MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity No: 1145873

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Alexander Churchill
Chartered Management Accountants

Alexander-Churchill Accountants
70 The Broadway, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1EG

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity No: 1145873

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MIDSUMMER MUSIC

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in my report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of s43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the seeking of explanations from you as 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.

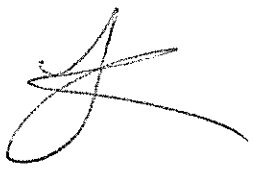
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with 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 s41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts· which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act 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.



Jagbir Singh Sahdra
CPAA

16th October 2026

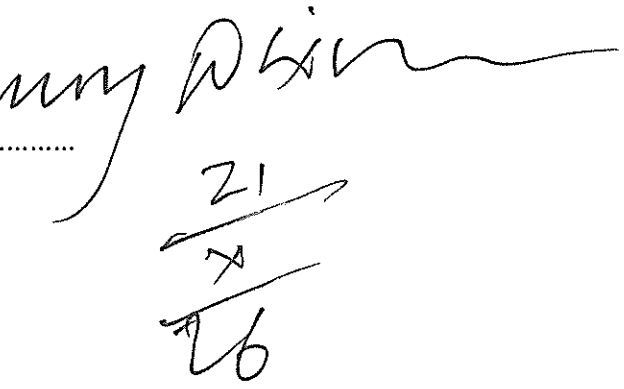
Alexander-Churchill Accountants, 70 The Broadway, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1EG

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes:	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
CURRENT ASSESTS:			
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
HSBC Current Account		17,299	17,565
HSBC Savings Account		66,179	40,368
		83,478	57,933
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
		-	-
		-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		83,478	57,933
Financed by:			
GENERAL FUND			
Balance as at 1st January 2025		57,933	31,999
Net Income/(-Deficit) for year		25,545	25,934
Balance as at 31st December 2025		83,478	57,933

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf:-



....

Sir Jeremy Dixon
Trustee

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year-Ended 31st December 2025

	Notes:	31 December 2025 £	£	31 December 2024 £	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
From Charitable Activities:					
Ticket Sales		16,343		20,592	
Supporters		22,720		25,602	
Gift Aid		5,814		0	
	Total		44,877		46,194
From Other Activities:					
Fundraising Concert		4,090		4,220	
Sale of Drinks & Programmes		1,886		1,640	
Interest from Bank		811		368	
	Total		6,787		6,228
From Charitable Grant:					
Merefin Fund via the King Baudouin Foundation		25,000		25,000	
	Total		25,000		25,000
Total Incoming Resources			76,664		77,422
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of Generating Funds:					
Fundraising Expenditure	2a	2,192		2,783	
	Total		2,192		2,783
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Accountancy Fees		780		744	
PRS Fee		23		1,028	
Artists' Fees	2b	19,537		19,012	
Bank Charges		99		119	
Office Expenses and Printing	2c	1,301		1,220	
Staff Remuneration		15,000		15,000	
Website		333		267	
Insurance	2d	325		325	
Hiring Charges	2e	1,822		1,557	
Piano Removal and Tuning		1,939		2,797	
Stage & Lights		3,402		3,342	
Extra help		1,490		770	
Photographer fee		390			
Storage		1,226		1,226	
Sundries		255		483	
Licence Fee for Selling drinks		21		21	
Drinks		982		794	
	Total		48,926		48,705
Total Resources Used			51,118		51,488
NET INCOMING / (- NET DEFICIT) - RESOURCES	Total		25,545		25,934
GENERAL FUND			£		£
Balance 1st January 2025			57,933		31,999
Balance 31st December 2025			83,478		57,933

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the Year-End- 31st DECEMBER 2025

Note: ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

1 [a] **Basis Of Accounting:**
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

[b] **General Funds:**
The funds of the charity are entirely General Funds available for the objects of the charity, without restriction.

			£	£
2	[a]	**Fundraising Expenditure:**		
		Fundraising Concert	2,192	
				2,192
	[b]	**Artists' Fees and Expenses:**		
		Fees (including Travel & Accomodation)	18,106	
		Refreshments	1,431	
				19,537
	[c]	**Office Expenses and Printing:**		
		Office Supplies and Sundries (Translations & Program notes)	400	
		Printing:	901	
				1,301
	[d]	**Insurance:**		
		Public Liability	325	
				325
	[e]	**Hiring Chages:**		
		Church Hire	1,520	
		Portaloo Hire	302	
				1,822

midsummer music

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

01 January 2025 - 31 December 2025

Charity's principal address:
56 Severalls Avenue
Buckinghamshire
Chesham
HP5 3EL

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 01 January 2025 - 31 December 2025

Charity's principal address:

56 Severalls Avenue
Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 3EL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Sir Jeremy Dixon - Chair
Mrs Bjørg Lewis - Artistic Director
Mr Christopher Aldren

Name of senior member of staff:

Mrs Madeleine Lister (Mattar) - Festival Director

Midsummer Music's governing document is a Trust Deed, which was executed on 21 December 2011. The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document are: "To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of **the art of music** through the presentation of public concerts and recitals, and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable, as the trustees may from time to time decide."

The Charitable Trust is administered by three trustees. The trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the existing trustees. At the forefront of the trustees' decision-making, is a commitment to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. In 2025, the three trustees all gave their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits in the period.

The main focus of Midsummer Music's work is to produce an annual chamber music festival. This led by two Artistic Directors: the pianist, Paul Lewis and the cellist, Bjørg Lewis (also a trustee), both of whom are internationally-renowned concert musicians and award-winning recording artists. The Artistic Directors received no remuneration or other benefit in the period - either for their work in planning the festival, or as fees for performing at the festival.

The Festival Director, Madeleine Lister (Mattar) is self-employed. The Festival Director's responsibilities include all administration, charitable compliance, fund-raising, financial management, marketing, ticket sales, festival production and general management.

Midsummer Music 2025

The 16th International Chamber Music Festival

In 2025, Midsummer Music presented its 16th International Chamber Music Festival, continuing its commitment to artistic excellence, community engagement and the celebration of live chamber music.

The Launch Concert

The first event of the year was the Midsummer Music Launch Concert, held on 25 April 2025 at King's Church in Amersham. As St Mary's Church in Old Amersham was already booked, an alternative venue was required. King's Church proved a welcoming setting for an exceptional recital by Midsummer Music's Co-Artistic Director, the internationally acclaimed pianist Paul Lewis.

The concert was very well attended, attracting a predominantly local audience alongside visitors from further afield, including many experiencing Midsummer Music for the first time. The Launch Concert fulfils two important purposes: raising funds towards the June festival and providing the occasion to announce the programme and artistic line-up for the summer.

Paul Lewis performed Brahms's Op. 117 Intermezzi, followed by Schubert's final Piano Sonata in B-flat major. It was an outstanding display of his artistry and musicianship, leaving those present with a sense of privilege at having experienced such a memorable performance.

The evening concluded with a convivial reception, giving Paul the opportunity to mingle with audience members. This gathering provides a valuable opportunity to reconnect with loyal supporters and welcome those discovering Midsummer Music for the first time. It also helps generate donations and build anticipation for the festival in June.

The June Festival

The 2025 festival took place from Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 June, marking the 16th edition of Midsummer Music and its seventh year at St Mary's Church in Old Amersham.

For the fourth consecutive year, ticket prices were held at £30 and £20, with tickets priced at just £6 for those aged 18 and under. Keeping the festival as affordable and accessible as possible remains a central priority, ensuring that cost is less of a barrier to experiencing live classical music.

Paul and Bjørg Lewis brought together an accomplished ensemble of distinguished musicians to share the festival's five concerts over three days. As in previous years, the line-up balanced familiar faces with artists making their Midsummer Music debuts, creating opportunities for established relationships to develop alongside new artistic collaborations.

The participating musicians were:

- Leon Bosch – double bass
- Meghan Cassidy – viola
- Ruth Gibson – viola
- Tim Horton – piano
- Maja Horvat – violin
- Ashok Klouda – cello
- Bjørg Lewis – cello
- Paul Lewis – piano
- Annabelle Meare – violin
- Senja Rummukainen – cello
- Sonoko Miriam Welde – violin
- Sara Wolstenholme – violin

A Rich and Varied Musical Programme

The five concerts presented a wide-ranging programme of chamber music, bringing together familiar favourites and less frequently performed works across different musical periods, styles and instrumental combinations. Alongside established repertoire, audiences had the opportunity to *discover music by composers such as Amy Beach and Kaija Saariaho.*

A selection of works performed in 2025 illustrates the breadth of the programme:

- Amy Beach – Piano Quintet in F-sharp minor
- Guillaume Lekeu – Piano Quartet
- Richard Strauss – *Capriccio* for String Sextet
- Robert Schumann – Piano Sonata No. 1
- Ralph Vaughan Williams – Piano Quintet in C minor
- Ludwig van Beethoven – Piano Sonata Op. 111
- Kaija Saariaho – *Sept Papillons* for solo cello
- Maurice Ravel – *Mother Goose Suite* for piano duet
- Felix Mendelssohn – String Octet Op. 20

This diversity is one of Midsummer Music's defining characteristics. The juxtaposition of works from different periods, traditions and instrumental combinations creates an eclectic and often unexpected listening experience, encouraging audiences to explore the rich possibilities of chamber music.

Equally important is the opportunity to witness the artistic interplay between musicians of exceptional skill, integrity and imagination. Collaboration lies at the heart of the festival: the musicians share the concert programmes on an equitable basis, with all artists receiving equal billing. This creates a distinctive atmosphere of mutual respect, generosity and collective endeavour.

The musicians' warmth and informality extend naturally to their relationship with the audience. Introductions to individual works frequently offer illuminating insights into the music, the performers' artistic processes and their interpretations. These moments help demystify classical music and invite listeners to engage more deeply with what they hear, fostering a genuine sense of participation in the concert experience.

The festival once again delivered a series of hugely inspiring performances, culminating in a joyful rendition of Mendelssohn's ever-popular String Octet. Performed by eight outstanding women musicians – four violinists, two violists and two cellists – it provided a fitting and exhilarating conclusion to the festival.

A Festival Shared by Its Audience

For many audience members, Midsummer Music has become a cherished fixture in the annual calendar. Over the years, a strong sense of connection and belonging has developed, with the festival increasingly regarded as something to which its audience feels a genuine attachment. This shared ownership is a testament to the enduring appeal of the event and the devotion of those who return year after year.

Whether revisiting much-loved works or discovering unfamiliar and less frequently performed compositions, audiences are invited to experience the imaginative sound world of chamber music in a welcoming and intimate setting. Midsummer Music plays an important role in creating opportunities for people to connect with this art form, deepening their appreciation of classical music and the unique experience of hearing it performed live.

Education and Community Outreach

Midsummer Music's commitment to community engagement continued in 2025 through its longstanding collaboration with St Mary's Church of England Primary School. Once again, festival musicians generously gave their time to present a special pre-festival concert for more than 120 Key Stage 2 pupils, aged seven to eleven, alongside members of staff, the headteacher and the church rector, the Reverend Jonny Rapson.

For many children, the opportunity to experience a live classical music performance in a church setting, with musicians performing just a few feet away, may be an unfamiliar and particularly memorable experience. The concert offers much more than an introduction to the music itself: it gives pupils the chance to ask questions, discover the instruments and learn about the personal journeys that have led the musicians from childhood to professional performance.

The musicians' willingness to share their experiences helps demonstrate that a career in music requires determination, resilience and commitment, but can also be deeply rewarding and transformative. Many of the children are already learning instruments, and we hope that meeting professional musicians will inspire them to continue developing their own musical interests and ambitions.

The enthusiasm with which the concert is received is always encouraging. Children and adults alike leave having encountered something new, enriching and exciting. The continued generosity of the musicians, who donate their time without charge, makes this valuable educational opportunity possible.

Maintaining this partnership with St Mary's School is important to everyone involved in Midsummer Music, and the invitation to return in 2026 has already been accepted. Accessibility for the local community, particularly children and young people, remains central to the festival's mission.

This commitment also extends to local secondary school students, who are offered free tickets to attend the June festival. Take-up has been encouraging and continues to grow each year, helping introduce a younger generation to the excitement and immediacy of live classical music.

A Valued Place in the Community

The 2025 festival was another outstanding year of musical achievement and community engagement, made possible by the strength and generosity of the network surrounding Midsummer Music.

We are particularly grateful to the community of St Mary's Church for welcoming the festival into its beautiful and much-used building. St Mary's provides an exceptional setting for both performers and audiences, combining an intimate atmosphere with an inspiring environment in which to experience chamber music. We deeply appreciate the kindness, flexibility and support of the clergy and parish throughout the preparations, rehearsals and concerts, particularly during the busy week of the festival.

Midsummer Music is proud to welcome audiences from near and far, locally, nationally and internationally. Its presence in Old Amersham brings cultural vitality to the town, supports the local economy and creates a welcome sense of anticipation and excitement. Across sixteen years, the festival has established a reputation for the quality of its performances and the excellence of its artistic leadership. This achievement owes everything to Paul and Bjørg Lewis, whose passion, vision and commitment to music's transformative power continue to shape the festival.

Looking Ahead

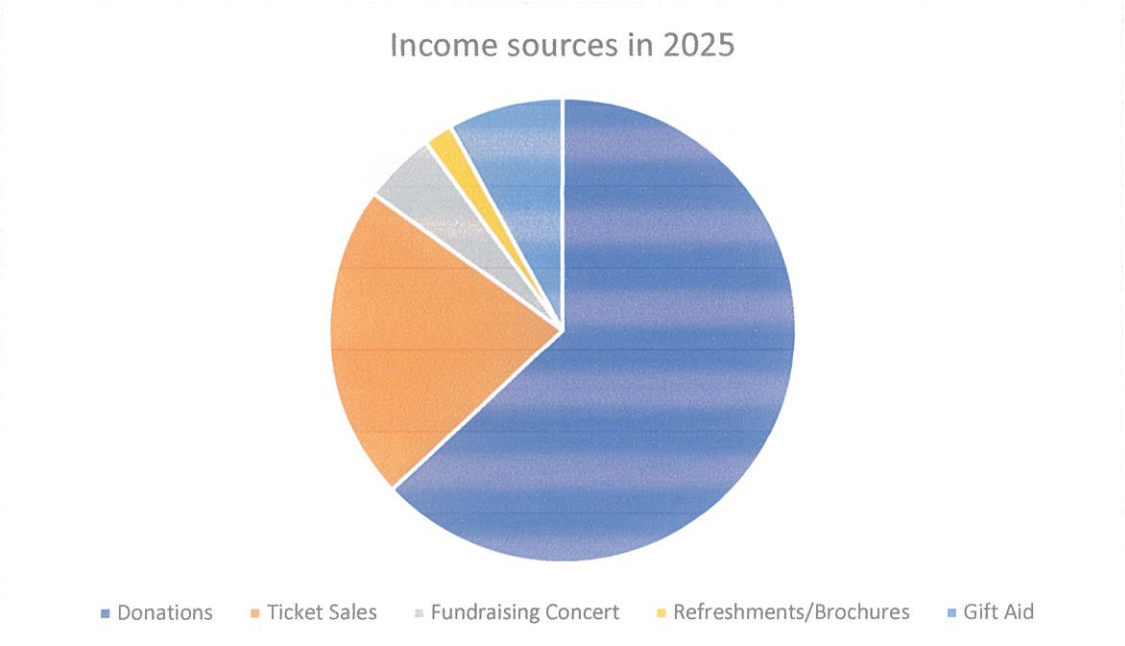
At its heart, Midsummer Music exists to connect people through chamber music: bringing outstanding artists to audiences, bringing musical compositions to life through individual and collective artistic expression, and showcasing St Mary's Church in Old Amersham as an exceptional venue for live performance.

The festival continues to celebrate classical music in a spirit of openness, engagement and conviviality, remaining true to its ambition to educate as well as entertain. The experience of listening to live music is inherently shared; at its best, it creates a sense of hope, connection and togetherness that extends beyond the performance itself.

As Trustees, we take great pride in being part of Midsummer Music and in supporting an event that enriches the cultural life of the community while reaching audiences from much further afield. We remain committed to building on the festival's achievements, upholding the highest standards of artistic excellence and ensuring that the rewards of live classical music remain accessible to as many people as possible.

In 2025, Midsummer Music generated income from the four sources below:

1) Donations from Supporters together with grant from Merifin Fund via the King Baudouin Foundation
2) Ticket sales from the festival
3) Fundraising / Launch Concert
4) Refreshment and brochure sales during the festival
5) Gift Aid



Financially, Midsummer Music concluded the year in a strong position. For the fourth consecutive year, the charity recorded a net incoming resource. As illustrated in the chart above, ticket sales alone are insufficient to sustain Midsummer Music's activities, and the charity remains heavily reliant on the generosity of its Supporters and donors. We are particularly grateful to Merifin Capital, which has once again provided a significant grant to Midsummer Music under the auspices of the King Baudouin Foundation.

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support Midsummer Music. The charity is deeply indebted to each and every donor whose generosity helps make the festival possible.

At the end of the 2025 financial year, Midsummer Music held £83,478 in cash at the bank, all of which represented unrestricted funds. The charity's reserve target remains at £10,000, providing a financial safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, such as another pandemic, a cancelled festival, a reduction in Supporter donations or lower ticket sales.

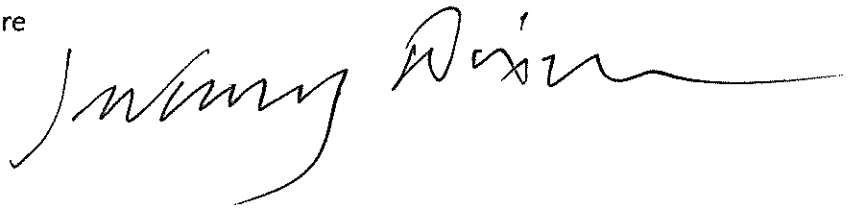
The Trustees and Artistic Directors would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributes to the success of Midsummer Music, including the artists, audiences and donors. A shared and enduring passion for music lies at the heart of everything the festival achieves.

We remain committed to building on Midsummer Music's contribution to the UK's cultural landscape, ensuring that the festival is as accessible as possible to the local community and to those who travel from further afield to attend. Above all, we aspire to uphold the highest standards of artistic excellence in live classical music performance, while continuing to share the joy and richness of classical music with all who experience the festival.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full Name: Sir Jeremy Dixon

Position: Chairman of the Trustees

Date: 21/10/26