

McOPERA

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**



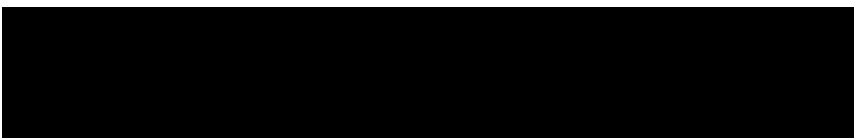
www.mcopera.com

McOpera is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The objectives of the charity are promoting performance projects, giving opportunities for talent from communities within Scotland; the advancement of education and the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture.

Our Charity Reference Number is SC052541

Our address is:
31 Tannoch Drive
Milngavie
G62 8AS

Trustees



Recruitment of Trustees – all trustees are appointed/ reappointed at AGM.

Objectives and Activities

McOpera was formed in 2012 by musicians from the Orchestra of Scottish Opera to develop a portfolio of activity ranging from operatic productions, recording projects, orchestral performances and community outreach projects across a wide social and cultural demographic. McOpera now focuses on devising programmes across two main strands of activity – performance and outreach - expanding the range of practitioners and collaborating with musicians and creatives drawn from across Scotland’s creative industries.

Charitable Purposes

Our charitable purposes fall under two categories: b) the advancement of education and g) the advancement of the arts.

Our fundamental purpose is to encourage engagement in the arts and improve the creative skills of people of all ages and backgrounds, to enhance the quality of people's lives and support cultural cohesion within communities and schools. In facilitating a range of activities which promote the arts, inviting participation and stimulating the generation of creative ideas, we aim to support enjoyment, appreciation, and greater understanding of the arts in general and music in particular.

Trustees' Report

Achievements, Activities and Performance

Outreach engagement to May 2025

- bespoke side-by-side/ professionally mentored instrumental projects - including Festivals, music societies and clubs, youth music organisations, council Instrumental Music Services and Arts Services (YMI) and schools
- Education packages for early years, primary and high schools including
 - Early Years Storytelling Programme - 3 Billy Goats' Gruff (Nursery – P3)
 - Let's Make an Opera programme for upper primary (P4-7)
 - Song-writing programme for primary schools

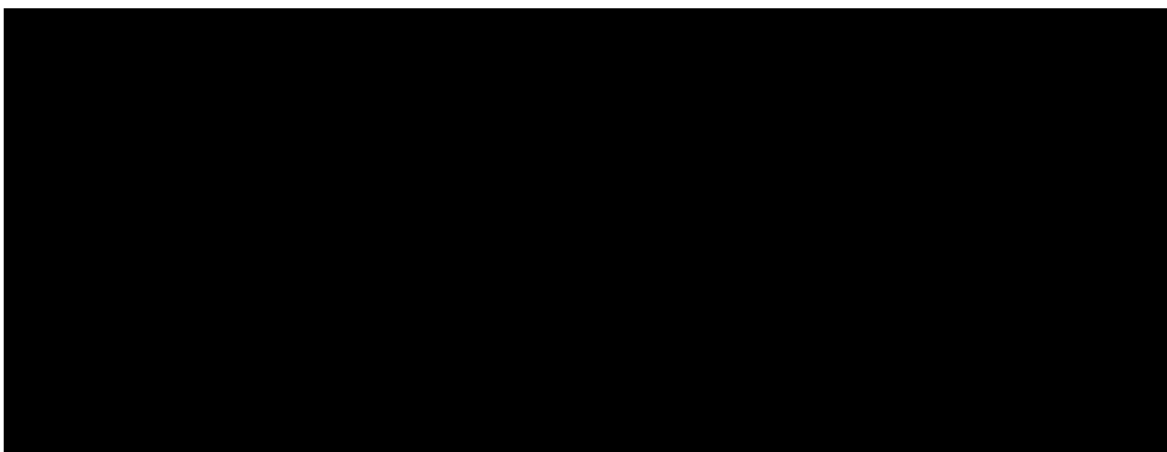
June 2024 Let's Make an Opera for East Lothian Arts Service/ YMI, 3 Billy Goats Gruff for Kinross PS PTA, Song for Haddo Legacy Recordings for Haddo Arts

Nov 2024 3BGG Milngavie Primary School for Milngavie Music Club

March 2025 3BGG Woodland View School Kirkintilloch for Milngavie Music Club

May 2025 Let's Make an Opera for East Lothian Arts Service/YMI

Project	Age range	No of participants
3 Billy Goats Gruff	Lower Primary (P1-3)	247
	Nursery	20
	SEN P3 – P7 (age 7-12 yrs)	13
	Staff	15
Let's Make an Opera	Upper Primary P4 – 7 (age 8-11yrs)	269
	Staff	9
Song For Haddo Legacy Recordings	Primary age	78
	Staff	4
Total number of participants accessed		655



The length of the performance was perfect for early years in school and the interactive movement and dance was a great idea too, as they struggle to sit still for too long. It also kept them engaged.

██████████, P1 Teacher Kinross Primary

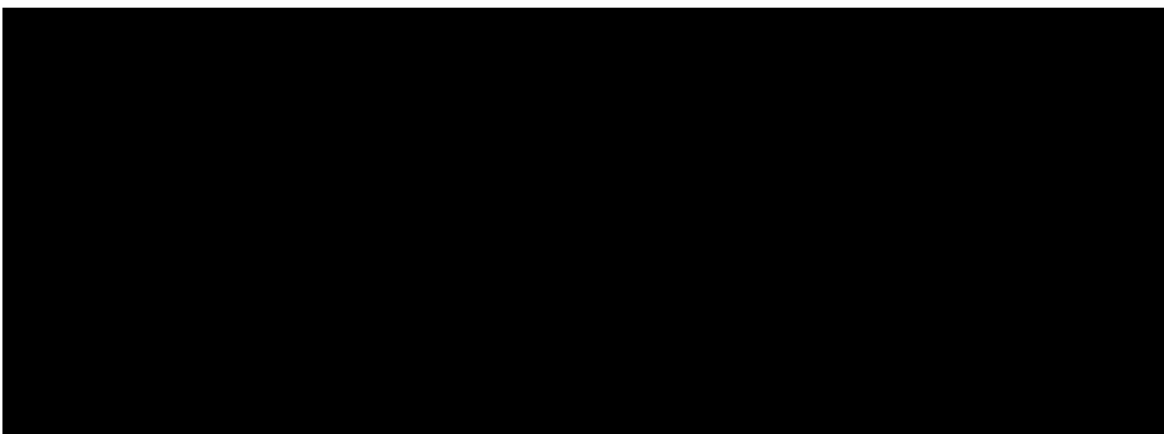
I thought the project was highly creative and inclusive. I thought it was a fantastic opportunity for all pupils - great for inclusion and giving confidence to pupils.

██████████, Class Teacher

I would like to do it again because when you're doing music and there's only one person, you can't add as much structure. But if you're doing it with a lot of people, you can add different structures or different layers.

P6 pupil Let's Make an Opera

My class have struggled this year with friendships, and it has been an area we have had to work hard on as a class. A lot of the class also have found it hard to manage their emotions in terms of managing friendships or conflict due to friendship break-ups, so I know they benefitted massively from writing and creating a song about it. I loved watching them use real life experiences to create such a beautiful song and work together as a class. ██████████, Class Teacher, Aberlady Primary



Groups	Who have we engaged with?
Primary Schools	Aberlady Primary School, East Lothian Burgh Primary School, East Lothian Campie Primary School, East Lothian Cockenzie Primary School, East Lothian Kinross Primary School, Perthshire Longniddry Primary School, East Lothian Loretto Primary School, East Lothian Milngavie Primary School, East Dunbartonshire New Deer Primary School, Aberdeenshire Udny Green Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Nursery	Kinross PS Nursery, Perthshire
SEN	Woodland View School, East Dunbartonshire
High Schools	n/a

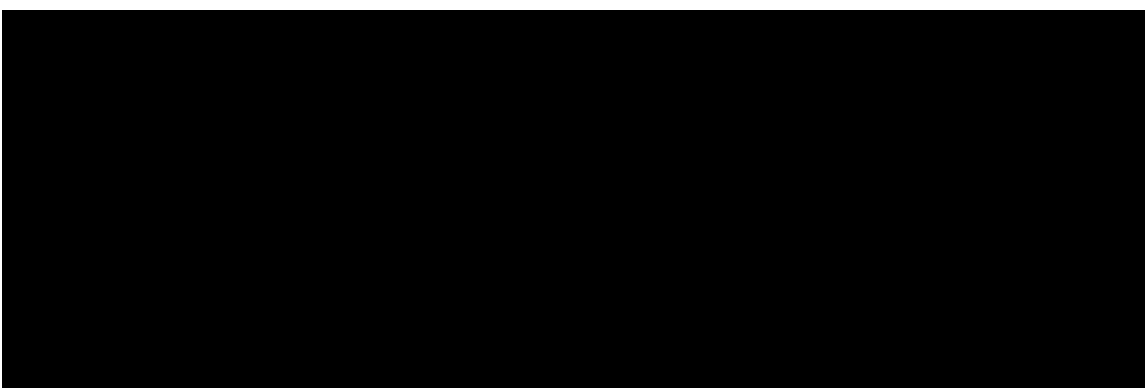
Concert performances and chamber music

A one-stop orchestral resource for choral societies and organisations, ranging from small orchestral reductions to full symphonic forces

May 2025 Bearsden Choir *Elijah*

Our Collaborative Partners from May 2024 – May 2025

Haddo Arts, East Lothian Arts Service (YMI), Milngavie Music Club, Perth Chamber Music Society, Bearsden Choir



Reflection

We consistently receive very positive feedback from people we create programmes for and/or work with.

The *Song for Haddo* programme has now come to its conclusion, and Haddo Arts are unlikely to be in a position to commission further work. We are currently collating the final legacy resources and once completed, these will be stored on and access via the McOpera website.

We have had significant challenges recruiting workshop leaders to replace [REDACTED]. The latest *Let's Make an Opera* programme for East Lothian, whilst extremely well received and very successful, had serious personnel challenges which has resulted in a recruitment campaign to replace this team. Video footage of this programme will be available online in early September, but the draft video can be currently accessed on the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/1105841966/87c1be2cce>

We are still working to update our website, social media channels and comms. This has been slow progress this year due to external time pressures for McOpera directors. Consequently, the website has still not been updated fully or relaunched.

Our activities have addressed our charitable purposes well but whilst we remain in a strong position to expand our stable of activities and programmes, we are struggling with infrastructure and the financial ability to ringfence time. This is largely due to the

lack of core financial support for the organisation and the need to generate income from projects to pay for overheads and project administration costs.

We continue to ensure that we abide by General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). We are also ensuring that other policies, such as equalities, fair work and health and safety are kept up to date, and all outreach practitioners and project assistants have full PVG status from Disclosure Scotland and appropriate CPD training prior to delivery.

Future Plans

The *Let's Make an Opera* strand will be re-named as *Let's Create an Opera* and will run for a fifth year for East Lothian Arts Council YMI, focusing on environmental and sustainability via devised 'mini-operas'. A new workshop leader will be recruited for this to work alongside current team members, [REDACTED].

We are still to achieve funding to develop our musical tales library for the Early Years' Storytelling programme, to include commissions from [REDACTED] (*Seanchai* and traditional storytelling, [REDACTED]).

Whilst our concert activity has been reduced this year, there are plans in the pipeline for further work, including a collaboration with Deepness Dementia for their 2025 festival in Dundee <https://www.deepnessdementiamedia.com>

The trustees will continue to seek funding to develop a well-curated and focused range of arts and music-related programmes, balanced against ongoing performances of chamber music and orchestral projects.

Thanks to Trustees

Many thanks to our Trustees for their continued support, and with their support, we look forward to re-energising our work over the coming months.

[REDACTED]
Chair

August 2025

MCOPERA**STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 MAY 2025**

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Co-operative Bank Current Account	1251	1907
Total Assets	1251	1907
Balance at beginning of year	1907	0
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	-656	1907
Balance at end of year	1251	1907

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

		2023/24
		£
Receipts		
Grants (note 2)	0	1000
Donations (note 2)	13	400
Outreach project income	10819	7130
Performance project income	2500	16964
Other	18	
Total	13350	25494
Payments		
Artists fees and expenses	11058	23251
Equipment hire/transport	0	200
Studio costs	1330	0
Administration	1578	96
Subscriptions (note 3)	40	40
Total	14006	23587
(Deficit)/Surplus for year	-656	1907

APPENDIX 3



Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name Mc Opera					
	Registered charity number SC0 052541					
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date			Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	1	6	2024 ^{to}	31	5	2025
Set out on pages						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

**OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures.

McOpera 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements – year ended 31 May 2025

Accounting Policies and Taxation

The financial statements have been prepared under receipts

and payments basis, in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment

(Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Grants/Donations.

One donation from Music Co-Operative Scotland on winding up the company

and bank account.

3. 4. CMS Subscription to the Tours book

Public Indemnity Insurance through the Musicians' Union players' cover.

5. Trustee Remuneration

None

Additional note: McOpera musicians played on 29.5.25 but the invoicing and payments are to be

included in next year's accounts.