OXENFOORD INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL

Oxenfoord International Trustees' Annual Report 2025





Charity contact information

Oxenfoord International SCIO
Scottish Charity Number SC049216
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Patron: Ann Murray DBE
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Charity Trustees (2025)

1. Angela Livingstone **(Chair)**
2. Henrietta Bredin
3. Melvin Claridge
4. Elisabeth Hutchings (resigned October 2025)
5. Dr Patricia MacMahon
6. Duncan Wilson

General Manager: James Hancock (until August 2025)
Administrator: Lisa Bucknell



Trustee Biographies

Angela Livingstone (Chair)
Angela Livingstone is the former Head of Vocal Performance and Opera at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, where she led an international team of specialist vocal teachers, coaches, repetiteurs, conductors and directors to deliver skilled artists into the international music industry. She was responsible for introducing and delivering the college's first ever advanced opera training course, now known as The David Seligman Opera School. She began her professional life working extensively as a collaborative pianist with singers and instrumentalists as well as orchestral work and ballet. Her professional experience encompasses opera, theatre, musical theatre, contemporary opera, choral work and recitals and she has broadcast frequently for radio and TV.

Angela has a longstanding commitment to the development of young talent in all disciplines and has had a long association with Live Music Now, the charity bringing high quality performance by emerging artists to people across all communities. She is an experienced examiner and adjudicator and since 2014, a member of the final audition panel for BBC Cardiff Singer of The World. Angela was a staff pianist at Oxenfoord for over twenty years, joining the course in its second year.

Henrietta Bredin
Henrietta Bredin is deputy editor of Opera Magazine and publications editor for Garsington Opera. Her career in opera began with English National Opera, where she worked as a dramaturg and as co-founder of ENO's Contemporary Opera Studio, commissioning and producing world premieres with the Almeida Theatre of works including Powder Her Face by Thomas Adès and Siren Song by Jonathan Dove. For Opera North and Welsh National Opera she has produced over 100 programme books and her articles and interviews have appeared in The Guardian, The Telegraph, Country Life, The Spectator and in numerous theatre and opera programmes.

Henrietta has devised a series of Song Stories, narrated song recitals around the lives and loves of the composers Richard Strauss, Charles Gounod and Pauline Viardot, that have been performed at festivals around the UK. A late-starting singer, she first attended the Oxenfoord International Summer School in 2017 and is now a committed annual returnee.

Melvin van Claridge
Melvin's varied career path (from diplomat to opera singer, banker and psychotherapist) has a broad sweep as well as common themes, which include concern for others and a desire to make a practical difference. A former opera singer (who occasionally still performs in charity concerts), Melvin is a commercial solicitor, specialising in government contracts. He is also an accredited mediator. Previously, Melvin ran his own psychotherapy practice, providing private trauma psychotherapy to individuals, couples and organisations, specialising in post-traumatic stress and performance anxiety.

Melvin is Talent Director at Pegasus Opera Company, and was instrumental in the formation of Pegasus Talent, a new artist management agency representing classical musicians of African and Asian heritage. Additionally, he serves on Glyndebourne Opera's Creative Conspirators advisory board. Melvin's interests in legal practice include contracts, procurement, art law, and cultural property law.

Elisabeth Hutchings (resigned October 2025)
In a very mixed career, Elisabeth Hutchings' longest periods of employment were with the University of Edinburgh (1966–1972), the Scottish Arts Council (1972– 1994, with breaks) and Edinburgh and Haddington Sheriff Courts (1996–2006). When Elisabeth retired in 2006 she became actively involved with Edinburgh U3A, and served on its Committee from 2010 to 2016; she is currently a volunteer for NHS Lothian.

Elisabeth's son Sam was a professional musician who worked as a Staff Accompanist at Oxenfoord International for several years before his death in 2012; he is commemorated there by the Sam Hutchings Pianist Prize, and Elisabeth and her husband regularly attend Oxenfoord concerts with a special interest in meeting and hearing each year's recipient.

Dr Patricia MacMahon
Patricia MacMahon has earned a reputation over many years as a singer, teacher and vocal coach. Throughout her singing career, Pat specialised in concert, recital and oratorio work, frequently recording for the BBC. In Scotland she sang regularly with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and appeared often at the Edinburgh International Festival. Pat taught singing at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for nearly forty years (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), receiving an Honorary Fellowship in 2000 and an Honorary Doctorate in 2013, and has taken many masterclasses, including visits to the Royal College of Music, London; Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester; Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff; the Samling Foundation Masterclass; the Conservatorium van Amsterdam; in Portugal (Oporto, Aveiro and Vila do Conde); and at Lake Placid Institute International Voice Seminar, USA. She has adjudicated and examined throughout the UK and as far afield as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Duncan Wilson CBE
Duncan became Chief Executive of the newly formed Historic England in May 2015. Duncan joined Historic England from the Alexandra Park and Palace Trust where he was Chief Executive from 2011 to 2015. From 2002 Duncan was Chief Executive of the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College, and before that Director of the Somerset House Trust. Duncan's first job as a chartered accountant in 1987 was as Senior Management Accountant at English Heritage. Before accountancy he worked as a professional archaeologist

in Oxford and Herefordshire, following post graduate research in European Archaeology. Duncan is also a trustee of The Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and The Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College. He has previously been a trustee of the Churches Conservation Trust (2008–2017) and the Royal Armouries (2007–2011) and a community governor of Corelli College in Greenwich (2004– 2007). He became a RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Honorary Fellow in 2022 and was awarded the CBE for services to heritage in 2023.



Objectives and activities

Oxenfoord International Summer School has operated since 1981 and obtained charitable status as Oxenfoord International SCIO in 2019. The organisation's purposes are:

1. To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and technique of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, principally by providing courses in singing and accompaniment. Access to such education is open to both amateurs and aspiring professionals, with no age limitation.
    a. To support and nurture musicians who are in the early stages of their career by providing bursaries for such courses.
    b. To support amateur musicians in enhancing their individual abilities by providing access to professional-level expertise and practices.
2. To raise public awareness of emerging artists by providing performance platforms in a variety of contexts.
3. To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit, and in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Activities:

Through Oxenfoord International SCIO, Artistic Director Malcolm Martineau OBE leads a team of distinguished tutors and coaches in a week-long summer course for singers and pianists. Bursaries are awarded to students to attend the course; other individuals pay fees for specialist tuition.

Structure, governance and management

Oxenfoord International Summer School is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and has adopted the standard form of governing rules as approved by OSCR.

Trustee recruitment and appointment:
The Board remained stable throughout most of 2025, with the retirement of Elisabeth Hutchings in October 2025. The board undertook the process of considering and approaching potential new board members over the following weeks, and made two new appointments in January 2026.

Achievements and performance (2025)
In December 2024, following the departure of the former management team to pursue new opportunities, Oxenfoord International undertook a formal recruitment process in January 2025. From a large pool of prospective candidates, we were able to appoint a General Manager and an Assistant Administrator.

In August 2025, the General Manager left the post to focus on their existing business interests. Subsequently, Lisa Bucknell, the Assistant Administrator, stepped up to fulfil responsibilities within both roles, successfully running the inaugural summer school at St Andrews University. With the agreement and support of the Trustees, Lisa continues to administer Oxenfoord International as its General Manager.

The 2025 summer school took place at Laidlaw Music Centre, St Andrews, with 84 students attending (full week, part week, residential and non residential).

- Bursaries awarded: £11,563
- The course maintained its tradition of world-class tutors and a varied programme, offering both residential and non-residential places.
- Student feedback again highlighted the high standard of teaching, supportive environment, and excellent performance opportunities.
- The year was marked by a change in management as well as location which led to internal managerial issues, however due to concerted efforts from the trustees the course was delivered in a smooth and professional manner and feedback from participants was extremely positive.
- Income from donations and Gift Aid, as well as other donor support, continue to play a vital role in delivering the course and enabling bursaries. The charity is grateful to all donors for their generosity and support, while noting that we received a major on-off donation in 2025 and must be mindful of budgeting without it in future years.
- Net underlying result for 2025 was a surplus of £19,393 (2024: a deficit of £1,814.77) and the cash position at the end of 2025 was £23,681.93 (2024: £1,080).
- Expense recording, bursary allocation and course administration were further improved, as noted by the independent examiner.
- Total donations and Gift Aid: £33,659 (donations) and £1,300 (Gift Aid), totalling £34,959.
- Gross receipts from course fees: £84,894.50.
- Year-end bank funds: £23,681.93 (main account), plus approx. £16,000 set aside for a restricted account.

- The Trustees wish to note that, as in previous years, the accounts and this report have been prepared using data and analysis provided by the administrator for 2025, Lisa Bucknell, whose reporting was reviewed and approved by the Board as a true and accurate record at the January 2026 Trustees' Meeting.





Independent Examiner's Report

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 were independently examined by Lance Moir FCT, who confirmed that the charity's financial records were properly maintained and that the accounts present a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities.

The independent examiner's report commended improvements in expense recording, bursary allocation, and the overall transparency and quality of the financial administration. The Trustees acknowledge the support of both the independent examiner and outgoing General Manager in providing clear and accurate financial information, which has formed the basis of this Trustees' Annual Report.

Financial review

- Donations: £54,607
- Gift Aid: £1,300
- Total Donations & Gift Aid: £55,907
- Course fees: £84,894.50
- Bursaries awarded: £11,563
- Net deficit: nil
- Cash position at year end: £ £23,681.93 (main account), plus £16,000 in restricted funding for awards.
- Funds as of January 2025: £23,681.93 plus £16,000 ringfenced for restricted use.

The charity continues to cover costs each year, but reliance on major donations to achieve break-even is not sustainable. The 2024 deficit is due primarily to increased external staff accommodation costs, as well as the reduction in some major annual donations. Trustees continue to explore options for securing increased and regular support from individual donors and grant-making trusts, as well as cost savings.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

In 2025, the summer school for the first time ended the year with a modest reserve, mainly due to a generous one-off donation, but also due to tighter control on spending by reducing the teaching faculty and eliminating expensive external accommodation. A break-even model is not sustainable, and as a result the new management is working to balance the budget by:

- Increased charges to course participants that are more in line with the actual cost of the course.
- Introduced a 'Friends of Oxenfoord' Scheme to encourage donations (launched in December 2025).
- Continuing to monitor teaching faculty and related costs.
- These will ensure that, long term, the reserves allow for more consistent awarding of bursaries over the years and more secure contingency plans.

Details of any deficit

No deficits reported for 2025.

Future plans

- Review of the Board structure is ongoing, with a rolling-term system for Trustees to ensure continuity.
- Trustees are committed to maintaining the high standard of teaching and access to bursaries, while ensuring long-term sustainability.



Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Angela Livingstone

Name: Angela Livingstone Position: Chair

Date: 29th September 2026