

**Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra Scottish Charity Account Number SCO32149 Trustees'
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025**

Serving Trustees, as of 31st December 2025

Sam Paul, Philip Rose, Scott Annison, David Elston, Ruth Kalitski, Pixie Nishina, Richard Coleman, Emma Winchester.

Other Trustees during the year

Peter Tees, Lorna Baker, Aden Mazur.

Contact Address

c/o 46 Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DP

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

All the Association's trustees are appointed or reappointed by the members at our annual general meeting, which was held in May 2025. David Elston and Pixie Nishina were elected to be trustees at a General Meeting held on 3rd December 2025.

Governing document

The orchestra is a charitable unincorporated association and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Charitable purposes

Our purposes, as recorded in our constitution, are to advance the education of the public in music and, in particular chamber music, and related arts.

Activities and achievements

Activities are described under two headings, Aberdeen City Orchestra (current trading name for the orchestra) and Aberdeen City Youth Ensembles

Aberdeen City Orchestra

During 2025 Aberdeen City Orchestra put on 4 concerts with very different programmes. Three different conductors guided the orchestra during the year, Chris Gray, Tim Tricker and Tomas Leakey. A professional recording and film was made of each concert.

22nd Feb 2025, St Machar's Cathedral: this concert was titled "Fantastique" and featured Strauss' Four Last Songs and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique. Judith Howarth, soloist in the Strauss, entranced the audience before they were sent on Berlioz's wild journey from glittering dances and pastoral scenes to a satanic caper at the gates of hell. The concert was conducted by Chris Gray.

28th June 2025, Aberdeen Music Hall: the orchestra returned to Aberdeen's Music Hall and another night of film Music, ACO at the Movies Strikes Back. We had a fun packed evening performing a great selection of film music, from Raiders of the Lost Ark to Harry Potter via Apocalypse Now. This concert was brilliantly conducted by Tim Tricker

27th September 2025, Midstocket Church: the third concert in the series was another opportunity to delve into Brahms' symphonic, conducted by Tomas Leakey. The concert opened Beethoven's Egmont Overture followed by Haydn's Symphony No. 88. In the second half the orchestra performed and Brahms' fourth symphony.

13th December 2025, Midstocket: In the final concert of the year, "Winter Waltz" by Tim Tricker took us on a journey of joyful winter dance music from Prokofiev's Winter Bonfire to Tschaikovsky's Swan Lake suite.

Aberdeen City Orchestra Youth Ensembles

The orchestra's youth groups continued to flourish in 2025-26. The Youth Orchestra was set up in 2022, under the umbrella of the main orchestra. The Youth Orchestra is now formed of 40 young people of Grade 5+ standard and continues to be supported by volunteer musicians from within the main orchestra. To ensure the sustainability of the groups, last year we started to make modest payments to the administrator and conductors.

The Youth Ensemble programmes chosen are deliberately varied but challenging and in the two concerts in 2025 concert featured Mozart Symphony No. 40, Ruth Gipps Ambarvalia. The playing standard necessarily remains very high and a number of the young players also participate in the adult orchestra performances.

String players below grade 5 standard can participate in two weekly string groups aimed at grades 1-3 and 3-5. The groups are designed to allow young musicians to progress, along with their playing skills and meet other young musicians from Aberdeenshire. We endeavour to make all groups inclusive and supportive, but at the same time challenge the young people's musicality.

Although all groups are nominally fee paying, we continue to waive fees for some individuals, in order to avoid finance being a barrier to music making. The gap has been partly bridged through the fund-raising efforts of the church in which the ensembles are based and the church continues to be very supportive of all youth ensemble activities.

Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the financial year 2025 £3,714 was paid to trustees as direct reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.

A total of £3,480 was paid to trustees for services provided to the orchestra. £480 was paid to Ruth Kalitski and £1,750 was paid to Aden Mazur for their work running the ACO Youth Groups. £1,250 was also paid to Aden Mazur for leading the orchestra.

Reserves

Income of £34,694 for the year was less than the outgoings of £35,051 by £357. As a result, the Association held unrestricted funds of £20,057 at the year end. The Committee considers that the current reserves will enable us to continue to run the orchestra for the foreseeable future and attract high quality conductors and musicians to work with us. The success of the Music Hall film music concert in June, surplus £4071, together with the Orchestra Tax Relief awarded, £3,707, ensured financial stability over the 2025 season. The level of our reserves enables the orchestra to be ambitious in our programming and we commissioned a new piece of music for 2026. While we aim to break even on our concerts over the year, the level of reserves mitigates the financial risk. A substantial element of the reserve, £2,666, also relates specifically to the Youth Groups and is held with a view to funding good quality tutors for all groups on a more permanent basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Sam Paul,
Chairman

31 March 2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Ticket Sales	18,079.66	9,829.28
Membership Subs	3,043.39	2,877.87
Grant Funding Received	0.00	252.00
HMRC Gift Aid Rebate/ORT	3,707.46	3,160.20
Charitable Donations	35.00	0.00
ACO Youth Ensemble	9,826.89	9,418.17
Online shop test / Spond test	2.00	28.54
TOTAL RECEIPTS	34,694.40	25,566.06
Soloist Fees	1,500.00	1,426.00
Music Hire / Print costs	3,643.25	1,522.71
Conductors Fees & Expenses	3,010.60	3,547.70
Leaders Fees & Expenses / Musicians	2,592.00	2,369.02
Publicity/Flowers (2024 only)	3,663.32	1,834.00
Concert Hall / rehearsal hall hire	5,312.00	5,055.00
Instrument hire / lighting hire / refreshments	1,581.00	871.66
Performers gifts	268.44	
PRS Fees	681.49	365.88
Companies House / HRMC Fees / OTR fee	478.89	413.22
Making Music Sub/Public Liability Insurance	648.61	468.00
Equipment / Instrument purchase	51.71	188.58
Bank / Website charges	37.50	389.80
Administration		25.00
ACO Youth Ensemble costs	11,582.63	9,430.11
Merchandise costs		0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	35,051.44	27,906.68
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	(357.04)	(2,340.62)

Bank & Cash in Hand		
Opening	20,414.50	22,755.12
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(357.04)	(2,340.62)
Closing	20,057.46	20,414.50

Reserves		
Youth Ensemble / String Group	2,666.44	4,422.18
General Orchestral Funds	17,391.02	15,992.32
General Funds TOTAL	20,057.46	20,414.50

Bank balance breakdown		
OTR	1,319.64	2,817.18
Treasurer account	18,723.75	17,568.27
Stripe Account	14.07	29.05
Paypal Account	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	20,057.46	20,414.50

Difference (0.00) 0.00

Basis of reporting receipts and payments

Concert costs

	Symphonie fantastique	ACO at the movies strikes back	Brahms 4	Winter Walz	Prior/NEXT year expense /income	General	ACO TOTAL	Youth Ensemble Spring / Autumn 24	Youth ensemble Autumn / Spring 26	ACO YE Total	GRAND TOTAL
Ticket Sales + prog donations	2,640.77	10,864.31	1,929.09	2,543.92	101.57		18,079.66	885.31	1,049.07	1,934.38	20,014.04
Membership subs	797.86	888.61	651.46	675.87	29.59		3,043.39	3,992.51	3,900.00	7,892.51	10,935.90
OTR Relief					3,707.46		3,707.46			0.00	3,707.46
Grant awarded							0.00			0.00	0.00
Donation						35.00	35.00			0.00	35.00
Spond test						2.00	2.00			0.00	2.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,438.63	11,752.92	2,580.55	3,219.79	3,838.62	37.00	24,867.51	4,877.82	4,949.07	9,826.89	34,694.40
Conductors Fees & Expenses rehearsal	250.00	250.00	720.60	300.00			1,520.60	1,771.02	2,725.00	4,496.02	6,016.62
Conductors Fees & Expenses concert	300.00	300.00	540.00	350.00			1,490.00			0.00	1,490.00
Music Hire / Print costs	248.50	1,660.07	188.90	571.60	974.18		3,643.25	60.34	548.87	609.21	4,252.46
Leaders Fees & Expenses / Musicians	2,318.50	600.00	500.00	673.50			4,092.00	150.00		150.00	4,242.00
Rehearsal Hall	256.00	1,702.50	414.50	428.00			2,801.00	2,208.00	1,849.00	4,057.00	6,858.00
Concert Hall	460.00	1,320.00	316.00	315.00	100.00		2,511.00			0.00	2,511.00
Marketing	469.12	744.96	785.63	642.91	1,020.70		3,663.32		150.00	150.00	3,813.32
Equipment, instrument hire and transport	1,009.60	362.00				51.71	1,423.31			0.00	1,423.31
Performers gifts	97.49	60.00	80.00		30.95		268.44			0.00	268.44
Refreshments			39.23	170.17			209.40	238.99	246.01	485.00	694.40
Making Music/insurance						648.61	648.61			0.00	648.61
PRS		681.49					681.49	42.16		42.16	723.65
OTR Relief / Company House costs						478.89	478.89			0.00	478.89
Other						37.50	37.50		93.24	93.24	130.74
Administrator							0.00	750.00	750.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL COSTS	5,409.21	7,681.02	3,584.86	3,451.18	2,125.83	1,216.71	23,468.81	5,220.51	6,362.12	11,582.63	35,051.44
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) per concert	(1,970.58)	4,071.90	(1,004.31)	(231.39)	1,712.79	(1,179.71)	1,398.70	(342.69)	(1,413.05)	(1,755.74)	(357.04)

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General Expenditure analysis

Making Music platform cost	148.62
Making Music subs and insurance	499.99
OTR processing fee (Making Music)	444.89
Website squarespace subscription	
Google domain cost	12.00
Companies House fee	34.00
Banking fee	25.50
New Music Folders	51.71
Total	1,216.71

NB Square space charges for 2025, £205, will appear in 2026 accounts - late expense claim