



## **The Mahler Players**

Scottish charity no SC044711

**Trustees' report & accounts  
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

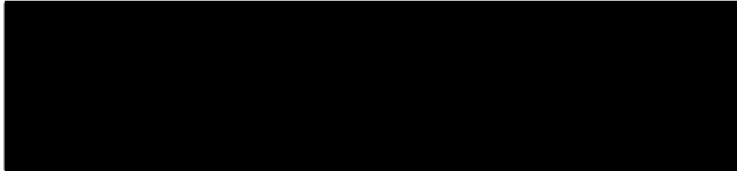
**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**

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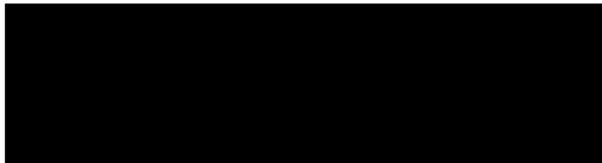
**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**  
**Trustees' report**

**Reference and administration details**

The Mahler Players is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Founded in 2013, the organisation was granted charitable status on 04 March 2014, Scottish Charity No. SC044711.



The trustees present their tenth report together with the independently examined accounts for the year ended 31 January 2025. Trustees govern the organisation. The following individuals served as trustees during the year:



No other trustees served during the year.

**Structure, governance and management**

The Mahler Players' governing document is its constitution and its main activity is performing live music in the Scottish Highlands. Per the constitution, there must be a minimum of three, and a maximum of ten, trustees. Anyone wishing to become a trustee must complete a written application, and any such applications will be considered by the board of trustees at its next board meeting. All trustees must retire at the annual general meeting but may be re-elected.

The trustees are also the management committee. They meet when the need arises to plan a concert series or other relevant activities. As the management committee, the trustees are responsible for both the strategic direction and governance of the organisation and its day-to-day operations.

**Objectives and activities**

The objects of the organisation are set out in the constitution: they are to advance the arts and culture in the Scottish Highlands by making available high-quality live performances of music by a wide range of composers. We believe passionately that people should not be excluded from artistic experiences based on where they live.

The Mahler Players gave a series of three projects (involving five public performances) in 2024 and achieved some of our largest audience numbers in our 11-year history, with some concerts being sold out. This is clear evidence that there is a hunger for what we do evidenced also by the increasing level of funding we have been able to achieve in the year.

Although the outlook remains uncertain, especially with continuing evidence that household spend is reducing, the experience we gained from public performances this year gives us the confidence to make things happen successfully in the future. Furthermore, we believe we have an important duty to do so.

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**What we achieved in the year**

During the year we performed three sets of concerts. Two of our concert series were performed in both Inverness Cathedral and Strathpeffer Pavilion with a third concert of Bruckner's 4th Symphony being performed in Inverness Cathedral only.

The first concerts were in May 2024 where we performed Beethoven Symphony no.6, "The Pastoral", together with Stravinsky's Dumbarton Oaks and Pulcinella Suite. This was an incredibly popular concert series which was well received by the large audiences in attendance in both venues.

In September 2024 we then went on to give a single performance of Bruckner's 4th Symphony. This was our first single- concert series and is a model that we will continue to consider in the future. As the rehearsal schedule was shorter this facilitated more players being available, resulting in a fantastic experience for all. This was our first foray in Bruckner's music and was extremely well received by the Inverness audience.

Our third project, and another extremely ambitious one for the Mahler Players, was the complete Act Three of the opera Parsifal by Wagner together with the Prelude to Act 1. This reduced arrangement by [REDACTED] was commissioned by the Mahler Players and we were absolutely delighted to have four exceptional soloists joining us.

[REDACTED] We also had the pleasure of being joined by local singers to provide the choir required for the arrangement. The first performance was conducted by music director [REDACTED] with the noted Wagnerian Anthony Negus invited to conduct the second performance, our second collaboration with him. The impact of these concerts on the audience was immense, resulting in extremely positive feedback from both the audience and the concert participants.

We were delighted to be supported in such a big project by donations from several sources being The Inverness Common Good Fund, McDonald's in the Community Foundation, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Wagner Society Scotland and the Wagner Society as well significant donations from three anonymous donors. We also continued our long-standing relationship with our corporate funder, HRI-Munro Architecture. The concerts were extremely well received and we received standing ovations in both locations and several commendable reviews.

**Future plans**

At the time of writing, we are undertaking planning work and funding applications for the coming year's activities. These include a further 4 concert series including the work of Beethoven, Mahler, Bruckner and further concert performances of Act 2 of Parsifal by Wagner.

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**Trustees' report**

**Financial results**

Voluntary receipts for the year were £31,101 (2024: £37,419). Charitable activity income for the year was £21,070 (2024: £23,113) and associated charitable activity costs £48,451 (2024: £60,220).

We ended the year with an overall surplus of £3,720 (2024: £312) and total funds of £4,236 (2024: £516).

The organisation is unavoidably funded on a hand-to-mouth basis with the goodwill of our supporters, funders and most importantly our regular players and musical director. In terms of managing financial risk, each planned series has a detailed budget. Projects do not proceed until funding is secured, either through our own fundraising efforts or from external parties.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Honorary Treasurer.

Honorary Treasurer

Date: 30 October 2025

**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**  
**Trustees' report**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Mahler Players**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

**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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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.

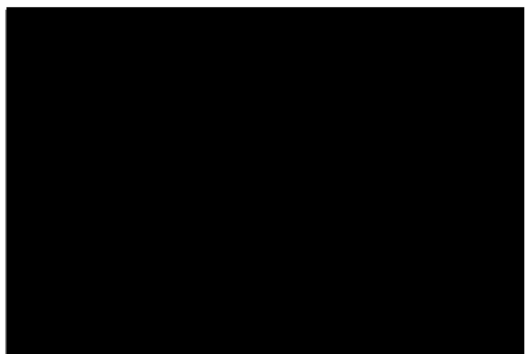
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

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
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave 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.



Date: ..... 30/10/25 .....

**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**  
**Accounts**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

				Year ended 31/01/2025	Year ended 31/01/2024
	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Voluntary income					
Donations	4	8,013	6,823	14,836	21,703
Grants	5	8,585	5,000	13,585	11,265
Fundraising	6	2,680	-	2,680	4,451
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>		<b>19,278</b>	<b>11,823</b>	<b>31,101</b>	<b>37,419</b>
Charitable activities	7	21,070	-	21,070	23,113
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>40,348</b>	<b>11,823</b>	<b>52,171</b>	<b>60,532</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Charitable activities	7	36,628	11,823	48,451	60,220
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>36,628</b>	<b>11,823</b>	<b>48,451</b>	<b>60,220</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>3,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>312</b>

**STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES**

				31/01/2025	31/01/2024
		Unrestricted £	Restricted* £	Total £	Total £
<b>Bank and cash</b>					
Bank balance at start of year		516	-	516	204
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		3,720	-	3,720	312
<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>4,236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 4,236</b>	<b>£ 516</b>

\*See note 8 for a breakdown of fund balances

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 30 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by



**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**

**1 Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Where a donor has directly paid for a charitable cost for the organisation (such as the production of promotional materials) without seeking reimbursement, the cash value has been included in the statement of receipts and payments under "donations" and "cost of charitable activities". There were no such donations in kind in the year (2024: £nil).

**2 Nature and purpose of funds**

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the organisation. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by a donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. For details of restricted funds, see note 8.

**3 Related party transactions**

No trustees or any connected person received remuneration during the year.

Three trustees incurred charitable activities and fundraising costs on behalf of the organisation totalling £3,121 (2024: £3,939) which were reimbursed during the period. A close relative of one trustee incurred expenditure of £92 (2024: £184) and was reimbursed during the period. There were no governance costs for attendance at trustees' meeting in the year (2024: £nil).

**4 Donations and gift aid**

			<b>Year ended 31/01/2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31/01/2024</b>
	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>Total £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Individual giving	6,943	6,823	13,766	16,214
Gift aid	1,070	-	1,070	5,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,013</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>£ 14,836</b>	<b>£ 21,703</b>

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**Notes to the accounts (continued)**

**5 Grants**

During the year, the organisation received the following grants:

			Year ended 31/01/2025	Year ended 31/01/2024
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
Hugh Fraser Foundation <sup>1</sup>	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
McDonalds Group	5,000	-	5,000	2,500
The Wagner Society <sup>1</sup>	-	2,000	2,000	1,000
The Wagner Society Scotland <sup>1</sup>	-	500	500	500
Common Good Fund	3,585	-	3,585	4,765
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,585</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>£ 13,585</b>	<b>£ 11,265</b>

<sup>1</sup> Grant towards *Parsifal Act 3*

**6 Fundraising**

			Year ended 31/01/2025	Year ended 31/01/2024
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>Income</b>				
Corporate sponsorship	1,500	-	1,500	4,400
Donations via online sales	1,180	-	1,180	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 2,680</b>	<b>£ 4,451</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Donor support costs	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>

**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
**Year ended 31 January 2025**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**

**7 Charitable activities**

	<b>Year ended 31/01/2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31/01/2024</b>
	<b>Total £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Ticket sales	20,710	22,973
CD sales	360	140
<b>Charitable activity income</b>	<b>21,070</b>	<b>23,113</b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Artistic/creative:		
Composer fees	5,200	12,500
Players' fees (excludes in-kind – see below)	5,020	6,015
Singers' fees	7,078	8,200
Conductors' fees	1,000	1,000
 Venues/equipment:		
Venues, transport & equipment	7,003	7,134
Music hire/purchase	2,994	276
 Marketing, advertising & PR	 4,066	 4,560
 Overheads:		
Travel and accommodation expenses	14,378	20,054
Fees & bank charges	379	394
Other sundry costs	119	87
Catering costs	1,214	-
<b>Charitable activity costs</b>	<b>£ 48,451</b>	<b>£ 60,220</b>
 Expenditure by fund type:		
Unrestricted costs	36,628	31,254
Restricted costs	11,823	28,966
<b>Charitable activity costs</b>	<b>£ 48,451</b>	<b>£ 60,220</b>

Charitable activity costs do not include “in-kind” costs. This would include our players who give their time for free, organisations (such as High Life Highland) who provide services for free or at reduced rates, and our Trustees who devote countless hours to running the organisation: planning, fundraising, marketing, logistics, performing/conducting and all other things that need to happen to keep The Mahler Players operational.

It is challenging to put a value on “in-kind”. However, one recent funding application submitted estimated £20,000 for musicians’ time for a single concert series (rehearsals and two performances) on the basis of Musician Union rates, and a further £18,000 for Trustees’ time for a year.

**THE MAHLER PLAYERS**  
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**Notes to the accounts (continued)**

**8 Restricted funds**

	<b>Parisifal Act 3</b>	<b>31/01/2025 Total</b>	<b>31/01/2024 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Balance at start of year</b>	-	-	<b>(2,000)</b>
Restricted income received	11,823	11,823	30,966
Restricted costs incurred	(11,823)	(11,823)	(28,966)
<b>(Deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	-	-	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	-	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>

Restricted funds represent all activities associated with the grants received from the following donors:

- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The Wagner Society
- The Wagner Society Scotland
- Unnamed personal donor