

# **OPERA BOHEMIA**

**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**Trustees Report and Accounts**

**for the period ended**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Scottish Charity Number SC046576**

Trustees' Report for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for Opera Bohemia for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## **STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Structure and Governing Document**

Opera Bohemia was awarded charitable status on 20th May 2016 in the form of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the charity number SC046576. Opera Bohemia is governed by a Constitution which clearly sets out its purposes and how the Charity is to be administered by the Trustees.

### **Trustees**

The Trustees who served during the year are noted on page 5. The Trustees are responsible for the governance, supervision and defining the strategy and objectives of Opera Bohemia. The Trustees also have principal responsibility for finance, fundraising, policies and procedures, risk management and contractual obligations. The Trustees meet regularly to fulfil their duties. A Management Committee, consisting of the Trustees and the two founders, meets regularly and informally to address detailed matters pertaining to the general day to day running of the charity.

The Constitution permits the appointment of up to 6 Trustees and requires a minimum of 3 Trustees. At the date of signing the Accounts, 3 Trustees held office. The Trustees have been and continue to actively recruit additional Trustees.

Trustees come from a variety of backgrounds including music, education and the legal and commercial world. In inviting individuals to assume the position of a Trustee, the expectation is they will evidence their commitment to Opera Bohemia through setting aside sufficient time to participate in regular Trustees meetings in the use of the skills for the benefit of the Charity. The appointment of new Trustees is the responsibility of the existing Trustees. We are seeking to rotate and grow the number of Trustees and hope to achieve this in the coming year 2025. The pandemic impacted on this process.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which Opera Bohemia faces and confirm that adequate systems and controls are in place to mitigate such risks. Matters relating to risk management are addressed at meetings of the Trustees and Management Committee.

### **Post-pandemic**

While Opera Bohemia faced major challenges in responding to the pandemic and the lockdowns imposed on travel, performance venues and schools, the post-pandemic period has seen a gradual recovery in activities and audience return showing improvements in 2023 and a return to close to pre-pandemic engagements in 2024.

### **Aims**

Opera Bohemia exists to achieve three main goals:

- To produce more operatic performances across Scotland
- To create opportunities for professional artists in all areas of opera
- To introduce opera to first time opera goers and a younger generation in a dynamic way

The cast is comprised of passionate individuals driven by their love for their art and their enthusiasm to increase the availability of opera to a wider audience. They continue to tour their operas to more remote areas of Scotland where the opportunity to experience their modern interpretation of famous operas, performed by rising operatic stars has proved hugely popular

The charitable purposes of Opera Bohemia as set out in the Constitution and are the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.

Trustees' Report (con't)

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DEC 2024**

**Introduction and History of Opera Bohemia**

In January 2010, [REDACTED] decided that they would create a production of Puccini's "La Boheme" to be performed in their hometowns and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. After the overwhelming success of their initial performances, they decided to take "La Boheme" further and toured around Scotland.

The experience the young cast and audiences shared was unique and following feedback from audience members around the country, expressing their enthusiasm and strong desire to see more opera productions, Opera Bohemia was formed.

The company has performed now at over fifty venues across Scotland with highlights including the first opera at the new Beacon Arts Centre Theatre (Greenock) and an invitation to perform "Madame Butterfly" in London. These performances took place in Middle Temple and helped raise over a quarter of a million pounds for the Muir Maxwell Trust. 2013 saw the formation of the Opera Bohemia Ensemble, a chamber orchestra showcasing some of Scotland's most talented musicians. The Opera Bohemia Ensemble made its first appearance at the company's opening performance of "Eugene Onegin" and they continue to perform at many of the larger venues.

**Activities in this reporting period**

Following a highly successful 2023 season with the revival of Madame Butterfly, in 2024, Opera Bohemia performed a reimagining of Puccini's masterpiece Tosca. Direction was by [REDACTED] with costume and set design by [REDACTED]. Scottish Soprano [REDACTED] joined the cast in the lead role. [REDACTED] began her musical life as a pianist and trumpet player before studying for her BMus at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She has won multiple awards including the Jean Highgate Scholarship Award and second place in the Hugh S Robertson Scots Song competition. She graduated from the Royal College of Music with a Distinction in the Masters in Vocal Performance programme. [REDACTED] has performed at the most prestigious houses in the country including English National Opera, Scottish Opera and The Royal Opera house. [REDACTED] supported by a strong cast of Scottish artists including, [REDACTED]

Once again, the company was able to reach across Scotland with performances in,

Glasgow 29th June 2024  
Giffnock 30th June 2024  
Ayr 2nd July 2024  
Perth 4th July 2024  
Isle of Bute 6th July 2024  
Dumfries 7th July 2024

Although this was a smaller number of venues than in previous years, demand for tickets remained high and the popular cast proved once again to be a major draw, playing to packed houses at all performances. The intention was to extend the run of Tosca into a larger number of venues in the 2025 season. Extending a performance over two seasons allows Opera Bohemia to reach more venues and communities providing a more equitable approach, given the geography of the following Opera Bohemia has generated over recent years. Furthermore, it means the company is being more environmentally friendly, ensuring that sets created for each opera are used in the extended run. It is also the hope that Opera Bohemia's Tosca will be performed beyond 2025.

As reported in 2023, Opera Bohemia were invited to work with Maestro [REDACTED] e Orchestra of Scottish Opera and Retrospect Opera. to record the chorus parts for Stanford's forgotten romantic comic opera, Shamus O'Brien. This first ever recording of Shamus O'Brien released on the Retrospect Opera label (SKU: RO011) was nominated in the Opera Category for the Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2024.

Opera Bohemia performances continue to generate excellent media reviews for example 'Opera Bohemia are Opera's perfect evangelists as they sound their song around Scotland' (The Student Newspaper) 'This company is a wealth of extraordinary fresh talent' (The List). 'A breath of fresh air on the operatic circuit' (The Courier).

**The Education Programme**

As in previous years Opera Bohemia has continued to play a role in trying to ensure the sustainability of opera within Scotland. The education programme and the performances to smaller communities that are less likely to have an

## Trustees' Report (con't)

opportunity to experience opera, remain important to this effort. As the 2024 programme ran during the schools' summer vacation direct access to schools was not possible this year. The feedback from teachers on the digital clips of the Marriage of Figaro workshops from the Beacon Arts Centre that were assembled into an educational video continue to be a huge success reaching an expanded number of schools highlighting concepts that are relevant to the SQA examinations supporting schools through the SQA examinations.

### Looking ahead – 2025

As mentioned above the intention is to extend the run of Tosca into 2025. Directed by [REDACTED] and designed by [REDACTED] the drama is plunged into a world of crime and passion amidst the treacherous mafia underworld. Award-winning Scottish soprano [REDACTED] will once again lead a star cast in the iconic title role. The production will be performed in a special new version for piano and solo violin and sung in English. The tentative programme includes,

Lossiemouth, 19th July 2025.  
Wick, 21st July 2025.  
Orkney, 23rd July 2025.  
Boat of Garten, 25th July 2025.  
Lanark, 27th July 2025.

Inverness, 29th July 2025.  
Greenock, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.  
Stonehaven 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025.  
Kirkcaldy 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

The Education Programme for 2025 will include the delivery of workshops for Bearsden Academy at Wiston Lodge in 2025. The digital clips of the Marriage of Figaro workshops from the Beacon Arts Centre will continue to be used to support teachers and students through the SQA examinations.

### Governance

The key aspects of Governance identified in previous reporting remain the same but there is an even greater degree of optimism now that Madama Butterfly and Tosca have been such a tremendous success with new and returning audiences. However, the accomplishments of Opera Bohemia and the growing reputation, for high-quality, professional performances, coupled with the success of the education programme remains a major challenge to the founders who juggle their packed portfolio careers to accommodate the intense demands of Opera Bohemia. The increasing appetite of audiences for an extended programme of performances and more regular visits to the more geographically remote venues adds to the pressure on the team. Opera Bohemia remains committed to being more ambitious both with the scale, scope and variety of the productions it offers. There is clearly a demand across Scotland for the high-quality, professional performances that have become the hallmark of Opera Bohemia.

We are delivering on our three aims. Firstly, Opera Bohemia has produced and delivered more operatic performances across Scotland. Secondly, multiple opportunities have been created for professional artists, and particularly younger Scottish artists at the start of their professional careers. In addition, we continue to attract international interest from artists from across the globe who are keen to both learn from, and contribute to, Opera Bohemia's exciting programmes. Thirdly, while Opera Bohemia now has a now well-established following, we continue to attract first time opera goers and through the dedicated school performances and dynamic engagement programme. Opera Bohemia is introducing a younger generation to opera who might never otherwise have had the opportunity to experience live opera. Based on feedback from teachers, there is a genuine prospect of some of the students becoming life-long fans of opera and for those interested in music, widened horizons on career opportunities. From a financial perspective, the tension remains between reaching out to small and new communities and venues and providing opera experiences where they might not otherwise be available. We continue to cross-subsidise performances at the smaller venues using the income from the bigger audiences. The Board remains committed to continuing that reach into smaller communities and venues and will continue to monitor the impact on sustainability. We continue to be impressed by the quality of the performances that are being delivered by the Company and the audience reaction to them.

### Financial Review

In the period reported in these accounts, unrestricted income amounted to £42,429 (2023: £96,528). Restricted income amounted to £34,714. No restricted funds remained at the end of the period. Charitable expenditure of £67,518 (2023: £86,649) was incurred resulting in a surplus of £9,625 (2023 surplus £9,879).

### Reserves

Reserves of £67,222 were held on 31 December 2024 (2023 £57,597). Prior to the receipt of funds from Creative Scotland funds being received in 2024, reserves, were £36k. It should be noted that mid-year movements require reserves of £30k, so underlying reserves are £36k.

#### Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name Opera Bohemia

Registered Address

[REDACTED]

Charity Number

SC046576

[REDACTED]

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland,  
23/25 Rosslyn Street  
Kircaldy  
Fife  
Scotland  
KY13HW

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by founder

[REDACTED]

Approved by the Trustees on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

[REDACTED]

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Opera Bohemia**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charities trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the

Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

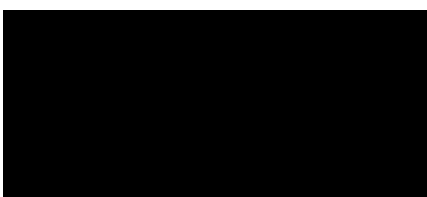
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

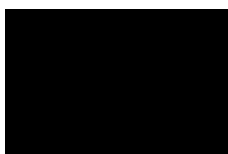
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than disclosed below)

1. which gives me reasonable causes to believe that in any material respect the requirements: to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met. or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 24 September 2025

Address:



**Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Receipts	4	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
Donations Received		1,995	-	1,995	4,320	-	4,320
Gift Aid Refund		1,915	-	1,915	-	-	-
Grants Received		43,537	-	43,537	39,270	-	39,270
Bank Interest Received		227	-	227	144.09	-	144
Performances Income		29,469	-	29,469	52,795	-	52,795
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>77,143</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,143</b>	<b>96,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,528</b>
Payments							
Cost of Charitable Activities	5/6	67,518	-	67,518	86,649	-	86,649
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>67,518</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,518</b>	<b>86,649</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,649</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>9,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>9,879</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,879</b>
Opening Funds		57,597	-	57,597	47,718	-	47,718
<b>Closing Funds</b>		<b>67,222</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,222</b>	<b>57,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,597</b>

The notes on page 9-10 form an integral part of these accounts

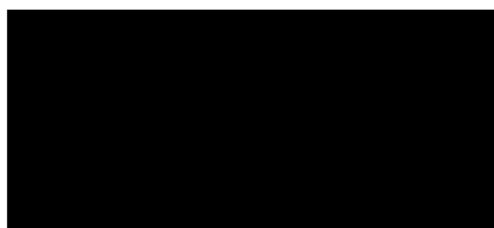
**Statement of Balances at 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
<b>Bank Balance</b>						
Opening Balance 01/01/2023	57,600	-	57,600	47,721	-	47,721
Surplus / (Deficit) for period	9,625	-	9,625	9,879	-	9,879
Bank Balance at 31/12/2024	<b>67,225</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,225</b>	<b>57,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,600</b>

	01/01/2024	Receipts	Payments	31/12/2024	01/01/2023	Receipts	Payments	31/12/2023
<b>Reserve Funds</b>								
Unrestricted Funds	57,600	42,429	32,804	67,225	47,721	96,528	86,649	57,600
Restricted Funds	-	34,714	34,714	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31/12/2024	57,600	77,143	67,518	67,225	47,721	96,528	86,649	57,600

The notes on pages 9-10 form an integral part of these accounts

Approved by the Trustees on 24th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Chair



## **Notes to the Accounts for the Period Ended 31 December 2024**

### Accounting Policies

#### **Basis of Accounting**

- The accounts have been prepared on receipts and payments basis in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

#### **Nature and purpose of funds**

- Unrestricted Funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day to day running of the organisation.
- Restricted Funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year, the SCIO received grants.

#### **Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources**

- Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are received. No legacies were received during the period covered in these accounts. The charity benefitted from the accumulated funds generated by the organisation prior to becoming a charity.

#### **Transactions with Trustees**

Trustees receive no remuneration or expenses.

#### **Transactions with Founders**

The two founders who are closely involved in the management of the charity were reimbursed for expenses and contributions to the charitable activities of Opera Bohemia. This Included" Management Fees for the running of projects : £14,500 (2023: £15,448) Artistic fees for performing or directing or educational work : £7,250, £7,250 (2023 £7,724, £7,724) and reimbursement of necessarily incurred production and travel costs 2024 – £224 (2023 - £0).

**Opera Bohemia**  
**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**  
**Scottish Charity Number SC046576**

Notes to the Accounts for the Period  
Ended 31 December 2024 (con't)

4	Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
				2024			2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	<b>Donations</b>						
	Donations from individuals	1,995	-	1,995	4,320	-	4,320
	<b>Total Donations</b>	1,995	-	1,995	4,320	-	4,320
	<b>Grants from Trusts</b>						
	Creative Scotland	7,103	34,714	41,817	26,250	-	26,250
	Royal Conservatoire	-	-	-	4,254	-	4,254
	Leisure and Culture	-	-	-	350	-	350
	Horsecross Arts	-	-	-	2,668	-	2,668
	Haddo Arts	-	-	-	825	-	825
	Active Events Lts	-	-	-	922	-	922
	Turcan Connell	-	-	-	4,000	-	4,000
	Music International	1,720	-	1,720	-	-	-
		8,823	34,714	43,537	39,270	-	39,270
	<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
	Income from Performances	29,469	-	29,469	52,795	-	52,795
	Bank Interest	227	-	227	144	-	144
	Gift Aid	1,915	-	1,915	-	-	-
		31,611	-	31,611	52,939	-	52,939
5	<b>Costs of Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Performer Fees	1,550	25,990	27,540	41,684	-	41,684
	Management Fees	14,500	-	14,500	15,448	-	15,448
	Travel & Accommodation	4,397	-	4,397	14,915	-	14,915
	Production Costs	9,607	8,724	18,331	11,472	-	11,472
	Venue Hire	350	-	350	-	-	-
	Storage & Insurance	1,800	-	1,800	2,050	-	2,050
	Accountancy Fees	600	-	600	630	-	630
	Website	-	-	-	-	-	-
		32,804	34,714	67,518	86,199	-	86,199
6	Payments made in error repayed in 2025	347		347	450		450