

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00371316 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 250921

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
FOR
BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

bk plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

6 Oct 2026

As I write, the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra has just been named Brighton Dome's resident orchestra. We have played in that hall since 1928, and it is hard to think of better news to follow our Centenary. It comes at the end of a year in which ticket sales for our Dome concerts rose by 4% and more than 700 local schoolchildren worked with our players.

It is a privilege to chair this orchestra. Every time I take my seat in the audience I feel the same excited anticipation, and the rapturous reception that greets every concert fills me with pride.

The 2025-26 Season

Joanna MacGregor CBE, our Music Director, programmed a season that set the core symphonic repertoire beside new music and some bold collaborations.

Pianist Junyan Chen, violinist Elena Urioste, trumpeter Aaron Azunda Akugbo and cellist Guy Johnston all appeared as soloists. Tenor Mark Padmore sang Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings with horn player Alexei Watkins. Alistair McGowan returned for a second year of A Christmas Carol. Joanna gave the premiere of her own concerto for piano, percussion and strings with the Brazilian percussionist Adriano Adewale. Sussex conductor Alice Farnham shared the podium with Joanna, so every concert of the season was conducted by a woman.

The spotlight also fell on one of our own. Our co-leader, Ruth Rogers, was the soloist in two concerts, playing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola, with Sascha Bota as the viola soloist, and Max Richter's vibrant take on Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

We were invited to perform at Brighton Festival, where we played Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 alongside William Kentridge's film Oh To Believe in Another World. As a visual artist myself, I thought the pairing of Shostakovich and Kentridge was a perfect meeting of two art forms, and together they produced a spectacular explosion of emotion.

At Brighton College, Joanna, BPO principals and guest artists gave three chamber concerts. All three sold out.

Developing the musicians of the future

This year we launched Spring Forwards, our programme for young players. Six musicians at the start of their professional careers played alongside the BPO's principals and received mentoring from them. The Garrick Charitable Trust, the Idlewild Trust and individual donors paid for it, and it went well enough that next season we will form a new young players' ensemble, Brighton Spring.

Our education work reached more than 700 pupils from eight local schools through workshops, masterclasses and performances. Neil Brand led film music workshops, our players worked with the Brighton & East Sussex Youth Orchestra, and Adriano Adewale ran large-scale percussion workshops. Our £1 tickets for under-18s, the LoveMusic scheme and free school tickets keep the concert hall open to young people who might not otherwise come.

Building a stronger organisation

A revised fundraising strategy produced five successful grant applications. Our thanks go to the Chalk Cliff Trust, the Marchus Trust, the Garrick Charitable Trust, the Idlewild Trust and the Delius Trust for supporting our artistic programme and wider projects, and to our corporate sponsors, Brighton College and Travelbound.

We introduced the Conductor's Circle and improved the benefits of membership. A new CRM system now gives us much better tools for audience development and fundraising.

In June 2025 Joanna MacGregor became Chief Executive Officer as well as Music Director, and the Operations Manager role became Operations Director. The orchestra now has a clearer structure.

Securing the orchestra's future

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

No professional orchestra pays for itself through ticket sales. The cost of putting more than 60 musicians on the Dome stage is always more than a full house can return, and the BPO is no exception. This year the gap, before legacy income, was £173,180. We close it with grants from trusts and foundations, with sponsorship and, above all, with the gifts that people leave to the orchestra in their wills.

Those gifts have built a fund that stood at £1.41 million on 31 March 2026. The Trustees see it as the beginning of an endowment: money invested for the long term, so that the income it earns, and not the capital, supports the orchestra every year. Our goal is £5 million. A fund of that size could be expected to produce around £200,000 a year, enough to close the funding gap for good. We are more than a quarter of the way there.

The John Carewe Brighton Orchestra Trust has supported the orchestra for many years. During the year it told us that it intends to close and transfer its remaining assets to the Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society, the charity that runs the BPO. John Carewe was the central driving force of the orchestra for more than 15 years, and this gift from his Trust will help to keep musicians employed in the Brighton Philharmonic for years to come. We are deeply grateful.

Much of our fund came from people who sat in the Dome, loved what they heard, and decided it should still be there for others after they had gone. I find that very moving. A great deal of what you have read in this report was made possible by people who never saw it.

If the BPO has been part of your life, I would ask you to help us reach that goal. A gift in your will costs you nothing today. Whatever its size, it brings the £5 million closer, and it goes on working for the orchestra year after year. If you would like to talk about it in confidence, please write to me directly at jonathan.brigden@brightonphil.org.uk.

Thank you

My first thanks go to our players. Their dedication to the orchestra, and their continuing commitment to excellence and to bringing both new and classical music to the region, never cease to amaze me.

Thank you to Joanna, whose artistic vision drives everything we do, and to our small professional team of Gill Davies, Harriet Waters and Kate Fargher, who work so hard to make it happen.

Thank you to my fellow Trustees. Jess Blackstone, Andrea Cifelli and Norman Jacobs retire from the Board this year, and they go with our warm thanks for their service. Laurie Cearley and John Gill continue their wonderful work in support of the orchestra, and Caroline Harrison, our marvellous lead viola, brings the orchestra's perspective to the Board. Thank you also to our volunteers for their time and expertise.

And thank you to our Friends, Patrons, sponsors, donors and grant-making trusts. You are the reason the BPO can go on presenting orchestral music of this quality, training young musicians and finding new audiences.

The BPO begins its second century as the resident orchestra of Brighton Dome. With your support, it will still be filling that hall with music for generations to come.

Jonathan Brigden , Chair

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Brighton Philharmonic, the Dome's full-time resident orchestra, has served audiences in Sussex for over one hundred years. Its principals and players are drawn from the London symphony orchestras, as well as from accomplished young professional players at the start of their careers; BPO is led by the internationally acclaimed pianist, conductor and curator Joanna MacGregor.

BPO continually seeks out international names as well as brilliant younger soloists, conductors and artistic collaborators - from jazz and contemporary music to film and the visual arts. The orchestra programmes core repertoire alongside newer music, promoting itself in a creative and enticing way that excites and inspires audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

This strategy has successfully drawn new audiences to classical music, with audience numbers having grown substantially in recent years. BPO's talented players reflect its weighty symphonic history, as well as their virtuosity and flexibility in smaller chamber ensembles.

Significant activities

Our vision is to be a regional orchestra with national significance. We programme and present classical music in a bold, colourful way, nurturing audiences of the future as well as providing satisfying, rich concerts for classical music-lovers.

Our mission is to bring high-quality, thought-provoking performances into people's lives, and develop fresh, diverse audiences in Brighton and the wider area of Sussex.

Public benefit

In shaping our objectives for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

In setting the level of ticket prices and concessions, the trustees considered those on low incomes as well as the box office income needed to maintain the orchestra. BPO's LoveMusic ticket scheme encourages audiences to try classical concerts, and children under 18 can attend for £1. Local schools have been offered complimentary tickets to bring school groups, and a growing education programme supported over 700 pupils from eight local state schools in the 2025-26 season.

Volunteers

Volunteers, most of whom are members of the Society, distribute publicity materials and programmes and steward events and performances, enabling lower staff costs than would otherwise be the case. The Society is grateful for their continued support.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

During the year the Society built on the momentum of its Centenary Season and began a new chapter as Brighton Dome's full-time resident orchestra, with a commitment to progressive, fresh and exciting programming and to developing audiences for orchestral music.

The artistic programme, curated by Music Director Joanna MacGregor CBE, brought exceptionally talented international soloists to join the orchestra, including pianist Junyan Chen (September), violinist Elena Urioste (October), accordionist Alise Silia (December), trumpeter Aaron Aznda Akugbo (January) and cellist Guy Johnston (March). Tenor Mark Padmore joined BPO's principal horn Alexei Watkins for a memorable performance of Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, and narrator Alistair McGowan returned for a second year in an expanded series of Christmas Carol performances with the BPO brass quintet. Sussex conductor Alice Farnham took the baton for our October concert, completing an all-female conducting line-up. The season finale in April included a new concerto by Joanna MacGregor for piano, percussion and strings, written for and performed with her good friend, Brazilian percussionist Adriano Adewale.

Our core programme achieved a 4% uplift in tickets sold, and a 1.3% increase in revenue.

The orchestra was invited to play in Brighton Festival, with a performance of Shostakovich Symphony no. 10 accompanied by the William Kentridge film *Oh To Believe in Another World*, introduced by William and Joanna from the stage. BPO also performed three sell-out chamber concerts at Brighton College as part of their Autograph Series, featuring Joanna, BPO principals and guest artists.

The orchestra's nurturing of young talent was formalised in the Spring Forwards programme, that saw six young players participate in the scheme, performing in the orchestra to gain transformative professional experience, alongside guidance and mentoring from our principal players. The success of the scheme has led to plans to expand to form a young players ensemble, Brighton Spring, next season. The Spring Forwards scheme was generously supported by The Garrick Charitable Trust and Idlewild Trust, alongside individual givers, and we are very grateful to everyone whose contribution made the scheme a huge success in its inaugural year.

An expanded education programme engaged over 700 pupils from eight schools in workshops and masterclasses. Visits were made to six schools (Kings Hove, Patcham High, Blatchington Mill, Cardinal Newman, St Andrews C of E Junior School, and Brighton College) and hosted open masterclasses at Brighton College, which extended our reach to Varndean and Christs Hospital School. Activity included film music workshops from composer and improviser, Neil Brand, and trumpet soloist Aaron Azunda Akugbo inspiring members of the Brighton & East Sussex Youth Orchestra when he visited their rehearsal for a side-by-side. The education programme culminated with Adriano Adewale hosting two large workshops, one for secondary school pupils looking at rhythm as a source of creativity, and one junior school workshop using body percussion and Brazilian instruments to recreate the sounds of the rainforest. The Sounds of Brazil concert and related activity was generously supported by the Chalk Cliff Trust and the Marchus Trust, and our thanks is extended to them for supporting this project.

We are also very grateful to corporate sponsors Travelbound for their sponsorship of free tickets for school groups, and Brighton College for their sponsorship of our programmes.

A revised fundraising strategy was launched to support the financial position of the orchestra, with five successful grants secured. Membership tiers were also revised, with the addition of a new Conductor's Circle, and enhanced membership benefits. This expansion was supported by the roll-out of a new CRM system to streamline internal processes.

The Society remains grateful to all of its Friends, Patrons, Sponsors, Donors and grant-making trusts for their continued support, both through financial contributions and attendance at concerts and Society events.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

Investment performance

The Society has adopted a cautious approach to investment management, balancing the need to retain sufficient cash for immediate requirements with the objective of achieving a worthwhile return on funds not immediately required.

Funds are held in interest-bearing and notice accounts and fixed-term deposits, alongside an investment account.

The Society has progressively transferred its day-to-day banking activities from CAF Bank to Lloyds Bank.

Interest received for the year was £58,891, compared with £55,031 in 2024-25. The Society also recorded net gains on investments of £14,035 during the year, compared with a net loss of £1,541 in the previous year. The fixed asset investment portfolio stood at £262,595 at 31 March 2026, compared with £248,560 at 31 March 2025.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

The Society holds an annual concert programme which is broadly similar in scope and scale from one year to the next. As concert expenses are not generally covered by ticket sales, a significant net cost arises from the programme.

Surplus/deficit for the year

For the year ended 31 March 2026, total income was £529,613, compared with £505,303 in 2024-25. Total expenditure was £647,499, compared with £689,245 in the previous year. The resulting net expenditure before investment gains was £117,886, compared with £183,942 in 2024-25. There were net investment gains of £14,035 compared to a loss of £1541 in 2024-25.

The net outturn for the year was a deficit of £103,851, compared with a deficit of £185,483 in 2024-25.

The underlying operating deficit before income from legacies was £173,180, compared with £325,399 in 2024-25.

The operating deficit arises principally from the Society's financial support of the concert programme together with its overhead and administrative costs.

The year-on-year reduction in the deficit reflects, in part, lower expenditure on raising funds (marketing costs), which fell from £91,680 to £46,036. The charity also received a £77,088 donation from the closure of the trading arm, Brighton Orchestral Productions.

Charitable expenditure on the Dome concert season was £601,462, compared with £597,565 in 2024-25. The increase can be attributed to the displacement of the April concert; the 2025-26 accounts include the increased costs of staging Turangalila Symphony as part of the Centenary season.

Legacies

The Society would not be able to maintain its annual concert programme without income from legacies. In recent years, a number of significant legacies have allowed the Society to maintain an ambitious concert programme and provide enhanced operational support.

In the year, a total of £55,294 was received from new legacies and residual estate amounts, compared with £141,457 in 2024-25. These are listed as follows:

Avril Oulton £2000; David Parkinson £10,000; Robert Higham £16,798; Ronald Power £10,000; Sylvia St John £14,496; Ulla Dunlop £1000 and Eileen Lawrence £1000. Further income estimated at £112,030 is expected in 2026-27 as payments from legacies previously notified to the Society from Don Newbold, John Bullock, Mavis Reynolds, Elizabeth Rodger and David Webb.

Sources of income

Total income for the year was £529,612, compared with £505,303 in 2024-25. The principal funding sources of the Society in the year were:

- £167,505 from ticket sales (2025: £162,676);
- £41,215 from donations, sponsorships and membership fees (2025: £33,348);
- £77,088 from the donation related to the closure of Brighton Orchestral Productions (2025: N/A);
- £58,891 from interest received (2025: £55,031);
- £55,294 from legacies (2025: £141,457);
- £15,950 from grants (2025: £0)
- £5,000 from contracted services (2025: £4,500)
- £107,391 from Orchestral Tax Relief (2025: £107,781)

Expenditure

Total expenditure amounted to £647,498, of which £601,462 related to charitable activities and £46,036 to raising funds.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRATEGIC REPORT

Direct costs of charitable activities amounted to £471,183. These included £238,200 on orchestra and artists, £60,000 for the Music Director, £75,307 on venue hire, £34,709 on production costs, £24,388 on travel and £20,058 on instrument hire.

Support costs relating to the Dome concert season amounted to £130,279 (2025: £136,903). Of this figure £86,702 was related to staff salaries and on-costs, compared to £76,658 in 2024-25 and reflecting the staffing restructure implemented in June 2025.

Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, and to cover unplanned emergencies and other expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves should be maintained at a minimum level of £325,000, based on six months' operating costs in an average operating year.

At 31 March 2026, the Society held unrestricted funds of £1,406,641 and restricted funds of £6,410, giving total funds of £1,413,051. This compares with total funds of £1,516,902 at 31 March 2025.

The Society is essentially calling on reserves to fund the annual concert programme, operating costs and overheads. The reduction in total funds during the year was limited to £103,851 (2025: £185,483).

Going concern

The Society has historically benefited from significant legacy income, which has enabled an annual programme of concerts to be presented in Brighton since 1925. The trustees consider the Society to be able to meet its future financial obligations and have therefore prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

Subsidiary company and tax reliefs

Brighton Orchestral Productions Limited was established in August 2022 as a subsidiary company of the Society for the purposes of claiming Orchestral Tax Relief on concert rehearsal costs. The Society now claims Orchestral Tax Relief itself.

During the year, the subsidiary made a donation of £77,088 to the Society on winding up. Orchestral Tax Relief remains an important source of revenue and significantly assists the viability of the concert programme.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that medium and longer-term financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is the continuous review of the reserves policy of the Society and the retention of sufficient working capital.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from the health and safety of our members, musicians and audience.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

The Society has adopted a strategy of investing in its concert programme to build its reputation and extend its audience. The aspiration of the Society is to transition to a position where its annual programme of concerts is sustainable from ticket sales, sponsorship, fundraising and investment income, while recognising that some application of reserves is likely to be necessary.

The Society will continue to develop its fundraising activity, seeking increased support from trusts and foundations, sponsors, members and individual donors.

It will also continue to explore opportunities to promote the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra beyond its immediate Brighton base, including through performances in Sussex and London.

Operationally, the Society will continue to review and enhance its general administrative, financial and organisational processes.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered at Companies House (registration number 00371316) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 250921). The Society is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9 December 1941 and last amended on 6 November 2022.

Membership of the Society is open to everyone. The ordinary members are the Friends of the Society. In the event of the winding up of the Society, each member undertakes to contribute to any liabilities and costs, subject to a limit of two guineas (£2.10).

The Society adopted revised Memorandum and Articles of Association at its Annual General Meeting on 6 November 2022. The revised articles closely follow the Charity Commission model form.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the business of the Society is managed by a Board of Management consisting of up to nine elected members.

The members of the Board of Management are the directors of the charitable company and its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The elected members who served during the year as directors and trustees are listed below.

The Board of Management is responsible for the overall governance of the Society. The Board meets six times a year. Sub-committees are established as required, mainly covering finance and income generation/marketing.

At each AGM one third of the directors retire in rotation and may then stand for re-election by the members. No member of the Board may serve for more than nine consecutive years, after which two years must elapse before the member is eligible for re-election.

The trustees have the power to fill a casual vacancy in the Board of Management and to appoint a person as an additional member. Those appointed must then stand for election at the next AGM and are subject to the general rules covering retirement and election of directors.

All members of the Society are circulated with invitations to nominate members to the Board prior to the AGM and are advised of the retiring members. The Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed when considering appointing an additional member.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The staffing arrangements of the Society are subject to continuous review to ensure that a professional approach is taken.

A revised operational structure became effective in June 2025. The role of the Music Director was expanded and designated as Chief Executive Officer and Music Director, and the Operations Manager was redesignated as Operations Director.

The office team also includes an Operations Manager (now Concerts and Promotions Manager) to assist with delivery of the artistic programme and membership programme, as well as a Finance Manager responsible for the financial affairs of the Society, including payment of musicians and preparation of management and financial statements. On a contract basis, the Society also hires a fixer responsible for booking musicians for concerts.

Music Director

The Music Director of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra is Joanna MacGregor CBE, who is also Chief Executive Officer. The Music Director is responsible for the artistic direction of the orchestra, including the selection and programming of the concert season. This is a paid, part-time appointment on the basis of a three-year contractual term.

Our volunteers

Volunteers, most of whom are members of the Society, distribute publicity materials and programmes and steward events and performances, enabling lower staff costs than would otherwise be the case.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees undergo an orientation briefing covering their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Wider network

Friends of the Society

The Friends are the members of the Society and have their own regular newsletter and benefit from priority booking arrangements for tickets, as well as special discounts and events. Friends Sponsors and Patrons are all members of the society. The number of members at 31 March 2026 was 346 (31 March 2024: 332). The Society is grateful for the continued support of the membership.

Related parties

The Society's former subsidiary, Brighton Orchestral Productions Limited, was established in August 2022 for the purposes of claiming Orchestral Tax Relief on concert rehearsal costs. The Society now claims Orchestral Tax Relief itself.

One of our trustees is a musician and performs with the Orchestra. During the year, this trustee was paid £2,845 for work as a musician outside their role as a trustee. Trustees received no expenses during the year.

Complimentary concert tickets are provided to trustees who wish to bring guests as part of the promotion of the Orchestra. The trustees receive no other benefits from their work with the Society.

Any connection between a trustee or employee of the charity with a production company, performer or venue must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. No related party transactions were reported for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The Society has a close relationship with the John Carewe Brighton Orchestra Trust, a charity which shares the Society's passion for orchestral concerts and which has supported the orchestra over many years, and which during the 2025-26 year indicated its intention to close and transfer its remaining assets to the Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society. The Society also works closely with Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival Ltd, which operates the Brighton Dome Concert Hall where the Orchestra performs.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that medium and longer-term financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is the reviewed reserves policy of the Society and the retention of sufficient working capital.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from the health and safety of our members, musicians and audience.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00371316 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

250921

Registered office

Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3XG

Trustees

J A Brigden
Ms L B Cearley
Ms A T Cifelli
R E Cook
Ms C S Harrison
N G Jacobs
J Gill
Ms J Blackstone

Independent Examiner

Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.
bk plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Officers

Joanna MacGregor, CBE (Chief Executive Officer and Music Director)
Barry Wordsworth (Conductor Laureate)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Honorary Officers

Position vacant (President)
John Carewe (Vice-President)
David House (Vice-President)
Jackie Lythell, OBE (Vice-President)
Karen Platt (Vice-President)

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on the board's behalf by:

.....
J A Brigden - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society Ltd ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

bk plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Date:

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	257,439	-	257,439	259,911
Charitable activities	5				
Dome concert season		172,505	38,600	211,105	189,851
Other trading activities	3	2,178	-	2,178	510
Investment income	4	58,891	-	58,891	55,031
Total		<u>491,013</u>	<u>38,600</u>	<u>529,613</u>	<u>505,303</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	46,037	-	46,037	91,680
Charitable activities	7				
Dome concert season		<u>567,472</u>	<u>33,990</u>	<u>601,462</u>	<u>597,565</u>
Total		<u>613,509</u>	<u>33,990</u>	<u>647,499</u>	<u>689,245</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>14,035</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,035</u>	<u>(1,541)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(108,461)	4,610	(103,851)	(185,483)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,515,102</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,516,902</u>	<u>1,702,385</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>1,406,641</u></u>	<u><u>6,410</u></u>	<u><u>1,413,051</u></u>	<u><u>1,516,902</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14	302	-	302	605
Investments	15	262,595	-	262,595	248,560
		<u>262,897</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262,897</u>	<u>249,165</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	162,628	-	162,628	163,919
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,014,482</u>	<u>6,410</u>	<u>1,020,892</u>	<u>1,157,216</u>
		1,177,110	6,410	1,183,520	1,321,135
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(33,366)	-	(33,366)	(53,398)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,143,744</u>	<u>6,410</u>	<u>1,150,154</u>	<u>1,267,737</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,406,641	6,410	1,413,051	1,516,902
NET ASSETS		<u>1,406,641</u>	<u>6,410</u>	<u>1,413,051</u>	<u>1,516,902</u>
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds				1,406,641	1,515,102
Restricted funds				<u>6,410</u>	<u>1,800</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>1,413,051</u>	<u>1,516,902</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2026

.....
R E Cook - Trustee

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**CASH FLOW STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(195,215)	(285,222)
Net cash used in operating activities		(195,215)	(285,222)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(908)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(250,001)
Interest received		58,891	55,031
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		58,891	(195,878)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(136,324)	(481,100)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,157,216	1,638,316
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,020,892	1,157,216

The notes form part of these financial statements

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2026 £	2025 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(103,851)	(185,483)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	303	303
(Gain)/losses on investments	(14,035)	1,541
Interest received	(58,891)	(55,031)
Movement in intercompany balance	8,412	39,062
Increase in debtors	(7,121)	(117,950)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(20,032)	32,336
Net cash used in operations	<u>(195,215)</u>	<u>(285,222)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/4/25 £	Cash flow £	At 31/3/26 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	1,157,216	(136,324)	1,020,892
	<u>1,157,216</u>	<u>(136,324)</u>	<u>1,020,892</u>
Total	<u>1,157,216</u>	<u>(136,324)</u>	<u>1,020,892</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes. Accordingly the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations	83,198	2,298
Legacies	55,294	141,457
Membership fees	11,556	8,375
Orchestral Tax Relief	107,391	107,781
	<u>257,439</u>	<u>259,911</u>

Donations of £83,197 includes £77,088 donation from the charity's trading subsidiary on wind up of the company.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Centenary Book Sales	<u>2,178</u>	<u>510</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>58,891</u>	<u>55,031</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2026	2025
		£	£
Ticket sales	Dome concert season	167,505	162,676
Sponsorships	Dome concert season	23,550	22,675
Education project	Dome concert season	(900)	-
Contracted services	Dome concert season	5,000	4,500
Grants	Dome concert season	15,950	-
		<u>211,105</u>	<u>189,851</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Delius Trust	2,000	-
Chalk Cliff Trust	5,000	-
Garrick Charitable Trust	2,000	-
Idlewild Trust	2,950	-
The Marchus Trust	4,000	-
	<u>15,950</u>	<u>-</u>

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****6. RAISING FUNDS****Raising donations and legacies**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Fundraising costs	2,517	5,876
Marketing and Advertising - Design	400	20,350
Marketing and Advertising - Print	1,082	4,961
Marketing - Digital social agency	15,925	21,005
Marketing - Digital social media	3,684	3,698
Marketing - Digital campaign (non social media)	150	2,725
Marketing - Centenary	62	13,422
Printing - Posters / flyers	1,744	8,393
Season Brochure	13,891	-
Membership Comms	582	-
PR - Agency	6,000	11,250
	<u>46,037</u>	<u>91,680</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8) £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Dome concert season	<u>471,183</u>	<u>130,279</u>	<u>601,462</u>

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Orchestra and artists	238,200	209,636
Marketing and communications	-	50
Other direct expenses	9,533	12,271
Equipment hire	8,629	4,136
Travel	24,388	26,248
Music Director	60,000	46,500
Instrument hire	20,058	25,245
Instrument insurance	359	320
Venue hire	75,307	93,934
Production costs	34,709	42,322
	<u>471,183</u>	<u>460,662</u>

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****9. SUPPORT COSTS**

		Management £
Dome concert season		130,279

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2026 Dome concert season £	2025 Total activities £
Wages	83,704	72,823
Social security	821	1,863
Pensions	2,177	1,972
Advertising	1,229	504
Office maintenance	12,461	12,600
Insurance	2,668	1,809
Telephone and postage	144	144
Print and computer costs	10,365	6,174
Bank charges	554	429
Professional fees	7,886	31,120
Travel	34	512
Miscellaneous	3,613	2,618
Governance costs	4,320	4,032
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	303	303
	<u>130,279</u>	<u>136,903</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>303</u>	<u>303</u>

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, one trustee was paid £2,845 fees as a musician for work outside of their role as a trustee (2025: £1,911).

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****12. STAFF COSTS**

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	83,704	72,823
Social security costs	821	1,863
Other pension costs	2,177	1,972
	<u>86,702</u>	<u>76,658</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2026	2025
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key Management Personnel, who are considered to be the trustees, the general manager and the operations manager, received remuneration (including employers national insurance and pension contributions) for year ended 31 March 2026 of £47,822 (2025: £63,429).

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	259,911	-	259,911
Charitable activities			
Dome concert season	167,176	22,675	189,851
Other trading activities	510	-	510
Investment income	55,031	-	55,031
Total	<u>482,628</u>	<u>22,675</u>	<u>505,303</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	91,680	-	91,680
Charitable activities			
Dome concert season	574,890	22,675	597,565
Total	<u>666,570</u>	<u>22,675</u>	<u>689,245</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(1,541)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,541)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(185,483)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(185,483)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,700,585	1,800	1,702,385

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,515,102	1,800	1,516,902

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	908
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2025	303
Charge for year	303
At 31 March 2026	606
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2026	302
At 31 March 2025	605

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in group undertakings £	Listed investments £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 April 2025	100	248,460	248,560
Revaluations	-	14,035	14,035
At 31 March 2026	100	262,495	262,595
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2026	100	262,495	262,595
At 31 March 2025	100	248,460	248,560

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued**

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2026 is represented by:

	Shares in group undertakings £	Listed investments £	Totals £
Valuation in 2025	100	248,460	248,560
Valuation in 2026	-	14,035	14,035
	<u>100</u>	<u>262,495</u>	<u>262,595</u>

16. DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	30,874	30,173
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	8,412
Other debtors	-	621
Prepayments and accrued income	130,897	123,856
	<u>161,771</u>	<u>163,062</u>
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Other debtors	857	857
	<u>857</u>	<u>857</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>162,628</u>	<u>163,919</u>

Debtors due after more than one year relates to the rental deposit recoverable on the charity's leased offices.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	20,886	42,171
Social security and other taxes	230	(1,080)
Other creditors	1,152	826
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	-
Accrued expenses	8,098	11,481
	<u>33,366</u>	<u>53,398</u>

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/4/25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/26 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,515,102	(108,461)	1,406,641
Restricted funds			
Education project	1,800	(1,800)	-
Sounds of Brazil	-	6,410	6,410
	<u>1,800</u>	<u>4,610</u>	<u>6,410</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,516,902</u></u>	<u><u>(103,851)</u></u>	<u><u>1,413,051</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	491,013	(613,509)	14,035	(108,461)
Restricted funds				
Sponsorships	23,550	(23,550)	-	-
Education project	(900)	(900)	-	(1,800)
A Fairytale Christmas	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Sounds of Brazil	9,000	(2,590)	-	6,410
Spring Forwards	4,950	(4,950)	-	-
	<u>38,600</u>	<u>(33,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,610</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>529,613</u></u>	<u><u>(647,499)</u></u>	<u><u>14,035</u></u>	<u><u>(103,851)</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted fund	1,700,585	(185,483)	1,515,102
Restricted funds			
Education project	1,800	-	1,800
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,702,385</u></u>	<u><u>(185,483)</u></u>	<u><u>1,516,902</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparative net movement in funds included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted fund	482,628	(666,570)	(1,541)	(185,483)
Restricted funds				
Sponsorships	22,675	(22,675)	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>505,303</u>	<u>(689,245)</u>	<u>(1,541)</u>	<u>(185,483)</u>

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026.

20. PENSION NOTE

During the year the charity made contributions of £2,428 (2025: £1,972) to defined contribution pension schemes. At 31 March 2026 £1,152 (2025: £826) was due to pension providers.