31 March 2025 totalled £5,483,397 (2024: £4,551,766) and restricted funds totalled £60,760 (2024-£58,970).

The valuation of the Trust's investments at 31 March 2025 is £nil (2024: £3,503,177). On 31 March 2025, the trustees appointed new investment managers, having shortly beforehand liquidated the investments held with the outgoing investment managers. At the balance sheet date, the Trust's long-term assets were therefore represented by cash, pending transfer to the new investment managers.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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).

### Risk assessment

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have established appropriate procedures to minimise these risks.

Volatility in the investment market due to ongoing global economic uncertainty remains the key risk to the Trust. However, the trustees consider that this risk can be withstood due to the policy of the trust to invest over the long term and not the short term.

### Investment policy

Investments are subject to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The portfolio is managed by Murphy Wealth on a discretionary basis. The objective is to achieve a balance between income and capital growth. No specific investment restrictions or limitations apply to the portfolio. The portfolio is reviewed on a regular basis.

### Reserves policy

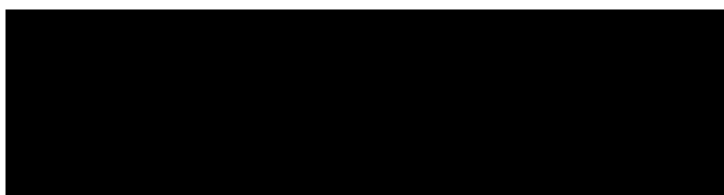
The trustees have agreed that the Trust maintains unrestricted reserves no less than the Balance Sheet value of the investments. The unrestricted reserves will be used to fund the future activities of the Trust.

### Constitution

Scottish Opera Endowment Trust is an unincorporated charity constituted under a Trust Deed dated 24 February 1971 and enjoys charitable status for taxation purposes. The trust is registered with The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) under the charity number SC003924.

### Trustees

During the year Lady Anne Smith tendered her resignation.



### Trustees' report

In accordance with the constitution of Scottish Opera Endowment Trust, the trustees have overall responsibility for the management of the resources of the trust and ensuring its financial well-being.

The trustees meet at least twice a year to discuss and set policy.

Under the terms of the constitution of the trust the existing trustees may appoint new trustees and there is no limit on the number of years a trustee may serve, but it has been agreed that, in future in normal circumstances, no trustee will serve more than two consecutive terms of four years. The trustees receive no remuneration for their services.

#### Trustees' responsibilities in respect of the accounts

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

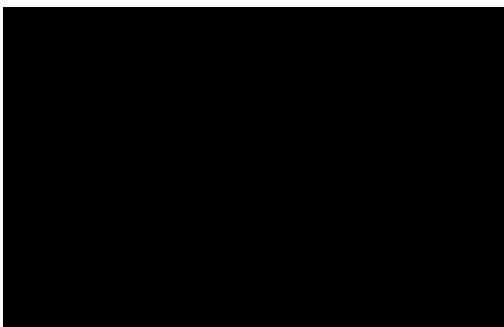
#### Disclosure of information to the auditor

As far as each of the trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- a) there is no relevant information of which the trust's auditor is unaware and;
- b) the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of the information.

#### Auditor

A resolution for the appointment of the auditor will be put to the next annual meeting of trustees.



Date: 3 November 2025

## Auditor's report

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Scottish Opera Endowment Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

#### Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Auditor's report

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 3 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's report

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

#### The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework, that the charity operates in and how the charity is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the trustees' report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the

## Auditor's report

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

#### The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK Audit LLP  
Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants  
3rd Floor  
2 Semple Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8BL

Date 05/11/25

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



## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	5a	652,727		652,727	279,180
Investment income	5b	148,625	1,790	150,415	139,101
Total income		801,352	1,790	803,142	418,281
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Raising funds	6a	110,211)		110,211)	(7,703)
Charitable activities	6b	119,782)		119,782)	/16,001J
Total expenditure		129,993)		129,993)	(23,704)
<b>Gains/(losses) on investments</b>					
Realised investment gains /losses)	7	160,272		160,272	
Unrealised investment gains /losses)	7				190,995
Net gains/losses) on investments		160,272		160,272	190,995
<b>Net income and movement in funds for the year</b>					
		<b>931,631</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>933,421</b>	<b>585,572</b>
Funds brought forward at 1 April 2024	JO	4,551,766	58,970	4,610,736	4,025,164
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 March 2025</b>	10	<b>5,483,397</b>	<b>60,760</b>	<b>5,544,157</b>	<b>4,610,736</b>

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

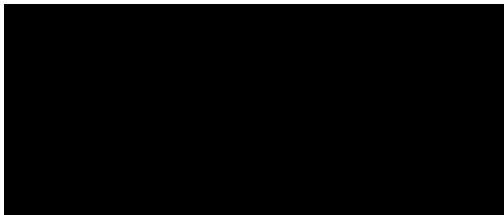
The notes on pages 12-18 form part of these financial statements

## Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	7		3,503,177
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	8	1,427,045	1, 100,526
Cash at bank and on deposit		4,117,112	7,033
<b>Net current assets</b>		5,544,157	1, 107,559
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		5,544,157	4,610,736
<b>Funds</b>			
General unrestricted fund	10	5,483,397	4,551,766
Restricted fund	10	60,760	58,970
	11	5,544,157	4,610,736

Approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 3 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by;



Registered Charity No: SC003924

The notes on pages 12-18 form part of these financial statements

## Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b><i>Cash flows from operating activities</i></b>		
Net movement in funds	933,421	585,572
Investment (gains)/losses	(160,272)	(190,995)
Movement in debtors	(326,519)	(268,532)
Cash provided by operating activities	446,629	126,045
<b><i>Cash flows from investing activities</i></b>		
Investment additions	(159,303)	(142,090)
Proceeds from investment disposals	3,822,753	17,267
Net cash used in investing activities	3,663,450	(124,823)
<b><i>Increase/(decrease) In cash in the year</i></b>	4,110,079	1,222
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	7,033	5,811
<b><i>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March</i></b>	4,117,112	7,033

### Analysis of net debt

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	7,033	4,110,079	4,117,112

The notes on pages 12-18 form part of these financial statements

## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 1. General Information

These financial statements are prescribed in pounds sterling (GBP) as that is the currency in which the charity's transactions are denominated. They comprise the financial statements of the charity.

The purpose of the charity is to give financial support to the activities of the Scottish Opera group of companies.

Scottish Opera Endowment Trust is an unincorporated charity in the United Kingdom and is registered in Scotland. It is recognised as a charity for tax purposes by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) under charity number SC003924.

### 2. Statement of compliance

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)", the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

### 3. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimated uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

#### ***Basis of preparation***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception of quoted investments which are included at market value.

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

#### ***Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. Having reviewed the financial forecast for the trust for the 12 months after the signing date of the financial statements, taking into account the current and ongoing impact of the current economic uncertainty, based on cash and invested funds at 30 September 2025 and expectations for 2025/26 and 2026/27 the trustees are confident that the going concern basis is appropriate for the trust.

#### ***Income***

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Trust is entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacies are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the trust becomes entitled to the funds, it is probable that the money will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.
- Investment income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the trust.

## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 3. Accounting policies (continued)

#### ***Expenditure recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis and includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered.

- Cost of raising funds comprise the costs associated with raising income for the trust.
- Charitable activities expenditure consists of grants payable and the costs incurred to support this activity. Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the trust. Grants are accounted for when the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without any condition.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the trust.

#### ***Investments***

Investments are shown at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are credited/charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in arriving at the net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### ***Financial instruments***

The trust only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other debtors and creditors. Debt instruments (after more than one year) are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash expected to be paid or received.

#### ***Debtors***

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

#### ***Cash and cash equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash and short term highly liquid deposits with a short maturity of twelve months or less from the date of opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### ***Creditors***

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price.

#### ***Fund Accounting***

The unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the trust.

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for these purposes is charged to the fund.

## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 4. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and legacies	279,180		279,180
<b>Investment income</b>	137,219	1,882	139,101
Total income	416,399	1,882	418,281
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Raising funds	(7,703)		(7,703)
Charitable activities	(16,001)		(16,001)
Total expenditure	(23,704)		(23,704)
<b>Gains on investments</b>			
Unrealised investment gains	190,995		190,995
Net gains on investments	190,995		190,995
<b>Net income and movement in funds for the year</b>	583,690	1,882	585,572

### 5. Income

#### (a) Donations and legacies

All donations received within the year are included within unrestricted funds.

#### (b) Investment income

	2025 £	2024 £
Dividends and accumulations	138,845	132,520
Bank and other interest	11,570	6,581
	<u>150,415</u>	<u>139,101</u>

Restricted investment income for the year is £1,790 (2024 - £2,097).

## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 6. Expenditure

(a) Raising funds	2025 £	2024 £
Investment management costs	9,504	7,703
other costs of raising funds	707	
	<u>10,211</u>	<u>7,703</u>
(b) Charitable activities expenditure	2025 £	2024 £
<i>Grants</i>		
National Opera Studio	16,000	16,000
John D Scott Award	2,000	
	<u>18,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>
Support costs	1,782	1
	<u>19,782</u>	<u>16,001</u>

The Trustees have committed to grants amounting to £18,000 in 2025/26.

(c) Governance costs include	2025 £	2024 £
Auditor's remuneration		

The Trustees received no remuneration or other benefits for the year and no reimbursement of expenses during the year (2024 - £Nil).

The Trust had no employees during 2025 and 2024.

### 7. Investments

	<i>Market value at 1 April 2024</i> £	<i>Additions</i> £	<i>Disposals</i> £	<i>Reclassifi- cations</i> £	<i>Movement in market value</i> £	<i>Market value at 31 March 2025</i> £
Listed investments held by Cazenave Capital	3,503,177	159,303	(3,820,464)	(2,288)	160,272	

The cost of the investments at 31 March 2025 was £nil (2024: £3,613,195).

## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 8. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Legacies	14,754	250,486
Other debtors	1,412,291	850,040
	<u>1,427,045</u>	<u>1,100,526</u>

Other debtors comprise amounts payable by Scottish Opera on the completion of the disposal of surplus land held by that company. The disposal is being actively marketed and completion is anticipated within twelve months of the date of these financial statements.

### 9. Financial Instruments

	2025 £	2024 £
Financial assets measured at fair value		<u>3,503,177</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value comprise investments.

### 10. Funds

	As at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains on investments £	As at 31 March 2025 £
General unrestricted funds	4,551,766	801,352	(29,993)	160,272	5,483,397
Restricted funds	58,970	1,790			60,760
	<u>4,610,736</u>	<u>803,142</u>	<u>(29,993)</u>	<u>160,272</u>	<u>5,544,157</u>
	As at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses) on investments £	As at 31 March 2024 £
General unrestricted funds	3,968,076	416,399	(23,704)	190,995	4,551,766
Restricted funds	57,088	1,882			58,970
	<u>4,025,164</u>	<u>418,281</u>	<u>(23,704)</u>	<u>190,995</u>	<u>4,610,736</u>

#### Restricted funds

In November 2018 the Trust received £51,441 following the winding up of the Bruce Millar Memorial Trust. The funds were donated on the agreement that they would be used to provide personal and direct financial assistance to emerging artists, and to continue the names of [REDACTED] in association with these funds.



## Notes to the accounts at 31 March 2025

### 11. Analysis of funds between net assets

	<i>2025 Total</i>	<i>General unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>
	£	£	£
Fixed assets			
Current assets	5,544,157	5,483,397	60,760
	<u>5,544,157</u>	<u>5,483,397</u>	<u>60,760</u>

	<i>2024 Total</i>	<i>General unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,503,177	3,503,177	
Current assets	1, 107,559	1,048,589	58,970
	<u>4,610,736</u>	<u>4,551,766</u>	<u>58,970</u>

### 12. Related party transactions

The intercompany balance owed by Scottish Opera to Scottish Opera Endowment Trust was £1,412,291 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £850,040).

