

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Registration Number: 230538

Company Registration Number: 88235

Registered in England & Wales

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

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ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Chair's Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The annual report sets out the Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This has been another year in which we have delivered successfully against our artistic and community ambitions whilst maintaining a strong financial performance. This is despite the temporary closure of our Hall from May 2024 to mid-October 2024, which enabled us to undertake critical improvements to our stage.

Throughout the year, over 230,000 audience members attended concerts in our Halls – including performances by our Orchestra, Choir and associated ensembles – and over 130,000 participants and audiences engaged with our learning and health programmes. This means that our work's scale and vitality continued to bring exceptional cultural, social and economic benefits to our City Region, even during a year when access to our venues was reduced.

Financial Performance

The report shows that we have continued to create income in all key areas: ticket sales, event income, bars, catering and fundraising. Despite the extended closure of Liverpool Philharmonic Hall mentioned above, our headline financial performance has been strong, with Orchestra income reducing year on year by only £200,000 for the period. Income from hiring the Hall fell year on year by £840,000 which is a direct result of the closure and the unwinding of COVID, whereby the venue was in extreme demand for events that had been rescheduled during that period. Through careful cost control and management, along with the benefit of Orchestra Tax Relief, the unrestricted deficit for the year has been contained at £494,000. With there being no extended closure planned in the year ending 31 March 2026, we are expecting income to level out and become more sustainable.

We have been very grateful to receive ongoing support from our two main funders, Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. We are proud to be one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations and we are grateful for ACE's support of our work with young people through In Harmony Liverpool Philharmonic and our engagement of audiences beyond Liverpool in Barrow-in-Furness. Liverpool City Council continued to offer significant core funding for our cross-generational impact as Liverpool's biggest employer in the arts.

In September 2024 we were delighted to receive a generous gift from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. This gift includes a £3.5 million endowment and a £500,000 grant which enables us to sustain our In Harmony Liverpool Philharmonic programme and embark on an exciting expansion plan which will allow more young people across the city to access our 11-18s Youth Hubs and Talent Development Programme. This exceptional support is indicative of the Foundation's belief in the social impact of our work, and particularly the value of our work with young people. We look forward to rewarding this faith for years to come.

Investment in Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

The major redevelopment of the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall stage and choir area (noted above) was delivered on time, within budget and has been positively received by musicians and audiences alike. The project has enhanced the working conditions and performance space for the Orchestra and Choir, improving the acoustics on stage for our musicians and increasing accessibility, giving step-free access to all levels of the stage for artists with physical disabilities. This year also saw the completion of necessary works to the roof, enabling us to reduce the energy consumption and overall maintenance of our home, the Grade 2* listed Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

We were able to pay for these works through a combination of our own financial resources, plus very generous support from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, and the Wolfson Foundation. In addition to this, Liverpool City Council have provided a long-term loan of £1,000,000 to help us finance these essential works.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Chair's Statement [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Artistic Programme

The 2024/25 Orchestral season was Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan's fourth critically acclaimed season with the Orchestra. The concert programme featured a variety of premieres and commissions including a world premiere from Eleanor Alberga, UK premieres from Robin Haigh and Daniel Freiberg, and a new commission from Joanna Marsh. We brought major international artists to Liverpool including Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Sonya Yoncheva, Nobuyuki Tsujii, Angela Hewitt, Benjamin Appl, Kathryn Stott, Danny Elfman, Sir Bryn Terfel, Veronika Eberle and Sarah Wegener. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir have presented performances of Brahms' *Requiem*, Joanna Marsh's *Plastic Theatre*, Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Rosephanye Powell's *Ring the Bells* and Mahler's *Symphony No.3*. Our musicians extended our programme further, performing in our Ensemble 10:10, Close-Up and Lunchtime concerts series which featured many composers and premieres, and some works rarely or never-before performed in Liverpool.

This year also saw the Orchestra's third tour to Japan, where they performed seven concerts with soloist Nobuyuki Tsujii in Tokyo's legendary Suntory Hall and major concert halls in Saga, Osaka, Omiya, Niigata and Nagano. The Orchestra further promoted our activities overseas, with a tour to France for Flâneries Musicales de Reims Festival, and across the UK, performing the closing concert of the Cheltenham Music Festival and accompanying the finals of the 2024 Leeds International Piano Competition. This year the Orchestra won the Gramophone Orchestral Award 2024 for our Onyx Classics recording of Vaughan Williams' *Job: A Masque for Dancing* with our Principal Guest Conductor, Andrew Manze.

Alongside this dynamic local and international programme of concerts, we completed the first season of our Arts Council England supported partnership with Barrow-in-Furness. We delivered over 84 performances in 24 unique locations across the town, reaching an estimated 4,000 Barrovians.

In addition to our orchestral programme at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, we continued to attract major artists from across musical genres, comedy and spoken word, including a first ever appearance by Chris McCausland, and concerts by The Real Thing, Brad Kella, Kim Wilde, David Gray, Alison Moyet and Frank Skinner.

Our second venue – the Music Room – solidified its position as the leading small music venue in the city with a very strong programme of music across classical, contemporary, folk, jazz, pop and other genres. As well as welcoming international artists, we promoted and presented talent from Liverpool and worked in partnership with a broad range of important, Liverpool-based organisations such as Milap, Africa Oyé, Luma Creations, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, and Writing on the Wall.

Nurturing talent and involving young people

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company has continued to expand with the creation of two new ensembles planned: Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Training Orchestra and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Training Choir. Thanks to generous contributions from our donors and regular funders, members of Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra had the opportunity to perform in Florence, Italy, and our ground-breaking In Harmony Liverpool Philharmonic programme celebrated 16 years of regular activities in North Liverpool. In Harmony participants worked alongside Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan and enjoyed a special workshop with Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason. Our Schools' Concerts attracted 18,000 school children and their teachers from across the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

Impact on the city

We are proud to represent Liverpool on a national and global stage, and to play a fundamental role in the success, health and quality of life of our city. We do so, not only through our world class live performances at home and on tour, but also through the benefits we bring to the economy. We employ over 300 people, who are all paid at least the Real Living Wage, we work with local suppliers, and every event we put on increases visitor spend in Liverpool.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Chair's Statement [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Our Music and Health programme, which we run in collaboration with four NHS Trusts in Liverpool, continues to demonstrate the long-term positive impact our music programmes can have on the physical and mental health outcomes of patients and participants. This year we were delighted to begin a collaboration with Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust which is funded by the Alder Hey Children's Charity. This consists of weekly music-making sessions for patients on wards, where we are working with staff, volunteers, children, and young people.

We are lucky to be based in a city that believes in the social and economic power of culture and music. That's why we are proud to play a role in major events, often run in collaboration with Liverpool City Council or the Liverpool City Region. In May 2024, the Orchestra performed alongside Andrea Bocelli and Craig Charles in the naming of the new Cunard ship. We were also proud to appear at the Labour Party Conference, with members of our Youth Company performing and speaking about the transformative impact our programme has had on their lives. Since Liverpool's hosting of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2023, we've been delighted to continue staging our special concert *Douze Points*, this year welcoming TV presenter Mel Giedroyc as host. We also enhance the city's reputation through the global influence of our Orchestra's award-winning recordings and broadcasts which are streamed to millions around the world.

Funders and Supporters

Alongside our support from Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we enjoyed superb support from a wide range of partners and funders. including generous multi-year support provided by the Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, a range of other trusts and foundations, and over 1,000 individual donors who have supported us throughout the year.

Without their support we would not be able to sustain or develop the quality, impact and breadth of our work. We thank them all.

This year we were also grateful to receive funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator programme for the development of our website and digital offering, which will enable us to reach even more audience members and participants, locally, nationally and internationally. This process will extend across two years, beginning on 1 May 2025.

People

After more than 16 years of leadership, we bid farewell to Michael Eakin who retired in March 2025. His tenure was nothing short of transformative, and we are deeply grateful for his exceptional leadership. After 19 years with the organisation, Executive Director of Audiences and Development Millicent Jones also moved on to a new chapter in her career. Millicent played an integral role in a period of remarkable growth and development. We are deeply grateful for both their contributions to the success of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

With my colleagues on the Board, I was delighted to welcome four new trustees, Tom Lewis, David Lloyd, Jernice Easthope and Matthew Cooke, who represent excellent additions to our leadership. I look forward to working with them to support the ongoing advancement of our unique organisation. I would also like to thank Vanessa Bakewell and Angela Bellingham for their time on our Board and the contributions they have made to the society during their tenures.

As always, I am grateful to all my fellow Board members for the support they have given me over the last year, particularly through the recruitment process for our new Chief Executive, Vanessa Reed, who joined Liverpool Philharmonic on 19 May 2025.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Chair's Statement [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I wish to thank everyone who has joined us this year for their support of Liverpool Philharmonic's core purpose – to transform lives through music. This is what brings us joy, and this is what we are here for. I am honoured to be part of this generous and creative community.



Louise Shepherd CBE

Chair

Date: 25/09/2025

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Board of Trustees ("the Board") of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society ("the Society") present their Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 prepared under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 together with the audited group financial statements for that year. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Society's governing documents and the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS102 (the Charities SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 published in October 2019.

Structure, governance and management

The Society is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 31 March 1906 and last amended on 3 November 2014. The Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered at Companies House (registration number 88235) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 230538).

The Society has a wholly owned subsidiary, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited, a private company registered in England (registration number 3110903). The subsidiary donates all of its profits back to the Society annually.

The Society consolidates into its financial statements the results of Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited.

Board of trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees who have served during the year were as noted on page 48. The Board of Trustees undertakes an annual review of its governance arrangements which includes its effectiveness.

The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Society. The total number of Trustees may not exceed 11. 10 Trustees, including two members of the Orchestra, are co-opted on the recommendation of the Board, are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and may serve for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms, if reappointed after the initial term. The Chief Executive of the Society is also a Trustee.

The Board meets bi-monthly to review strategy and operational performance including Arts Council England's monitoring reports and to set operating plans and budgets at least annually. The Board has a register of Trustee interests which is monitored at every Board meeting. It delegates certain powers in connection with the management of the Society to the Chief Executive. Delegated powers are covered in the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations and are reviewed periodically by the Board.

The Board has a four committees which are made up of subgroups of the main Board. These Committees are:

- Audit and Performance Committee comprising of up to three Trustees and the Company Secretary. This committee reviews the Society's risk profile, its approach to and implementation of risk management and internal control and is responsible for overseeing the external audit. It also examines the Society's performance in the achievement of the objectives outlined in its business and operational plans;
- Nominations Committee comprising as a minimum, The Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Chief Executive and one other which looks at nominations for future Board members;
- Remuneration Committee comprising as a minimum the Chair of the Board of Trustees along with two non-salaried members of the Board of Trustees. The salaries of the senior management team are agreed individually but approved by the Remuneration Committee; and

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- Fundraising, Influence and Partnership Committee comprising a minimum of three non-salaried Trustees and the Chief Executive which looks at fundraising strategies and facilitating donor cultivation.

Trustee induction and training

An induction programme is designed for each new Trustee to enable them to understand the Society's operational ways of working, how its strategic objectives are delivered and the challenges it faces. Trustees are trained in accordance with their needs as assessed via a skills audit.

Executive

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day to day management of the Society's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive is assisted by an Executive Team. The members of the Executive team are set out on page 48.

Key management personnel

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is negotiated on a case-by-case basis in line with the standard pay structures of the Society.

Strategic Report

Risk management

The Society's systems of risk identification and management are a key part of the responsibility of the Executive team.

The Executive team prepares a detailed risk register and make necessary changes to the policies and procedures relating to the specific risks facing Liverpool Philharmonic. The Risk Management System is reviewed in context with the policies on Reserves and Insurance. Changes to the risk profile, including risks arising from outside the organisation are monitored by the Executive who take account of impacts on the organisation's income streams, assessments of the economic climate, discussions with funders and programming accordingly.

The Audit and Performance Committee meets regularly throughout the year and examines the risk profile and Society mitigations. The full Board reviews the risk map, which gives a graphical analysis of the key risks facing the business, provides challenge and scrutiny and oversees mitigations and other actions.

Financial performance

The year ended 31 March 2025 has been a challenging year for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society (Liverpool Philharmonic) with increasing audience confidence demonstrated by strong income from Charitable activities despite an extended closure period at Philharmonic Hall due to major stage works being completed. We continued to deliver our Learning Programme through the newly diversified delivery methods and are always looking to extend the programme further.

With the uplifted recovery rate for Orchestra Tax Relief (OTR) being another full year of 50%, the amount of OTR recovered has allowed Liverpool Philharmonic to continue to deliver great art for all. The amount of OTR recovered was £2,690,000 (2024: £2,716,000).

There has been a change in the Orchestra Tax Relief recovery rate where by the recovery rate will be reduced from the temporary uplifted rate of 50% to 45%. This is effective for costs incurred for concert rehearsals on and after 1 April 2025. Whilst this is a reduction on the temporary uplifted rate of 50%, it remains a significant contribution to Liverpool Philharmonic's finances allowing Liverpool Philharmonic to continue to put on great art for all.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

Despite an extended period of closure to enable the capital works on the stage riser system to happen, an unrestricted loss of £494,000 (2024: £562,000 surplus) which includes Orchestra Tax Relief credits of £2,690,000 (2024: £2,716,000), was reported before actuarial gains on the defined benefit pension scheme in the year of £679,000 (2024: £182,000). The actuarial gain on the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme is primarily due to performance of the bond yields and the calculation of the discount factor that is used to calculate the present value of the future liabilities (note 23). This deficit was capped through careful cost control and the generosity of our donors, supporters and funders throughout the period.

The Defined Benefit Pension Scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 March 2013 which will cap the growth of the scheme liabilities in future. Also, the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme has the ability to utilise Guaranteed Annuity Rates (GARs) when members retire. There has been no account of GARs in the calculation of the defined benefit pension liabilities and given the current economic climate with higher interest rates, the ability to purchase GARs means that the future liabilities of the scheme may be less financially onerous than it actually appears.

Fundraising income from individual donors (including Gift Aid) and corporate sponsorship was £4,307,000 (2024: £799,000). Liverpool Philharmonic has received extremely generous donations from many individual donors; corporate donors include Rathbones incorporating Investec Wealth & Investment (UK), Hill Dickinson LLP and Weightmans LLP. In addition to these generous donations, a significant number of audience members regularly donate.

Donations include a £3,500,000 restricted donation from Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The purpose of this donation is to establish an Endowment Fund where the income will be used, subject to agreed draw down conditions, to support the work with young people and In Harmony.

Orchestra activities

Income from Orchestra performances and engagements showed a marginal gain on previous years income.

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Liverpool orchestral performances admissions	1,688	2,078
Engagement fees	204	309
	<u>1,892</u>	<u>2,387</u>

The Orchestra earns additional income through other activities including fees from broadcasting (2025: £418,000; 2024: £198,000) and royalties on recordings (2025: £116,000; 2024: £54,000).

Income from Orchestral performance admissions has been impacted by the extended closure period of Philharmonic Hall when the major stageworks were completed. The Orchestra was deployed to alternative venues and locations throughout the closure period to maintain activity and impact. This closure period resulted in a temporary fall in income which is expected to return to normal levels in the year ending 31 March 2026.

Reserves

A target for unrestricted reserves has been set at £2,500,000 before pension reserves. The unrestricted reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £4,801,000 before the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability of £15,000 (2024: £15,000 and £694,000 deficit respectively). With careful financial management and, the generous support from our funders, sponsors and donors, along with the benefit of Orchestra Taxation Relief, Liverpool Philharmonic drew upon reserves due to the extended closure period at Philharmonic Hall during the period.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

The surplus generated in this year will be transferred to reserves to help fund Liverpool Philharmonic's financial stability for the unknown future events and continued investment in showcasing great art.

The Board performs a review of the reserves policy each year so that sufficient reserves can be established in line with the future needs of the business over the forthcoming years. The target of £2,500,000 has been set so that Liverpool Philharmonic can continue to meet its charitable objects and is not overly susceptible to changing economic conditions. £2,500,000 represents approximately four months core underlying operating costs which will protect Liverpool Philharmonic from fluctuations and reductions in earned income.

Unrestricted reserves are reported at 31 March 2025 as surplus £4,801,000 (2024: £4,616,000 surplus) of which £15,000 deficit relates to the defined benefit pension deficit (2024: £694,000 deficit) reserves. The valuation of the defined benefit pension scheme has generated an actuarial gain of £679,000 (2024: £182,000 gain).

Free reserves, being total reserves before the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme liability less restricted reserves and unrestricted fixed assets at 31 March 2025 were:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Total reserves	19,052	14,246
<u>Add:</u> Defined benefit pension deficit	15	694
<u>Less:</u> Restricted reserves	(14,251)	(10,874)
Unrestricted fixed assets	(5,597)	(2,438)
	(781)	1,628

There has been a reduction in free reserves from 31 March 2024 to 31 March 2025. The primary reason for this is the method of calculation that Liverpool Philharmonic uses for free reserves, which eliminates unrestricted fixed assets. During the year ended 31 March 2025, major capital works were completed whereby the stage riser system was replaced resulting in significant additions of the order £1,800,000 to the unrestricted fixed assets creating the movement in free reserves.

Net current assets are reported at £1,146,000 (2024: £1,354,000) indicating that despite reporting an unrestricted operational loss of £464,000 before actuarial revaluations, Liverpool Philharmonic has managed to retain consistent levels of liquidity in its current assets.

Fixed Asset Disposal

In February 2025, the Board of Trustees agreed designs and plans for a capital project whereby the stage riser system would be replaced. It was the decision to impair the stage installed in 2014 as it offers no value to the ongoing business. The stage works were completed in 2024 and the stage riser system that was installed in 2014 was removed and replaced. An amount of £1,480,000 has been disposed of. As the system was fully impaired, there is no impact to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Pension provisions

Liverpool Philharmonic operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The scheme is valued in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102. This resulted in an actuarial gain of £679,000 (2024: £182,000) during the year which has decreased the scheme deficit from £694,000 to £15,000. The Defined Benefit Pension Scheme has an ability to use

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

guaranteed annuity rates (GARs) on retirement. However, the impact of GARs has not been calculated. Therefore, with the current actuarial rates, the liability may be less onerous than it appears in the financial statements.

The last technical triennial valuation has been completed during the previous year with an effective date of 31 March 2023 and a revised schedule of contributions was agreed shortly after. The agreed contribution level effective from 1 April 2022, has increased from £150,000 to £194,000 for the remaining 10 years of the recovery. This will be reviewed when the next full actuarial valuation is undertaken which is currently underway and expected to be completed during 2025.

A group personal pension plan was launched on 1 April 2013 which is a contributory scheme, available to all employees. This scheme is compliant with the recent pension legislation and has auto enrolled all Liverpool Philharmonic qualifying employees on 1 July 2014. Every three years following the launch, we auto-re-enrolled the few staff who opted out of the scheme.

Investment policy and performance

The Trustees seek to ensure that emerging cash and other liquid resources are held and are able to be utilised for the purposes set out in the Reserves Policy. It is the policy of the Trustees that, until reserves satisfy the levels set out in the Reserves Policy, the reserves are held in a number of low risk vehicles with the performance of Liverpool Philharmonic's Investment Managers being monitored by the Audit and Performance Committee. All financial providers are reviewed periodically.

Plans for future periods

The main focus for Liverpool Philharmonic is to continue to recover from the impact of Covid-19 and present an outstanding concert programme, bringing a diverse portfolio of world class artists to the Philharmonic Hall whilst touring the Orchestra across the United Kingdom and overseas. We will continue to have a significant impact both locally and nationally with our Learning programme, in particular through the expansion and development of In Harmony Liverpool which currently reaches 1,500 children in Everton and Anfield. As part of Liverpool Philharmonic's National portfolio award, we continue to be delighted to be the grateful beneficiary of levelling up funding to develop a programme of events in Barrow.

The objectives and activities of the charity are discussed further below.

Financial risk management

Prices of goods and services purchased are subject to contracts with suppliers based on market prices, and salary costs are subject to a formal annual review. Our standard payment terms are 30 days. Credit risk on amounts owed by donors is low and audiences pay for tickets at the point of booking. In terms of liquidity risk, Liverpool Philharmonic has no short term borrowings and our policies on the management of investments and reserves are set out above.

Inclusivity and relevance

Liverpool Philharmonic recognises that Inclusivity & Relevance is fundamental for the delivery of our strategic objectives and the development of our business. A ten year Inclusivity & Relevance Plan has been agreed which sets out aims and actions in relation to gender, ethnicity and disability, making our activities available and accessible to all. Through this Plan, we are working to embrace and champion the opportunities that inclusion & relevance offers in our leadership, company members and in the artistic and music genres we present.

Liverpool Philharmonic has many strengths, for example in the range of our artistic programme, and the reach of our learning programme. We are building upon these in our aim to be an organisation which is truly representative and

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

engages its community; which presents a programme that celebrates and reflects the diversity of contemporary music and musicians; and which a leader is nationally and internationally in developing the diversity of our sector.

Equal opportunities

Liverpool Philharmonic operates an Equal Opportunities Policy on the recruitment of all employees, and in the promotion of its activities which encourages us to give:

- full and fair consideration of applicants for employment of people with any protected characteristic, having regard to their aptitudes and abilities;
- continuing employment and training of employees who become people with any protected characteristic; and
- training, career development and promotion of people with any protected characteristic employed by the company.

Liverpool Philharmonic has an Inclusivity & Relevance Plan, which is updated year on year.

Communications with staff

Staff are kept up to date with Liverpool Philharmonic developments and general matters of concern through a number of methods which include regular email updates and quarterly staff meetings where staff are actively encouraged to question management and offer ideas.

Post balance sheet events

On 19 May 2025, Vanessa Reed joined Liverpool Philharmonic as Chief Executive following the retirement of Michael Eakin on 31 March 2025.

Related parties

Details of related parties with which the society cooperates in the pursuit of its charitable objectives can be found in note 23 to these accounts.

Objectives and activities

As set out in the Trust Deed, Liverpool Philharmonic is established to promote, maintain, improve and advance education, particularly musical education, and for this purpose to encourage the arts of music, drama, mime, dance and singing, and to formulate, prepare and establish schemes thereof.

Liverpool Philharmonic enhances and transforms lives through music. Our vision is that we will be rooted in our community and a national and international ambassador for the City of Liverpool. We will be a thriving, forward looking diverse music organisation, with musicians and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at its heart, enhancing and transforming lives through a distinctive programme of excellence in performance and learning.

Liverpool Philharmonic is:

- a world class symphony orchestra, and associated choral and music ensembles; with
- an international concert hall presenting performances across a wide variety of music genres; and
- an extensive learning and engagement programme reaching across Liverpool and beyond.

Through this unique combination of assets, we bring the highest quality of musical experiences to our audiences. We aim to benefit Liverpool and its people through our work locally, nationally and internationally as described below.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

Public benefit

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the Society's activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Society relies on grants, donations, sponsorship, engagement fees and income from sale of tickets to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of ticket prices and concessions, the Trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of Liverpool Philharmonic to those on low incomes and with special needs.

Liverpool Philharmonic operates special schemes for various groups of the community which includes children and young people, school groups, students, young musicians and income support claimants providing them with access to heavily subsidised and discounted tickets.

Charges for Learning activities also have regard to ensuring those activities are accessible to the widest possible community, whatever their means and socio-economic background. In specific cases, membership of the youth and children's ensembles is means tested and supported by bursaries through the generous aid of our supporters. The extent of our Learning programme is described in more detail in the Chair's review of the year and on Liverpool Philharmonic's website. The website also makes video and audio content available free of charge to users across the world.

Learning

The Society supports an extensive and dedicated learning programme. The principal charitable activities are:

- staging of orchestral concerts for schools and families;
- supporting and developing a diverse range of ensembles and choirs involving professional, amateur and youth participants; and
- developing bespoke music education projects in a variety of local communities of all ages and environments with established education and health partners.

Orchestra and choir

The cornerstone of the Society's charitable activities is the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra ("the Orchestra"), a contract symphony orchestra of musicians dedicated to the production and performance of music of the highest quality. The orchestra undertakes a range of activities including:

- performing, recording and promoting a diverse repertoire of live classical music locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- creating and maintaining audiences for classical music;
- supporting excellence in choral music through the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir;
- recording a wide range of music for distribution through CD and digital means; and
- commissioning and premiering new works.

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

The Society is resident at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and as such extends its activities through Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited to encompass:

- supporting roots, contemporary and jazz music through a diverse and high quality music programme; and
- maintaining and making accessible Liverpool Philharmonic Hall for current and future generations of music lovers.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Report [Continued]

Trustee's third party indemnity

Liverpool Philharmonic purchases liability insurance cover for its Trustees and other Officers which gives them appropriate cover against the consequence of any neglect or default on their part.

Fundraising standards information

The fundraising approach taken during the year has been to solicit funds from individuals, companies and charitable organisations. The society is grateful to all those who contributed.

Fundraising has been carried out by the internal development team.

The Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and during the year various steps were taken to ensure adherence to the Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice.

During the year, the Society received no (2024: none) complaints about its fundraising work.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have given due regard to the macro economic risks faced by the Society, notably the increased pressure on income streams given price sensitivities and new audience cultivation. The trustees have concluded that the positive level of general reserves, a healthy cash balance, the benefit of Orchestra Tax Relief with the rate of 45% being confirmed for the foreseeable future and other sources of funding along with the continued support of its major funders, mean that the going concern basis remains appropriate for the preparation of these financial statements.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) and the Group and Charitable Company Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 group and charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report (including Directors' Report and Strategic Report) [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities [Continued]

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's auditor is unaware; and
- 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 that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Charitable Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report (on pages 6 to 12) was approved by the Board of Trustees on 25/09/2025



Louise Shepherd CBE
Chair



Stephen Gregory
Deputy Chair

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company 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 other 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 group and parent charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society [Continued]

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 12 to 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 group's and parent charitable company'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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

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.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society [Continued]

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with the laws and regulations, we considered the following:

Audit response to risks identified

- the nature of the sector, control environment and organisation performance.
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance. Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud and the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to compliance with Health and Safety legislation; compliance with copyright and other intellectual property law; and compliance with employment law. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override and we identified risk in relation to the posting of unusual journals and the manipulation of accounting estimates.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Charities Act 2022.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the compliance with Health and Safety legislation; compliance with copyright and other intellectual property law; and compliance with employment law as the key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society [Continued]

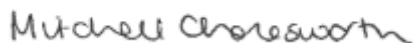
In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the board concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Alison Buckley (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Accountants

Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor

44 Peter Street

Manchester

M2 5GP

Date: 25/09/2025

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025				2024			
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	3	4,319	3,500	-	7,819	4,498	-	-	4,498
Charitable activities	4	2,764	-	1,745	4,509	2,866	-	639	3,505
Other trading activities	5	3,717	-	-	3,717	4,557	-	-	4,557
Investments		95	-	-	95	53	-	-	53
Total income and endowments		10,895	3,500	1,745	16,140	11,974	-	639	12,613
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	6	4,454	-	-	4,454	4,594	-	-	4,594
Charitable activities	7	9,618	-	686	10,304	9,547	-	726	10,273
Total expenditure		14,072	-	686	14,758	14,141	-	726	14,867
Net outgoing resources before (losses)/gains and transfers		(3,177)	3,500	1,059	1,382	(2,167)	-	(87)	(2,254)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(7)	62	-	55	13	-	-	13
Impairment losses	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,244)	(1,244)
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,184)	3,562	1,059	1,437	(2,154)	-	(1,331)	(3,485)

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025				2024			
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax receivable	9	2,690	-	-	2,690	2,716	-	-	2,716
Other recognised gains/ (losses):									
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		679	-	-	679	182	-	-	182
Net movement in funds		185	3,562	1,059	4,806	744	-	(1,331)	(587)
Reconciliation of funds									
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		4,616	-	9,630	14,246	3,872	-	10,961	14,833
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	18	4,801	3,562	10,689	19,052	4,616	-	9,630	14,246

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

All incoming resources and resources expended relate to continuing operations.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Group		Company	
		2025 £'000	2024 £'000	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12	14,734	13,041	14,700	13,041
Investments	13	4,100	545	4,100	545
		18,834	13,586	18,800	13,586
Current assets					
Stocks		75	32	-	-
Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	3,129	4,957	2,996	4,807
Cash at bank and in hand		3,353	950	3,149	736
		6,557	5,939	6,145	5,543
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(5,411)	(4,585)	(5,017)	(4,209)
Net current assets		1,146	1,354	1,128	1,334
Creditors: Amounts falling due within more than one year		(913)	-	(913)	-
Net assets excluding pension liability		19,067	14,940	19,015	14,920
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	(15)	(694)	(15)	(694)
Total net assets		19,052	14,246	19,000	14,226
The funds of the charity	18				
Endowment funds		3,562	-	3,562	-
Restricted income funds		10,689	9,630	10,689	9,630
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds		4,816	5,310	4,764	5,290
Pension reserve fund		(15)	(694)	(15)	(694)
Total unrestricted funds		4,801	4,616	4,749	4,596
Total funds		19,052	14,246	19,000	14,226

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 25/09/2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Louise Shepherd CBE
Chair



Stephen Gregory
Deputy Chair

Company Registration No. 88235

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities	5,340	(2,836)
Orchestra tax relief received	2,690	2,716
Net cash flow from operating activities	8,030	(120)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(2,222)	(838)
Movements in cash held as investments	(3,500)	-
Interest and dividends received	95	53
Net cash flow from investing activities	(5,627)	(785)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,403	(905)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	950	1,855
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	3,353	950
Reconciliation of net outgoing resources to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	4,806	(587)
Orchestra tax relief received	(2,690)	(2,716)
Dividends and interest received	(95)	(53)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	529	524
Losses/(gains) on investments	(55)	(13)
Impairment losses	-	1,244
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	(679)	(182)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(43)	11
Decrease in debtors	1,828	(1,567)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,739	503
Net cash outflow from operating activities	5,340	(2,836)

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £'000.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b) Taxation

The Society is a registered Charity and no provisions are considered necessary for taxation other than VAT. The trading subsidiary donates all of its profits to the Charity annually and, as such, does not incur a Corporation Tax charge.

Orchestra tax relief is accrued based on reasonable estimates of recoverability.

c) Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly owned subsidiary, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited on a line by line basis.

The accounting period for Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited is co-terminus with that of the Society. As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP, no separate Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) has been presented for the Charity. The net charity income for the year was £1,405,000 (2024: net expenditure of £3,491,000) and the net movement in funds was £4,395,000 (2024: £593,000).

d) Going concern

As noted on page 6 of the Trustees' Report, the Trustees have given due regard to the pressure on income streams and increasing costs. The Trustees have concluded that the positive level of general reserves, a healthy cash balance, the benefit of Orchestra Tax Relief at an increased rate of 50% along with other sources of funding and the continued support of its major funders, mean that the going concern basis remains appropriate for the preparation of these financial statements.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies [Continued]

e) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including grants, donations, gifts, legacies and memberships including related gift aid, that provides core funding or is of a general nature is recognised where there is certainty of receipt and where the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Voluntary income is only deferred where:

- the donor specifies that the income must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the Society has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Income from trading activities, e.g. ticket sales, is recognised in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants that carry specific conditions of performance, received specifically for charitable activities, are recognised as earned and restricted.

Deferred income is released in line with the expenditure incurred on the projects funded by the income.

f) Volunteers and donated services and facilities

The value of services rendered by volunteers is not incorporated in these financial statements. Where donated services and facilities are regarded as material they will be recognised in the SOFA providing that the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable. Should the donation of a gift of goods permit resale, the income from that sale will be recognised at the point of realisation.

g) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis and is reported gross of related income. Expenditure on direct costs relating to events is matched to the period in which the event occurs. Expenditure on staff salaries is charged to the financial statements as incurred and is not deferred to future periods.

Treatment of support costs

Support services are absorbed into the relevant activities undertaken by the Society. This is done on a basis consistent with the average consumption of resources.

Categorisation

Expenditure is recognised in the following categories:

- Expenditure on raising funds including the costs incurred whilst carrying out commercial trading operations, investment management costs and other fundraising costs; and
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all direct and indirect cost associated with undertaking charitable primary purpose activities.

h) Irrecoverable VAT

Where irrecoverable VAT has been incurred on an exempt charitable activity it is reflected as a cost to that charitable activity. Where irrecoverable VAT has been incurred by a support or service function it is allocated to activities on the same basis as the support or service function.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies [Continued]

i) Leases

The Society incurs operating lease charges on office and specialist equipment. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor. Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Leasehold property is stated at depreciated historical cost. Other fixed assets are stated at their purchase cost, together with any incidental cost of acquisition. Assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful economic lives as follows:

	Years
Leasehold property	Over useful economic life
Musical instruments	10 - 20
Furniture and fittings	10
Computers and IT	3

Assets costing £100 or more are capitalised at cost. The purchase of music or minor items of IT, furniture and equipment is written off in the year in which the expense is incurred.

k) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains/(losses) on investments' in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

The investment in the subsidiary is measured at cost less impairment.

l) Stock

Finished goods stocks relating to bars, catering and other trading stocks are valued at cost.

m) Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

n) Funds

Restricted income funds account for income which has been raised for or spent on a specific purpose. Grants and income that relate to specific capital expenditure are treated as restricted funds.

o) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered a service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies [Continued]

p) Pensions

The Society operated a defined benefit pension scheme for the benefit of a number of its employees, the assets of which are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The scheme was closed to new members in 2001 and was closed to future accrual of benefits in 2013.

Pension scheme assets are measured using market value. Pension scheme liabilities are measured using the projected unit actuarial method and are discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent terms and currency to the liability. The expected return on the schemes' assets and the increase during the year in the present value of the schemes' liabilities arising from the passage of time are included within the SOFA below net movements in funds. This represents a departure from the SORP FRS 102. However, the Trustees consider that given the non-cash nature of the charge and its volatility, in order to present a fair and balanced view of the financial performance of the Society it is more appropriate to disclose this item separately.

Pension scheme surpluses, to the extent that they are considered recoverable, or deficits, are recognised in full and presented on the face of the balance sheet.

The Society also operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Society in an independently administered fund. The contributions paid by the Society are recognised as an expense in the SOFA when they fall due.

q) Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

r) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Critical areas of judgement

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Classification of finance and operating leases

At the inception of each lease, management undertake an assessment of the terms of the lease including the payments to be made over the life of the lease, the fair value of the asset subject to the lease, the length of the lease and whether the terms of the lease transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.

Based on this assessment, management will determine whether the lease should be classified as a finance or operating lease.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting policies [Continued]

Critical accounting and estimates and assumptions

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

Useful economic life of tangible fixed assets

The useful economic life of tangible fixed assets is judged at the point of purchase. As standard, the assets are depreciated over their useful economic life based on the depreciation policy stated above.

Impairment of trade debtors

At each balance sheet date, management undertake a review of outstanding debtor balances and consider whether there is any indication of impairment or any balances requiring provision.

This calculation is based on the financial position of the customers, the payment history and any ongoing discussions.

Valuation of the Pension Scheme defined benefit liability

The present value of the Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pension liability at 31 March 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Orchestra tax relief accrued income

Due to the delay between signing the accounts and submission of the orchestra tax relief claim, management estimate the value of the reclaim and include a debtor balance in the financial statements. The estimate is based upon previous claims and consideration of the programme of events during the year.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Statutory information and legal status of the Society

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society is charity, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on page 48.

The liability of all members in the event of winding up is limited to £1 and as a registered charity, the Society is entitled to claim exemption from the charge to tax on income and charitable gains under current tax legislation. Any commercial activities which fall outside the statutory exemption for the purposes of Corporation Tax are conducted through Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited, which transfers all its taxable profits annually to the Society via Gift Aid. In the opinion of the Trustees, no liability to corporation tax arose in respect of the Society's activities in the year.

2 Related party disclosure

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption available under section 33 of FRS 102, Related Party Disclosures, not to disclose transactions or balances with group entities that have been eliminated on consolidation. See note 23 for details of other related party transactions.

3	Income from donations and legacies	2025	2025	2025
		Unrestricted £'000	Endowment £'000	Total Income £'000
	Grants			
	Arts Council England Core Grant	2,473	-	2,473
	Liverpool City Council	890	-	890
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,363	-	3,363
	Other voluntary income			
	Donations, gifts and Gift Aid	807	3,500	4,307
	Legacies and bequests	149	-	149
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		956	3,500	4,456
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total for the year ended 31 March 2025	<hr/> <hr/> 4,319	<hr/> <hr/> 3,500	<hr/> <hr/> 7,819

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies [Continued]

Grants

Arts Council England Core Grant

Liverpool City Council

Other voluntary income

Donations, gifts and Gift Aid

Legacies and bequests

Total for the year ended 31 March 2024

2024	2024	2024
Unrestricted	Endowment	Total Income
£'000	£'000	£'000
2,473	-	2,473
909	-	909
3,382	-	3,382
799	-	799
317	-	317
1,116	-	1,116
4,498	-	4,498

4 Income from charitable activities

Orchestral activities

Liverpool orchestral performances admissions

Engagement fees

Programme sales

Touring income

Ensembles income

Broadcasting

Royalties and other income

Learning activities

Ticket sales for schools and ensemble concerts

Ensemble subscriptions

Workshop fees

Sponsorship

Other

Project grants and trusts

Total for the year ended 31 March 2025

2025	2025	2025
Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Income
£'000	£'000	£'000
1,688	-	1,688
204	-	204
9	-	9
216	-	216
119	-	119
83	-	83
116	-	116
2,435	-	2,435
87	-	87
76	-	76
113	-	113
49	-	49
1	442	443
3	1,303	1,306
329	1,745	2,074
2,764	1,745	4,509

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Income from charitable activities [Continued]

Orchestral activities

Liverpool orchestral performances admissions	2,078	-	2,078
Engagement fees	309	-	309
Programme sales	1	-	1
Ensembles income	33	-	33
Broadcasting	165	-	165
Royalties and other income	54	-	54

2024 Unrestricted £'000	2024 Restricted £'000	2024 Total Income £'000
2,078	-	2,078
309	-	309
1	-	1
33	-	33
165	-	165
54	-	54
2,640	-	2,640

Learning activities

Ticket sales for schools and ensemble concerts	132	-	132
Ensemble subscriptions	25	-	25
Workshop fees	1	-	1
Other	42	180	222
Project grants and trusts	26	454	480

132	-	132
25	-	25
1	-	1
42	180	222
26	454	480
226	634	860

Other activities

Other project grants	-	5	5
----------------------	---	---	---

-	5	5
-	5	5

Total for the year ended 31 March 2024

2,866	639	3,505
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5 Income from other trading activities

Commercial trading operations (note 13)	3,717	-	3,717
---	-------	---	-------

2025 Unrestricted £'000	2025 Restricted £'000	2025 Total Income £'000
3,717	-	3,717

Total for the year ended 31 March 2025

3,717	-	3,717
-------	---	-------

Commercial trading operations (note 13)	4,557	-	4,557
---	-------	---	-------

2024 Unrestricted £'000	2024 Restricted £'000	2024 Total Income £'000
4,557	-	4,557
4,557	-	4,557

Total for the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 Orchestral £'000	2025 Learning £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Orchestral £'000	2024 Learning £'000	2024 Total £'000
Orchestral salaries and fees	3,925	-	3,925	3,977	-	3,977
Direct artistic costs	668	175	843	665	169	834
Augmenting extras	141	11	152	190	-	190
Programme costs	12	-	12	11	-	11
Travel and subsistence	192	3	195	104	12	116
Library and music hire	142	9	151	157	14	171
External room hire charges	-	10	10	25	24	49
Artistic planning and orchestra management	561	724	1,285	439	692	1,131
Vehicles	73	-	73	54	-	54
Workshop fees and costs	-	343	343	-	231	231
Other direct expenditure	1,335	84	1,419	1,569	141	1,710
Total direct costs	7,049	1,359	8,408	7,191	1,283	8,474
Direct costs re-apportioned on orchestra use basis	7,049	1,359	8,408	7,191	1,283	8,474
Hall refurbishment	222	11	233	250	11	261
Support costs (note 8)	1,338	325	1,663	1,241	297	1,538
Total costs based on activities	8,609	1,695	10,304	8,682	1,591	10,273

	2025 Unrestricted £'000	2025 Restricted £'000	2025 Total £'000
Orchestral	8,387	222	8,609
Learning	1,231	464	1,695
Total for the year ended 31 March 2025	9,618	686	10,304

	2024 Unrestricted £'000	2024 Restricted £'000	2024 Total £'000
Orchestral	8,432	250	8,682
Learning	1,115	476	1,591
Total for the year ended 31 March 2024	9,547	726	10,273

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities [Continued]

	2025 Staffing £'000	2025 Other Costs £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Staffing £'000	2024 Other Costs £'000	2024 Total £'000
Analysis of direct costs	4,334	4,074	8,408	4,386	4,088	8,474
	4,334	4,074	8,408	4,386	4,088	8,474

Direct and indirect costs of the orchestra have been apportioned across charitable activities on an activity led basis.

8 Allocation of group support and central services costs

	Charitable Activities			Raising Funds		Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	Total
2025	Orchestra Activities £'000	Learning Activities £'000	Fundraising Activities £'000	Other Expenditure £'000		£'000	£'000
Fundraising	12	21	98	12		120	263
Marketing	377	39	-	17		-	433
Communications	55	8	4	4		4	75
Operations and financial costs	417	117	47	173		56	810
Depreciation	171	30	6	73		12	292
Governance	58	58	19	19		19	173
Other	248	52	11	140		25	476
	1,338	325	185	438		236	2,522

Support costs are allocated on a percentage basis consistent with the average annual use of resources using a basis of percentage time; headcount or usage of Philharmonic Hall. Support costs are re-charged to LPHE in line with cross charging agreements. Support costs are charged in the financial year in which they are incurred.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Allocation of group support and central services costs [Continued]

	Charitable Activities		Raising Funds		Cost of	Total
	Orchestra Activities £'000	Learning Activities £'000	Fundraising Activities £'000	Other Expenditure £'000	Generating Voluntary Income £'000	
2024						
Fundraising	11	19	86	11	108	235
Marketing	369	38	-	17	-	424
Communications	50	7	4	4	4	69
Operations and financial costs	349	100	41	141	48	679
Depreciation	158	26	5	64	11	264
Governance	55	55	18	18	18	164
Other	249	52	11	136	24	472
	<u>1,241</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>2,307</u>

	Staffing £'000	Direct Costs £'000	General Costs £'000	Depreciation £'000	Total £'000
2025					
Support costs	1,044	130	1,043	305	2,522
2024					
Support costs	980	119	933	275	2,307

Analysis of governance costs:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Staffing	76	71
General	71	62
Audit fees	26	31
	<u>173</u>	<u>164</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within sections 466 to 493 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or sections 521 to 536 of the Income Tax Act 2007 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

The charity has included a tax credit in respect of Orchestra Tax received/receivable as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current year relief receivable	2,462	2,200
Under provision of prior year relief	228	516
	<u>2,690</u>	<u>2,716</u>

10. Net outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources are stated after charging:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	529	525
Impairment losses	-	(1,244)
Operating lease rentals	12	15
	<u>541</u>	<u>(699)</u>

11 Auditor's remuneration

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	16	15
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for other services:		
Audit of the charity's subsidiaries	8	8
Taxation compliance	3	3
	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Fixed assets - Group

	Leasehold Property £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Furniture & Fittings £'000	Computers & IT £'000	Musical Instruments £'000	Total £'000
Costs						
At 1 April 2024	23,775	1,590	2,005	365	247	27,982
Additions	-	1,856	220	96	50	2,222
Transfer	2,455	(2,759)	-	-	304	-
Disposals	(1,480)	-	-	-	-	(1,480)
At 31 March 2025	24,750	687	2,225	461	601	28,724
Accumulated depreciation:						
At 1 April 2024	13,318	-	1,202	314	107	14,941
Charge for the year	297	-	154	45	33	529
Disposals	(1,480)	-	-	-	-	(1,480)
At 31 March 2025	12,135	-	1,356	359	140	13,990
Net book value						
At 31 March 2024	10,457	1,590	803	51	140	13,041
Net book value						
At 31 March 2025	12,615	687	869	102	461	14,734

All leasehold property has more than 100 years remaining on the lease. It is not practicable to quantify the difference between carrying value and the market value of the leasehold property.

13 Fixed asset investments

Group and Company	Listed Investments £'000	Cash or cash Equivalents £'000	Other Investments £'000	Total £'000
Investments at fair value				
Investments at 1 April 2024	342	-	203	545
Additions	-	-	21	21
Movement in cash held as investments	-	3,562	-	3,562
Disposals	(28)	-	-	(28)
Gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-
Investments at 31 March 2025	314	3,562	224	4,100

Investments are held with Rathbones plc, the Society's Investment Manager, and M&G Charifund.

The Trustees believe that the carrying value of the investments is supported by their underlying net assets.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13 Fixed asset investments [Continued]

Company

The wholly owned subsidiary, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited (LPHE) donates its profits to RLPS annually. Staff originally in the employment of the Society are seconded to LPHE and charged accordingly. The Society is the sole shareholder in LPHE and a Shareholder's Agreement is in place to set out the arrangements between the Society and LPHE.

	Interest in Group Undertaking £
Cost at 31 March 2025 and 1 April 2024	1

The principal group undertaking of the Society at 31 March 2025:

	Country of incorporation and registration number	Activity	Issued share capital	% share capital held	Date of financial statements
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited	England and Wales 3110903	Catering, bars and venue management	£1	100%	31 March 2025

A summary of the trading results of LPHE is shown below:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Turnover	3,717	4,557
Cost of sales	(601)	(747)
Gross profit	3,116	3,810
Operating expenses	(2,994)	(3,078)
Net profit/(loss)	122	732
Net assets of LPHE	51	19

Intragroup sales totalled £801,000 (2024: £1,072,000) resulting in total external sales of £2,916,000 (2024: £3,485,000). The external sales are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities within Activities for generating funds - Commercial trading operations.

Intragroup Cost of sales and operating expenses of £95,000 (2024: £120,000) are included in cost of activities for generating funds - commercial trading operations.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Debtors	Group		Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	140	164	137	104
Other debtors	15	-	-	-
Prepayments	236	155	121	65
Accrued income	2,738	4,638	2,738	4,638
	<u>3,129</u>	<u>4,957</u>	<u>2,996</u>	<u>4,807</u>

15 Creditors	Group		Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade creditors	430	451	196	173
Amounts owed to group undertakings*	-	-	2,643	2,168
Taxation and social security	178	168	118	64
Other creditors	315	199	101	73
Accruals	298	348	199	162
Deferred income (note 17)	4,103	3,419	1,673	1,569
Other loans	87	-	87	-
	<u>5,411</u>	<u>4,585</u>	<u>5,017</u>	<u>4,209</u>

* No security is held, and no interest is charged on intercompany balances.

16 Creditors	Group		Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within more than one year:				
Other loans	913	-	913	-
	<u>913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>913</u>

16 Operating lease commitments - group and company

The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Other	
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	12	11
Later than one and not later than five years	33	44
Later than five years	6	9
	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

17	Deferred income	Group £'000	Company £'000
	At 1 April 2024	3,419	1,569
	Additions during the year	4,103	1,673
	Amounts released to income	(3,419)	(1,569)
		<u>4,103</u>	<u>1,673</u>
	At 31 March 2025	4,103	1,673

Income has been deferred for performances due to take place after the year-end and also for projects which were incomplete at the year-end.

18	Total funds	At 1 April 2024 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Transfer £'000	Gains, Losses and Taxation £'000	At 31 March 2025 £'000
	Group						
	Current year						
	Restricted funds:						
	Hall refurbishment fund	9,359	-	(222)	-	-	9,137
	Learning fund	271	1,745	(464)	-	-	1,552
	Paul Hamlyn Endowment fund	-	3,500	-	-	62	3,562
		<u>9,630</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>(686)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>14,251</u>
	Unrestricted funds:						
	General funds	5,310	10,895	(14,072)	-	2,683	4,816
	Pension reserve	(694)	-	-	-	679	(15)
		<u>4,616</u>	<u>10,895</u>	<u>(14,072)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,362</u>	<u>4,801</u>
	Total funds	<u>14,246</u>	<u>16,140</u>	<u>(14,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>19,052</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

18 Total funds [continued]

Company	At 1 April 2024 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains, Losses and Taxation £'000	At 31 March 2025 £'000
Current year						
Restricted funds:						
Hall refurbishment fund	9,359	-	(222)	-	-	9,137
Learning fund	271	1,745	(464)		-	1,552
Paul Hamlyn Endowment fund	-	3,500	-		62	3,562
	9,630	5,245	(686)	-	62	14,251
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds	5,290	7,268	(10,477)	-	2,683	4,764
Pension reserve	(694)	-	-	-	679	(15)
	4,596	7,268	(10,477)	-	3,362	4,749
Total funds	14,226	12,513	(11,163)	-	3,424	19,000

Hall refurbishment fund

The hall refurbishment fund relates to the capital works at Philharmonic Hall where funding was specifically donated for the project. The associated leasehold improvements are depreciated over their useful economic life as a corresponding restricted cost.

Learning fund

The learning fund relates to all learning works that have received funding with restrictions. The balance at the year-end of £119,000) relates directly to a legacy that was given for our learning work and will be retained until a project has insufficient funds to continue.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation Endowment

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation Endowment relates to a donation of £3,500,000 gifted in 2024 from Paul Hamlyn Foundation to Liverpool Philharmonic to support the work with young people and In Harmony. The funds are invested to generate income of which Liverpool Philharmonic will draw down subject to conditions agreed within the Deed of Gift. This also includes the agreed amount of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Endowment which may be spent each year in relation to the In Harmony projects.

Pension Scheme Fund

The Pension Scheme fund is a fund set up to enable the Society to honour its pension commitments. An amount is transferred into and out of the fund annually. The amount transferred is an unrealised surplus or deficit calculated using the rules set out in section 28 of FRS 102.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

18 Total funds [Continued]

Group	At 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains, Losses and Taxation £'000	At 31 March 2024 £'000
Prior year	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted funds:						
Hall refurbishment fund	10,853	-	(250)	-	(1,244)	9,359
Learning fund	108	639	(476)	-	-	271
	10,961	639	(726)	-	(1,244)	9,630
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds	4,748	11,974	(14,141)	-	2,729	5,310
Pension reserve	(876)	-	-	-	182	(694)
	3,872	11,974	(14,141)	-	2,911	4,616
Total funds	14,833	12,613	(14,867)	-	1,667	14,246

Company	At 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains, Losses and Taxation £'000	At 31 March 2024 £'000
Prior year	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted funds:						
Hall refurbishment fund	10,853	-	(250)	-	(1,244)	9,359
Learning fund	108	639	(476)	-	-	271
	10,961	639	(726)	-	(1,244)	9,630
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds	4,734	8,143	(10,316)	-	2,729	5,290
Pension reserve	(876)	-	-	-	182	(694)
	3,858	8,143	(10,316)	-	2,911	4,596
Total funds	14,819	8,782	(11,042)	-	1,667	14,226

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

18 Analysis of group net (liabilities)/assets between funds

Current year	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total 2025 £'000
Group			
Tangible fixed assets	5,597	9,137	14,734
Investments	538	3,562	4,100
Current assets	5,005	1,552	6,557
Current liabilities	(5,411)	-	(5,411)
Long term liabilities	(913)	-	(913)
Defined pension scheme liability	(15)	-	(15)
	<u>4,801</u>	<u>14,251</u>	<u>19,052</u>
Company			
Tangible fixed assets	5,563	9,137	14,700
Investments	538	3,562	4,100
Current assets	4,593	1,552	6,145
Current liabilities	(5,017)	-	(5,017)
Long term liabilities	(913)	-	(913)
Defined pension scheme liability	(15)	-	(15)
	<u>4,749</u>	<u>14,251</u>	<u>19,000</u>

Prior year	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Group			
Tangible fixed assets	2,438	10,603	13,041
Investments	545	-	545
Current assets	5,668	271	5,939
Current liabilities	(4,585)	-	(4,585)
Defined pension scheme liability	(694)	-	(876)
	<u>3,372</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>14,246</u>
Company			
Tangible fixed assets	2,438	10,603	13,041
Investments	545	-	545
Current assets	5,272	271	5,543
Current liabilities	(4,209)	-	(4,209)
Defined pension scheme liability	(694)	-	(694)
	<u>3,352</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>14,226</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

19 Analysis of staff costs

	Group		Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Wages, salaries and fees	7,085	6,116	5,347	4,335
Social security costs	683	554	567	451
Defined contribution pension contributions	274	156	220	129
Defined benefit pension contributions	194	194	194	194
	<u>8,236</u>	<u>7,020</u>	<u>6,328</u>	<u>5,109</u>

Emolument of employees

The number of employees of Liverpool Philharmonic whose emoluments (salaries, wages and benefits in kind) fell within the following bands was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	3	2
£100,001 - £110,000	-	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-

Staff numbers

The number of employees during the year was as follows:

	Group		Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Total staff	<u>306</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>129</u>

All staff were contracted by the Society however the cost of a number of staff were recharged to the Society's subsidiary company, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Events Limited.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

20 Trustee emoluments

The Trustees did not receive any emoluments or expenses in respect of services as Trustees in the year. The remuneration paid to employees who were also Trustees of the Charity was:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries	158	161
Social security costs	19	18
Pension costs	6	4
	<u>183</u>	<u>183</u>

Those employees who were Trustees during the year were: Sameeta Gahir as Orchestra member, Olga Smolden as Orchestra member, and Michael Eakin the Society's Chief Executive.

Key management personnel

The charity considers its Key Management Personnel to comprise, the Chief Executive, the Directors, the Heads of Department and the Department Managers. Total employee benefits in respect of these individuals were £855,260 (2024: £875,052).

21 Financial commitments

There were no contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets contracted for but not provided in the financial statements.

22 Pensions

Schemes

Liverpool Philharmonic operates two pension schemes:

1. A defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable salaries. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Society, being invested with Clerical Medical Investment Group Limited. This scheme was closed to new members in September 2001. On 31 March 2013, the scheme was closed to accrual of future benefits; and
2. A group personal pension scheme with assets held separately from those of the Society. The scheme assets are administered and invested by Scottish Life and is open to all employees.

Defined Benefit Scheme

The contributions to the Defined Benefit Scheme are determined by a qualified actuary, employed by Clerical Medical, on the projected unit basis.

The pension contributions from the Society in the year was £194,000 (2024: £194,000). The current Schedule of Contributions agreed on 17 July 2020 with the Scheme Trustee states agreed increasing annual contributions of initially £100,000 up to 31 March 2023, £150,000 up to 31 March 2025 and £194,000 up to 31 March 2033. The scheme was last valued as at 31 March 2019.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22 Pensions [Continued]

The total net income recognised in the period was as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Employer contributions recognised as expenditure	194	(43)
Other movement recognised as other gains and losses	(519)	31
Net income/(expenditure) recognised	(325)	(12)

Amounts recognised in the balance sheet were as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Present value of funded obligations	(12,367)	(13,643)
Fair value of plan assets	12,352	12,949
	(15)	(694)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	13,643	13,976
Interest expense	650	662
Benefits paid	(774)	(683)
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(1,152)	(312)
Closing defined benefit obligation	12,367	13,643

Changes in the fair value of pension plan assets were as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Opening plan assets	12,949	13,100
Interest income	616	619
Employer contributions	194	194
Benefits paid	(774)	(683)
Actuarial losses	(633)	(281)
Closing plan assets	12,352	12,949

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22 Pensions [Continued]

The amount that each major class of pension plan assets constitutes of the fair value of the total plan assets was as follows:

	2025 %	2025 £'000	2024 %	2024 £'000
Equities	13.5	1,675	19.7	2,557
Bonds	9.6	1,183	10.0	1,290
Cash	5	613	3.2	412
Property	2.3	285	3.4	444
Insured pensions	69.6	8,596	63.7	8,246
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>12,352</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>12,949</u>

The actuarial return on plan assets was as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Interest income	616	619
Actuarial losses	<u>(633)</u>	<u>(281)</u>
Total return on plan assets	<u>(17)</u>	<u>338</u>

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22 Pensions [Continued]

Assumptions and valuation

The assumptions used over the last five years and in the valuation by the actuary undertaken at 31 March 2024 were:

	2025 %	2024 %	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %
Discount rate	5.75	4.90	4.85	2.80	2.10
Inflation (RPI)	3.25	3.35	3.35	3.85	3.353
Inflation (CPI)	2.90	3.00	2.95	3.45	2.95
Allowance for revaluation of deferred pensions of CPI or 5% pa if less	2.90	3.00	2.95	3.45	2.95
Allowance for revaluation of deferred pensions of CPI or 2.5% pa if less	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Allowance for pension in payment increases of RPI or 5% pa if less	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.55	3.20
Allowance for pension in payment increases of RPI or 2.5% pa if less	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.25	2.15
Allowance for pension in payment increases of RPI or 5% pa if less, min 3% pa	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.95	3.75
Allowance for pension in payment increases of CPI or 2.5% pa if less	1.95	1.95	1.95	2.20	2.00
Allowance for pension in payment increases of CPI or 5% pa if less, min 3% pa	3.55	3.55	3.60	3.75	3.60
Allowance for commutation of pension for cast at retirement	50	50	50	50	50

The defined benefit pension scheme was closed to future accrual of benefits on 31 March 2013. Salary escalation assumptions are not applicable.

The scheme has a number of annuities in respect of past retirements. These are understood to fully match the associated liabilities and so have been excluded from both the assets and liabilities at each accounting date.

The impact of guaranteed annuity rates (GARs) has not been allowed for and at the current interest rates, the pension liability may be less onerous than it appears.

	2025 Male (years)	2025 Female (years)	2024 Male (years)	2024 Female (years)
Life expectancy for members aged 65 at 31 March	21.4	24.2	21.4	24.2
Life expectancy for members aged 45 at 31 March from their 65th birthday	22.7	25.7	22.7	25.6

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22 Pensions [Continued]

Sensitivity analysis

The following table provides an indication of the sensitivity of the value of liabilities to changes in assumptions:

Change	Impact on liabilities	
	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current value	12,367	13,643
Discount rate -25 (2024: -50 points)	12,680	14,464
Discount rate +25 (2024: +50 points)	12,066	12,897
Price inflation rate -25 points	12,283	13,546
Price inflation rate +25 points	12,440	13,757
Increase life expectancy by 1 year	12,779	14,102

Defined contribution scheme

The cost of contributions to the defined contribution scheme was £194,000 (2024: £194,000). At the year-end £Nil (2024: £Nil) was owed in respect of these contributions.

23 Related party transactions

Mr A Cornall is a director of Cornall Music Limited. Mr Cornall acts in a freelance capacity as Consultant Artistic Director responsible for artistic direction for Liverpool Philharmonic. Fees charged to Liverpool Philharmonic in relation to his management role were £32,757 (2024: £32,476). Amounts outstanding to Cornall Music Limited at 31 March 2025 were £2,970 (2024: £3,221).

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Reference and Administrative Details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

President

The Right Honourable Earl of Derby DL

Honorary Vice Presidents

Ian Wright

Trustees

Louise Shepherd (Chair)

Michael Eakin (resigned 31 March 2025)

Olga Smolen*

Vanessa Bakewell (resigned 11 November 2024)

Angela Bellingham*(resigned 11 November 2024)

Sameeta Gahir

Stephen Gregory (Deputy Chair)*

Bryan Johnson*

Camilla Mankabady

Vanessa Reed (Chief Executive appointed 19 May 2025)*

Jernice Easthorp (appointed 23 September 2024)

Matthew Cooke (appointed 23 December 2024)

David Lloyd* (appointed 11 November 2024)

Tom Lewis (appointed 23 September 2024)

* member of the Audit and Performance Committee

Executive team

Peter Garden Chief Operating Officer

Stephan Heaton Executive Director - Finance, Facilities, and IT

Charlie Rachwal Executive Director - Audiences

Sandra Roberts Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra and Ensembles)

Company Secretary

Stephan Heaton

Registered Office

Philharmonic Hall

Hope Street

Liverpool

L1 9BP

Company registration number

88235

Charity registration number

230538

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Reference and Administrative Details [Continued]

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Independent Auditors

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
3rd Floor, 44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

Legal advisors

DWF LLP
5 St Pauls Square
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9AE

Principal Banker

HSBC plc
Royal Liver Buildings
Pier Head
Liverpool
L3 1HU

Investment Manager

Rathbones
Port of Liverpool Building
Pier Head
Liverpool
L3 1NW