CATHEDRAL CONCERT SOCIETY

(T/A Ripon Concerts)

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended

31 May 2026

Patron

Julius Drake

Charity No 1163277

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The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 May 2026.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Cathedral Concert Society (T/A Ripon Concerts)	
Charity number	1163277	
Contact address	Brookside Rodney Terrace Masham Ripon HG4 4JA	
Website address	www.riponconcerts.co.uk	
Current trustees	James Dalton Cathy Kitchingman Rosemary Livingstone Margaret Stringer Anne-Marie Tarter	 Appointed 13/09/2025
Other trustees who served during the year	Roger Higson Judith Hooper	Resigned 13/09/2025 Resigned 31/05/2025
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc 4 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB	
Independent examiner	Michael Brougham MCBI FCIE 3 Lyne Grove Crossford Dunfermline KY12 8YB	

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Cathedral Concert Society ("the Society") is a charitable incorporated organisation ("CIO") granted charitable status by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 24 August 2015. It is governed by its constitution, which was last updated in September 2021.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, subject to there being a minimum of four and a maximum of nine trustees. The members of the Society or the existing trustees may appoint additional trustees at any time, subject to the maximum number not being exceeded.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the trustees shall retire from office but will be eligible for re-election.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- to promote, develop, and maintain appreciation of, the art of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public professional concerts and recitals, and by such other ways as the Society through its trustees shall determine from time to time.
- to advance musical education by the provision of free or subsidised concerts to minors and their families.

These objects were achieved by arranging six concerts, monthly from October to March on Sunday afternoons, for Society members and many others; and a musical instrument taster day for children in August. The musicians ranged from one who is world-renowned to specialist music school students. Works from the 1610s to the 2020s were performed.

Public Benefit

In preparing this report, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Ripon Concerts has brought top-class music to historic Ripon since 1993. We arrange an inspiring and diverse monthly series of concerts on Sunday afternoons between October and March. We are committed to fostering a love of music in our community and to nurturing the next generation of musicians. We offer affordable ticket schemes for families and young adults; provide a Young Performers' Platform for emerging local talent; and showcase both established and new-generation artists

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2025/26 was a successful season with:

- excellent, well-received concerts:
- several new initiatives; and
- a further increase in attendance, 2023/24- 498; 2024/25- 801; 2025/26- 988.

We are continuing to widen our appeal through greater involvement by young people and families (170 attendances in 2025/26).

Our situation is now much more secure than three years ago. Factors that have contributed to this turnaround include:

- the new concert time of Sunday afternoon, introduced for 2024/25;
- using Holy Trinity Church for all concerts given its facilities, location, capacity and acoustics;
- consistent branding, design and images, online and printed, for all information and publicity;

- more positive messaging;
- an increased social media presence (followers up from 500 in January 2025 to 1,190 now).
- engagement with other community organisations in Ripon;
- the Young Performers' Platform, one or two talented local students start most concerts; and
- Young Assistants, who now do many of the things necessary for the audience to enjoy a concert and received Power of 10 Volunteering Certificates from Raphael Wallfisch at the final concert.

There is a full account of every performance in 2025/26 with photographs on our website, a new initiative. Here is a summary:

13 August 2025

Musical Instrument Taster Session

As part of Ripon's Summerfest about 40 children heard string, wind and brass instruments played professionally. In three groups they then tried all the instruments, before coming together to produce a cacophony of sounds that everyone enjoyed enormously. Subsequently at least four decided to have lessons.

12 October 2025

The Fitzroy String Quartet "Americans and Bohemians"

An original and interesting programme including the minimalism of Philip Glass and John Adams, Jessie Montgomery's American dance like folk idioms, and Dvorak's homage to the Bohemian musical traditions of his homeland

9 November 2025

The Gould Piano Trio with clarinettist Robert Plane "Music for Saint Wilfrid"

Highly accomplished musicians and great communicators who combined a newly commissioned work by Piers Halliwell, which the composer introduced on screen, with an interactive exploration of chamber pieces built around four movements from Messiaen's The Quartet for the End of Time.

14 December 2025

The David Gordon Trio "Jazz meets the Classics"

In the first half 'Foray' which was a fascinating jazz exploration of eight pieces by Fauré. And after the interval, pieces inspired by two of Bach's preludes and the Goldberg Variations; and Alexander Scriabin's Ragtime Band, recolouring three of his Mazurkas and an Etude.

11 January 2026

Students from Chetham's School of Music "Shaping the Future"

A new initiative for Ripon Concerts presented six students of extraordinary talent, accompanied by two staff, playing the trumpet, flute, violin and recorder and singing mezzo-soprano and tenor. Their choices ranged from Bach to Quilter. An audience of younger listeners and regulars left convinced they had heard several stars of the future.

8 February 2026

Hugh Cutting, Countertenor, with Sergio Bucheli, Lute "Heartstrings, Songs on the Experience of Love"

Hugh Cutting, winner of many major awards, and Sergio Buchelli, much in demand by The English Concert and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment explored the many stages of love from Thomas Campion to Fleetwood Mac, including other Renaissance songs Handel, Schumann and Ireland in-between.

8 March 2026

Raphael Wallfisch "An Encounter with Bach"

A capacity audience enormously appreciated a stunning recital from one of the world's greatest cellists playing Bach's Suites I, 2, 3 and 5 on a 1735 instrument from Italy and the final Suite, which was composed for a 5-string instrument, played on such an instrument commissioned in 2021 by Raphael Wallfisch. He interspersed the music by reading Bach's diaries and accounts from the time about Bach's work, habits and employment difficulties. It was a wonderful end to a very successful season.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Income in 2025/26 came from season tickets, sales for each concert, donations from individuals and trusts, gift aid, bank interest, and refreshments. We are especially grateful to our donors who, together with gift aid, provided £6k (2025: £3.9k)

Expenditure was on artists' fees, administration, piano hire and tuning, venue costs, publicity, printing, social media, email marketing and website development.

For 2025/26 trustees decided to lower prices for tickets and introduce a reduced price for the balcony. This was to generate momentum, make concerts affordable for more people, and boost our rising attendance figures. Strategically this worked. These aims were met; but at a price: we had a deficit of £5.6k in 2025/26. Next season prices will revert to what they were, with the balcony reduction remaining. There will also be a £5 ticket for students. 18s and under are free; and, thanks to continuing support from a very generous local sponsor, adults accompanying young people also attended free.

The following table is a summary of our receipts and payments for the year.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Operating receipts	**22,338**	25,164
Operating payments	**(27,922)**	(25,676)
Net payments for the year	**(5,584)**	(512)

Reserves policy

Trustees consider it necessary to hold sufficient reserves to underpin a complete season of concerts. The following table shows our free reserves at that the year-end which were slightly higher than the planned level.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Total funds as at 31/05/2026	**35,274**	39,656
Less: Restricted funds	**(3,000)**	(3,000)
Free reserves as at 31/05/2026	**32,274**	36,656

FUTURE PLANS

There is a tide in the affairs of Ripon Concerts which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune…

Trustees have arranged a wide range of interesting and engaging concerts in 2026/27, that will appeal to our long-standing supporters and those who have started coming recently. Quality, variety and balance are our guiding principles. We will always engage outstanding musicians; and remember one person's remark: "There's no need for Wigmore Hall if you live in Ripon".

All performers are now contractually encouraged to introduce their repertoire in an accessible and engaging manner. We want to ensure coming to a concert is a thoroughly enjoyable and informed experience. As part of this the Young Performer's Platform, and our Young Assistants will continue.

We are proud to be family friendly; to encourage the young; and to play our part in making young people feel that engaging with culture is a normal thing. We believe that if children are engaged in the arts when they are young, it stays with them.

This year we will offer all primary schools in Ripon a Musical Instrument Taster Session, building on the success of last year's event, and have secured grants from North Yorkshire Council and Ripon City Council to cover our costs. We know many young people have no knowledge of musical instruments that can be played either alone or in an orchestra/band; and are doing something about it.

Subject to agreement at the AGM, we intend to clarify the procedure for "applying for membership" as required by our constitution; to change our registered name from "Cathedral Concert Society trading as Ripon Concerts" to "Ripon Concerts"; and introduce a Friends scheme.

We are clearly in a much better position than we were three years ago. Changes over the past two years are bearing fruit. One crucial challenge, though, remains: 2026/27 may not lead on to fortune for Ripon Concerts, but the season must not make a loss. Otherwise, as Brutus says a couple of lines later, we will be bound in shallows and in miseries.

FINALLY

This report would not be complete without a tribute to Anthony Ogus CBE who very sadly died in March. Anthony was a valued and wise trustee from 2011 until 2023, during which time he was treasurer for seven years, taking over in 2013 when the society faced a particularly challenging time. His contribution to meetings was thoughtful, measured and strategic but always good humoured. He had the innate ability to see a way through difficult discussions to an outcome satisfactory to all. He was a wonderful colleague, always supportive and generous with his musical knowledge. For many years he wrote our Programme Notes, that shared his insights into the music and were gratefully appreciated. Nothing was ever too much trouble. Raphael Wallfisch kept changing his programme; Anthony just rewrote his Notes. It was so fitting that he could complete this work just before his final illness.

APPROVAL

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, was approved by the trustees on 17 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Jim Dalton

James Dalton
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Cathedral Concert Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2026, which are set out on pages 9 to **13**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act).

You are satisfied that the charity is not required by charity law to have its accounts audited and you have chosen to have an independent examination instead of an audit.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Having completed my examination, I confirm that no matter came to my attention giving me cause to believe in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Brougham

Michael Brougham, MCBI FCIE
3 Lyne Grove
Crossford
Dunfermline
KY12 8YB
19 September 2026

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2026**	Total 2025
Receipts		£	£	**£**	£
Donations	7	6,098	1,775	**7,873**	6,915
Trading receipts / Concerts	8	13,690	-	**13,690**	17,256
Investment income / Bank interest		775	-	**775**	993
		20,563	1,775	**22,338**	25,164
Payments					
Trading payments / Concerts	9	16,644	-	**16,644**	19,961
Administration	10	10,858	-	**10,858**	5,415
Governance costs	11	420	-	**420**	300
		27,922	-	**27,922**	25,676
Net movement in funds		(7,359)	1,775	**(5,584)**	(512)
Transfers between funds	14	1,840	(1,840)	**-**	-
Net receipts/(payments)		(5,519)	(65)	**(5,584)**	(512)
Balance as at 01 June 2025		37,141	1,225	**38,366**	38,878
Balance as at 31 May 2026		31,622	1,160	**32,782**	38,366

The Notes on pages **11** to **13** form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2026**	Total 2025
Bank and cash balances	£	£	**£**	£
Bank deposit account	28,314	-	**28,314**	36,589
Bank current account	3,308	1,160	**4,468**	1,777
	31,622	1,160	**32,782**	38,366
Debtors				
Accrued income (Gift Aid)	1,052	-	**1,052**	190
Other debtors	-	1,840	**1,840**	1,775
	1,052	1,840	**2,892**	1,965
Liabilities				
Trade creditors	400	-	**400**	675
Other creditors	-	-	**-**	-
	400	-	**400**	675

The Notes on pages **11** to **13** form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, were approved by the trustees on 17 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Jim Dalton

James Dalton
Chair

1. Basis of perpetration

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Fund accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 12.

3. Taxation

(a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

(b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Trustee remuneration and benefits

(a) No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year, or in the previous year.

(b) The charity's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance cover for its trustees. No other benefits were received by the trustees during the year, or in the previous year.

5. Trustee expenses

No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year or in the previous year.

6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year, or in the previous year.

7. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2026**	Total 2025
	£	£	**£**	£
Donations	5,906	-	**5,906**	3,635
Grants / Seastock	-	1,775	**1,775**	3,000
Gift Aid	192	-	**192**	280
	6,098	1,775	**7,873**	6,915

8. Trading receipts (Concerts)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Concert subscriptions/membership	**4,400**	5,450
Other ticket sales	**8,600**	10,230
Advertising	**-**	340
Programmes	**-**	663
Refreshments and CD sales	**690**	573
	13,690	17,256

9. Trading payments (Concerts)

	2026	2025
	£	£
Performers' fees and expenses	**9,129**	10,959
Musical Instruments Taster Day	**290**	-
Venue hire	**3,297**	2,429
Piano hire	**3,060**	4,060
Printing & Reproduction	**808**	2,513
Refreshments and hospitality	**60**	-
	16,644	19,961

10. Administration

	2026	2025
	£	£
Administrator fees	**4,055**	1,476
Advertising, publicity and social media	**830**	2,096
Bank and payment platform charges	**263**	307
Bookkeeping & Accountancy	**845**	500
Gifts & Donations	**211**	-
Performing Rights Society	**1,295**	-
Subscriptions	**480**	337
Website	**2,879**	699
	10,858	5,415

11. Governance costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
AGM	**120**	-
Donation in lieu of independent examiner's fee	**300**	300
	420	300

12. Purposes of funds

General	An unrestricted fund that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.
Seastock	Grant funding from the Seastock Charitable Trust to provide free tickets for adults accompanying school aged children.

13. Movements in funds

Fund	Balance 31/05/2025	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	**Balance 31/05/2026**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
General (Unrestricted)	37,141	20,563	(27,922)	1,840	**31,622**
Seastock Fund (Restricted)	1,225	1,775	-	(1,840)	**1,160**
	38,366	22,338	(27,922)	-	**32,782**

14. Transfers between funds

£1,840 was transferred from the Seastock fund to the general fund being the value of free tickets issued during the year to adults accompanying school aged children.

SETUP – DO NOT PRINT THIS PAGE – HIDE IT!

Charity Name	Cathedral Concert Society
Charity No	1163277
Date Period End	31 May 2026
Date Accounts Approved	17 September 2026
Date Examination	19 September 2026
Previous Year End	2026