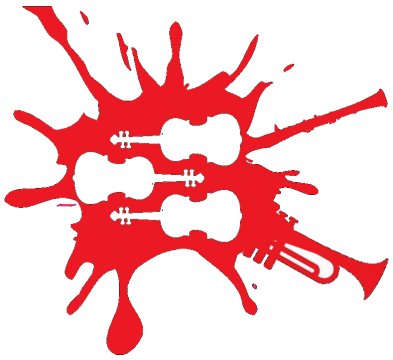
Peebles Orchestra

Trustees' Annual Report

August 2024 to July 2025

Charity contact information



Peebles Orchestra

Scottish Charity Number: SC035970

68 Rosetta Road

Peebles

EH45 8HQ

07968 455761

contact@peeblesorchestra.org.uk

www.peeblesorchestra.org.uk

www.facebook.com/peeblesorchestra

https://www.instagram.com/peebles_orchestra/

Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year

1. Chris Dube
2. Anne Valentine
3. Annelies van den Bogaard (until October 2024)
4. Aled Owen (from October 2024)

Objectives and activities

Peebles Orchestra was formed in 1976 and continues to play an important part in the cultural life of the area.

As well as players from Peeblesshire, others travel from all over the Borders and Lothians to play in this friendly ensemble, meeting regularly to play a wide repertoire of music under skilled conductors. Two concerts are presented annually in autumn and spring, with additional events from time to time.

Our guest conductors, many of whom work regularly with the orchestra, are active in devising interesting programmes, which challenge players and delight our audiences. Our concerts present a wide variety of great symphonic works from the classical repertoire, ranging from small scale baroque to large choral concerts involving over 100 instrumentalists and singers. As well as standard symphony concerts, the Orchestra has presented concerts with a difference – a very popular Concert for Children; a double sell-out performance of Music from the Shows; classical accordion and guitar in contemporary music by Piazzola, Gordon Jacob and Rodrigo; commissioned work for harp by Esther Swift; a Come and Sing! Brahms Requiem with a scratch choir of more than 80 local singers; and Orchestra for All, a series of rehearsals and a concert for all players, any instrument, any ability, free of charge, attended by over 50 local musicians.

Soloists on every instrument of the orchestra have taken their place on the rostrum. While also welcoming soloists well-known on the Scottish concert circuit, including internationally renowned soloists from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, it has been a thrill to have young musicians from Peebles playing solos with the Orchestra, some of whom began their orchestral career in our own Youth Orchestra. A number of our young players have gone on to embrace professional careers in music - Peebles Orchestra can certainly claim some credit for their success!

The Orchestra enjoys the challenge of contrasting programmes and after nearly 50 years we continue to develop and explore new

repertoire and still find every concert fresh and exciting. Indeed, 2026 is our 50th anniversary year which will feature an Orchestra for All, an ambitious Verdi Requiem Come and Sing, ex-Orchestra, now professional, soloists, and two commissioned works.

Our Friends form an important support group of nonplaying members from the community, many of whom give practical as well as financial help. Their support enables us to give live classical music a vital place in the cultural life of the community. The orchestra is a real community group where players of any age or experience come together in weekly rehearsals to enjoy playing a wide range of music to be shared with our loyal audience, without whom the orchestra could not continue to exist.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Peebles Orchestra operates in accordance with its Constitution.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Peebles Orchestra Trustees are the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions, along with other committee posts, are filled by election at the Annual General Meeting of the Peebles Orchestra, which takes place in September or October of each year.

The Chair and Secretary were re-elected to their existing positions without any other nominees. The Treasurer stood down, and a new Treasurer was elected without any other nominees.

Achievements and performance

After our usual summer break, the orchestra started rehearsing in September 2024, working on a concert of dance-related music, with our conductor, Ross Gunning:

- Beethoven – Coriolan Overture
- Beethoven – Symphony No 5
- Krommer – Concerto No 1 for 2 clarinets
- Schubert – Overture in B flat major

This popular programme featured our principal clarinettist, Jill King, and attracted a large audience to our performance on 23rd November 2024.

After our usual winter break, the orchestra held a free community participation event, Orchestra For All. All players were welcome, playing any instrument at any ability. The orchestra held four rehearsals in February 2025 and a concert on 1st March 2025, conducted by our Chair, Chris Dube. The programme featured well-known works from film, television, stage, and classical music. The event attracted over 50 players and was supported by many of our regular orchestra members.

The orchestra started rehearsing again in March 2025, working on a programme with regular conductor Robert Dick:

- Weber: Preciosa Overture
- Mozart: Minuet in C K.409
- Haydn: Piano concerto No. 11 - soloist
- Mendelssohn Symphony No. 5 "Reformation"

This proved yet another popular programme, and we were very pleased to see Pawel Szulc, a local teenager, playing the piano concerto.

Looking to next year, we welcome back Ross Gunning and Robert Dick to conduct us again.

Financial review

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Peebles Orchestra holds a small reserve of around £2,000 - £3,000 in order to cover ongoing running costs and for a buffer in case of unexpected expenses. This is in line with the Orchestra's current reserves.

Details of any deficit/surplus

The autumn concert broke even. Orchestra For All costs were covered by donations received at the concert. The spring concert made a small loss of £135, despite having to hire and transport a piano at a cost of nearly £600.

Due to successful grant applications to fund our 50th anniversary events, coupled with recouping Gift Aid, we ended the year with a surplus of £3800, putting us in a healthy position going forward. However, we still need to raise some £8000 to fund our 50th anniversary projects.

Donated facilities and services

Peebles Orchestra is supported by Friends of the Orchestra, who pay an annual donation and in return receive a newsletter and other communications from the Orchestra.

During the past year we have resumed our Friends of the Orchestra activities from whom we received a total of £575 in donations.

Future plans

Peebles Orchestra will hold its usual November concert. 2026 is the orchestra's 50th anniversary year, and the orchestra has four special events planned:

- November 2025: A Night at the Musicals with conductor Ross Gunning. We expect to put on two performances
- February 2026: Orchestra For All, a series of rehearsals and a concert for all players, any instrument, any ability, free of charge
- May 2026: a Spring concert, including a commissioned work by a former player, Graham Coe, played by another former player, Colin Scobie, a member of the Maxwell Quartet, who will also play the Brahms violin concerto conducted by Robert Dick
- Sep 2026: Plans are well underway for a Come and Sing Brahms Requiem which will be open to all singers
- November 2026: a concert including a major commissioned work by local composer Esther Swift.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name CHRIS DUBE

Designation CHAIR

Date 16 MARCH 2026