

Charity Registration No. SC016016

Company Registration No. SC108350 (Scotland)

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra

Directors' Report and Unaudited Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 September 2025

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	David Elliott Wendy Elliott (appointed 27 October 2025) Fiona Duncanson Catherine Frew Malcolm Garden (resigned 27 October 2025) May Halyburton Finlay Hetherington Rosemary Kenneally Elisabeth Kerr Nicholas Jones Kathryn Jourdan (resigned 18 February 2026) Fiona McLean Kenneth Taylor Katherine Whitlock (appointed 27 October 2025)
Secretary	Nicholas Jones
Charity number	SC016016
Company number	SC108350
Registered Office	59 North Meggetland Edinburgh EH14 1XQ
Independent Examiner	McFadden Associates Limited 19 Rutland Square Edinburgh EH1 2BB

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

CONTENTS

	Page
Directors' report	3-8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the accounts	12-16

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Structure, governance and management

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra was established by Memorandum and Articles of Association on 25th November 1987. The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland with registration number SC108350. It has its registered office at 59 North Meggetland, Edinburgh, EH14 1XQ.

The directors who served during the year and up to the approval date were:

David Elliott
Wendy Elliott (appointed 27 October 2025)
Fiona Duncanson
Catherine Frew
Malcolm Garden (resigned 27 October 2025)
May Halyburton
Finlay Hetherington
Rosemary Kenneally
Elisabeth Kerr
Nicholas Jones
Kathryn Jourdan (resigned 18 February 2026)
Fiona McLean
Kenneth Taylor
Katherine Whitlock (appointed 27 October 2025)

No director has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Management of the company is delegated to a Board of directors who are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Sub committees, reporting to the Board, may be convened from time to time as appropriate. Directors are provided with updated information regarding new legislation in order that they are aware of their responsibilities.

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is also their responsibility to safeguard the assets of the company and hence to take reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors have considered the major risks to which the activities and finances of the company are exposed and have taken the necessary steps to manage and mitigate these. A continuous process of risk assessment takes place around all of the company's activities, particularly as the directors are mindful of the fact that these involve young people.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the company are to promote and encourage the participation in musical activities of young people in Scotland, and in particular the interests of Edinburgh Youth Orchestra and any other groups established by the company from time to time.

Achievements and performance: Edinburgh Youth Orchestra: 2025 Season

Easter Ensembles Course

Delivered from 17–20 April 2025, EYO's Easter Ensembles Course engaged nearly 100 young musicians aged 10–16 from over 40 schools across Edinburgh, the Lothians and wider Scotland. Open to players of Grade 3 standard and above, the course provided many participants with their first experience of large-scale ensemble performance.

Across four days of intensive rehearsal, participants developed core ensemble, listening and performance skills within a supportive and inclusive environment. The course was led by Lawrence Gill and Claire Docherty, supported by a team of nine professional tutors, ensuring high-quality musical guidance throughout.

A key achievement of the course was the delivery of a collaborative Creative Composition workshop, in which all participants contributed to the creation and performance of a new work. This initiative strengthened creativity, confidence and teamwork, and provided a valuable introduction to composition and collective music-making.

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

The course concluded with a well-attended Sharing Concert, showcasing a varied and ambitious programme including Bizet's *Les Toréadors* from *Carmen*, Khachaturian's *Sabre Dance*, and works by Bartók, Handel and Dvořák. The premiere of the participants' own composition demonstrated both musical progress and creative engagement. The final performance, featuring a full orchestral rendition of *Highland Cathedral* with guest bagpiper Rory Forbes, provided a memorable conclusion and highlighted the participants' collective achievement.

Participant and parent feedback evidenced high levels of satisfaction, with particular emphasis on the inclusive atmosphere, quality of teaching, and the confidence gained through performance. Many participants expressed a strong desire to return, indicating successful engagement and retention.

Summer Symphony Orchestra

The Summer Symphony Orchestra course, delivered from 2–9 August 2025, brought together over 90 advanced young musicians from across Scotland for an intensive week of orchestral training and performance. Under the direction of internationally renowned conductor Sian Edwards, and supported by an expert team of tutors, participants engaged with a demanding symphonic repertoire, demonstrating significant artistic and technical progression.

The programme included Holst's *The Planets*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, and Ticheli's *Angels in the Architecture*, offering participants the opportunity to perform complex, large-scale works.

A notable innovation in 2025 was the introduction of a one-day project, a rehearsal and performance of 'Star Wars Suite' led by Robert Baxter. This initiative required participants to learn and perform a substantial work within a compressed timeframe, fostering focus, adaptability and teamwork, while enhancing engagement through well-known repertoire.

The course culminated in two sold-out performances at Greyfriars Kirk as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Audience response was highly positive, reflecting the quality of performance and the impact of the programme. A standout achievement was the collaboration with the National Youth Choir of Scotland Chamber Choir in the final movement of *The Planets*, demonstrating successful partnership working and delivering a powerful artistic outcome.

Participants reported a strong sense of community and highlighted the value of performing high-calibre repertoire alongside peers. The intensive rehearsal schedule supported rapid musical development, with expert tuition enabling participants to translate technical learning into high-quality public performance.

The programme also contributed to progression pathways, with participants moving on to further study at leading conservatoires, including the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Royal Academy of Music.

Parent feedback demonstrated the wider impact of the programme, particularly in supporting aspirations, building transferable life skills such as resilience and teamwork, and enabling access through financial assistance. The availability of bursary support was critical in ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunity for participants from lower-income backgrounds.

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Overall Impact

Across both programmes, the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra in 2025 successfully:

- Engaged over 190 young musicians from across Scotland
- Delivered high-quality musical training through professional artistic leadership
- Expanded creative learning through composition and innovative project work
- Achieved strong public engagement through well-attended performances
- Strengthened progression pathways into further musical study and careers
- Maintained a clear commitment to accessibility and inclusion through financial support

These outcomes demonstrate the organisation's continued success in delivering impactful, high-quality musical experiences and supporting the next generation of young musicians.

Financial review

The overall expenditure on the company's activities was £76,778 (2024 - £63,642) and the total income was £83,806 (2024 - £68,072), resulting in a surplus of £7,028 (2024 - £4,430).

Principal funding sources

Considerable assistance in meeting the costs of the courses was received from several Charitable Trusts, organisations, and individuals by way of donations amounting to £38,700.

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by:

- Baillie Gifford
- Foundation Scotland Cost of Living Award
- Geoff Ball
- Pear Tree Fund for Music
- Penpont Trust
- Stevenston Charitable Trust
- The Mary Janet King Foundation
- The Radcliffe Trust
- The Stafford Trust
- Tillyloss Trust
- William Syson Foundation

The directors acknowledge the considerable support given by George Watson's College to the work of the orchestra.

One-off donations and society member individual donations totalled £2,330 (2024 - £6,233) for the year.

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Reserves policy

As a charity, the directors have examined the company's requirements for reserves considering the main risks to the organisation. Since the company has no staff, premises, or other fixed financial commitments, they believe that setting a policy to maintain reserves at a certain level is not strictly required.

However, the directors have established a policy whereby they aim to maintain unrestricted funds not committed to being equivalent to the expected gap between the typical costs to run the annual courses and the amount expected to be received from players' fees and donations, which amount to approximately £10,000 - £15,000. These reserves would be needed to meet the short-term working capital requirements of the company, i.e. to be able to run the upcoming courses, and the directors are confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the company for at least one further year in the event of a significant drop in funding.

The level of unrestricted reserves available to the company at the year end amounted to £41,892.

Future Plans: Season 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, EYO will build on the momentum of 2025 with expanded access and continued artistic ambition across both its Ensembles and Symphony Orchestra programmes.

Leadership and Development

The appointment of a new general manager represents a significant step forward for the organisation, strengthening operational delivery, supporting strategic growth, and enabling EYO to deepen its partnerships and widen participation. A key priority will be to ensure an increased bursary programme so financial barriers are reduced, allowing more young people to benefit from EYO's programmes.

Easter Ensembles Course 2026

In 2026, EYO will expand its Easter Ensembles Course, increasing participant numbers to meet growing demand while maintaining the high-quality, inclusive experience that defines the programme. Alongside this growth, EYO will enhance its bursary provision to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation.

Partnership development will be central to the course's evolution. EYO will partner with Sistema Scotland and will strengthen collaboration with local Instrumental Music Services, deepening connections with teachers across the country.

The course will also introduce new structured development opportunities within its teaching model. EYO will expand its ambassador role, enabling early-career musicians, drawn from senior Symphony Orchestra members and recent alumni, to work alongside professional tutors, gaining valuable experience in music education and leadership.

In addition, a new mentor role will be introduced for S5 and S6 Symphony Orchestra members with an interest in teaching. These mentors will support younger participants during the course, developing their skills in communication, leadership and peer learning, while contributing to a supportive and aspirational learning environment.

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Summer Symphony Orchestra 2026

EYO's flagship Summer Symphony Orchestra will return in 2026 under the direction of internationally acclaimed conductor Natalia Luis-Bassa, marking an exciting new chapter in the orchestra's artistic leadership as it moves to a model where the orchestra will work with different guest conductors each season.

Participants will rehearse a bold and ambitious programme designed to challenge and inspire:

- Márquez – *Conga del Fuego Nuevo*
- Oetomo – *Soar: Concerto for Marimba and Strings - soloist Calum Huggan*
- Mahler – *Symphony No. 1*

This repertoire will provide young musicians with the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of musical styles, from contemporary and Latin American influences to the large-scale symphonic tradition. As in previous years, the course will combine intensive rehearsals with high-profile public performances, supporting participants to achieve exceptional artistic outcomes.

The 2026 Symphony Orchestra will continue to prioritise progression and professional development, with participants benefiting from expert tuition, immersive rehearsal experiences, and the opportunity to perform at a high level.

Looking Forward

Across both programmes, EYO's plans for 2026 reflect a clear commitment to growth, inclusion and excellence. By expanding access, strengthening partnerships and creating new pathways for leadership and progression, the organisation will continue to support young musicians from across Scotland at every stage of their development.

Through these initiatives, EYO aims not only to deliver outstanding musical experiences, but also to nurture the next generation of performers, educators and creative leaders.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



David Elliott
Chairman of Board of Directors
Dated: 8 May 2026

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

The charity's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Director Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and they consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;
- have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Stewart CA

Chartered Accountant (ICAS)
19 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2BB

Dated: 8 May 2026

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
<u>Income</u>			
Donations and legacies	2	41,030	30,583
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	41,885	37,049
Bank interest		891	440
Total income		<hr/> 83,806	<hr/> 68,072
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Charitable activities	4	76,778	63,642
Total expenditure		<hr/> 76,778	<hr/> 63,642
Net income for the year / net movement in funds		<hr/> 7,028	<hr/> 4,430
Fund balances at 1 October 2024		34,864	30,434
Fund balances at 30 September 2025		<hr/> 41,892	<hr/> 34,864

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

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Other debtors		-		440	
Cash at bank and in hand		45,709		48,524	
		<u>45,709</u>		<u>48,964</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Accruals and deferred income	10	<u>(3,817)</u>		<u>(14,100)</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>41,892</u>	<u>34,864</u>	
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			<u>41,892</u>	<u>34,864</u>	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 September 2025. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 8 May 2026.


David Elliott
Chairman of Board of Directors

Company Registration no. SC108350

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

1 Accounting Policies

Charity information

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Scotland. The registered office is 59 North Meggetland, Edinburgh, EH14 1XQ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Charities and Director Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019) ('the SORP'). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Incoming resources

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

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales-related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the staging of productions and include both direct and support costs relating to these activities.

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

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the charitable activity on a basis consistent with their use.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.7 Financial instruments

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

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

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

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. Otherwise, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

2 Donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations and gifts	41,030	30,583

3 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Player fees	35,114	29,470
Concert - tickets, programmes and adverts	6,771	7,579
	<u>41,885</u>	<u>37,049</u>

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

4 Charitable activities

		2025	2024
		£	£
Concert production and performance:			
Activities undertaken directly	5	56,894	47,986
Support costs	6	17,105	14,858
		<u>73,999</u>	<u>62,844</u>
Independent examination fee		440	400
Other governance costs		269	398
Legal fees		2,070	-
		<u>76,778</u>	<u>63,642</u>
Total			

5 Activities undertaken directly

		2025	2024
		£	£
Costs relating to concert production and performance comprise:			
Professional fees		33,581	28,249
Rehearsal and concert costs		14,893	8,514
Travel, accommodation and subsistence		6,202	9,039
Printing and promotion		2,218	2,184
		<u>56,894</u>	<u>47,986</u>

6 Support costs

		2025	2024
		£	£
Administration costs		17,105	14,858

EDINBURGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

7 Director Remuneration

One director, May Halyburton, received fees for instrumental tuition totalling £1,540 (2024 - £800). These payments were not related to the duties of a director and are permitted by the Memorandum of Association.

Expenses totalling £107 (2024 - £1,707) were reimbursed to two directors during the year, wholly in respect of expenditure incurred for the purposes of Edinburgh Youth Orchestra activities. These were related to filing requirements for Companies House and sundry expenses.

8 Employees

There were no employees during the year.

9 Related Parties

A close family member of a director, Wendy Elliott, was paid a fee of £7,000 (2024 - £7,000) for general management.

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	3,817	14,100