Children's Concerts
Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ending 30th June 2026



The trustees are pleased to present their report on the charity for the period 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026.

Objectives and activities

Our first concert took place in 1994, with Children's Concerts becoming a registered charity in 2011. The charity's objects are to promote the art of live orchestral music and to advance the education and appreciation of live orchestral music among children and young people.

Financial Review

The concerts had income of £128,634 in the year ending June 2026, of which £21,740 came from ticket sales and a total of £104,754 came from grants. We also supported travel (by bus) costs of state schools who attended, for which we received £12,000. The concerts were generously supported by the Bedhampton Charitable Trust, The Calleva Foundation, The Colles Trust, The Foyle Foundation, the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust, The Sussex Community Foundation and an anonymous donor. Concert expenditure totalled £38,560, with overheads and administrative costs of £839, which were covered by interest received of £2,140.

The Charity's financial reserves are held as cash, to help with the following year's finances. This year's surplus has enabled us to achieve the Charity's goal of building up reserves to a level approximately equal to one year's expenses, and more.

We continue to seek funding in order to be able to increase the number of concerts and orchestras and broaden the geographical reach of the Charity, thereby giving more children the chance to experience live orchestral music.

We are very grateful to all those whose funding has made the concerts possible, including the funding to support the cost of coach hire for state school pupils to come to the concerts.

This year, we employed a photographer to update our website profile and enable us to move into instagram. We need to improve our capacity for marketing, so as to ensure that all seats are filled in our concerts.

For detail, please see the filed accounts.

Ticket prices are kept at a nominal level to ensure best access for all children, so fund raising is essential to our activities.

Achievements

Approximately 4,500 school children from infant, primary, junior and special schools attended our concerts in January over three days in large public concert venues at Chichester, Guildford and Southampton. In past years we have also produced concerts in Dorking, Worthing, Petersfield, Portsmouth and Winchester. Concerts are one hour in length and comprise a series of short classical orchestral pieces, a narrative piece and a commissioned song for all the children to sing together with the orchestra. The children practise this song at school before the concert. Each year children are invited to contribute designs for the concert programme and we use one to print on the programmes. State schools were offered up to 65% of their coach hire costs subject to funding being available.

The Children's Concerts in 2026 were happy occasions. Jonathan Willcocks and the Southern Pro Musica continued to perform, as they have done since 1994. They were joined again this year by Neil Henry as compère, who entertained the 5-11 year olds at six concerts in three venues: The Festival Theatre in Chichester, G Live Guildford and Central Hall Southampton. The children listened to orchestral pieces suitable for the age group and joined in a song with full audience participation at the end of each concert.

The pieces played this year included:

Jonathan Willcocks	*Meet the orchestra*
Dvorak	*Slavonic Dance in G minor*
Albinoni	*Oboe Concerto in D minor (3rd movement)*
Jonathan Willcocks	*How the Whale got his Throat*
arr. Keir Rowe	*Disney film favourites*
Johann Strauss	*Tritsch-Tratsch Polka*
Jonathan Willcocks	*Singing Rules (Song for audience participation)*

In their own words

Some comments from teachers who attended the concerts:

As always, I love it it! I think this is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience. We have been coming for 12 years and I hope to continue to bring our children along for many years to come.

The conductor is lovely and letting children have a go works well.

The event is brilliant and the organisation is fabulous. We really appreciate the space to have our picnic before or after too.

We are so grateful to them and for the contribution to travel costs without which we would struggle to come on this trip.

Our children were absolutely captivated by listening to a real-life orchestra. Many had never experienced live classical music before, and they were enthralled by the different sections and how they combined to create such a rich sound. Several children also commented on how different the acoustics were compared to listening on TV or radio. They especially enjoyed the host, who kept them engaged and wove a sense of magic throughout the performance. The interactive elements — joining in with conducting, playing percussive instruments, and the final song — were particular highlights and made the experience feel exciting and accessible for everyone.

Structure, governance and management

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Trust Deed, our operations are managed and run by a committee of volunteer trustees, including the founder Elizabeth Gotto and the Conductor and Artistic Director of the Southern Pro Musica orchestra Jonathan Willcocks. The Committee meets three times each year. Three members of the Committee usually attend each concert to ensure all goes well. Responsibility for the children remains with their attending teachers or parents throughout the concert. Venue staff are also always on hand to assist teachers and children.

Trustees (all acted for the whole year):

Elizabeth Curtis (Chairperson)	Elizabeth Gotto
Francis Gotto	James Gotto
Sarah Maybury (Treasurer)	Hilary Otter
Jonathan Willcocks	

Andrew Jackson is on the committee as our schools' liaison adviser, but he is not a trustee.

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees.

We re-registered the charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1189148 in 2020. The old charity number was 1143521.

Principal address: 1 Old Manor Farm, Hinton Martell, BH21 7HR.

Contact email: admin@childrensconcerts.org.uk

Website: https://childrensconcerts.org.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Elizabeth Curtis	Sarah Maybury
Chairperson	Treasurer
29 November 2026	29 November 2026

Children's Concerts

Registered Charity number 1189148

Balance Sheet 30th June 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Bank current account			217.79		521.85
Bank deposit account			126,275.89		38,529.34
Debtors					
Interest receivable	1	260.00		58.00	
Pre-payments – website		70.94			
- deposit for venue		1,134.50			
			1,465.44		58.00
			127,959.12		39,109.19
Current liabilities					
PRS fees payable	2	0.00		426.27	
			0.00		426.27
			127,959.12		**38,682.92**
Represented by					
Retained earnings					
Balance brought forward		24,260.98		21,155.14	
Reserve for future years		88,000.00			
Current year surplus/(deficit)		839.40		3,105.84	
Balance carried forward			113,100.38		24,260.98
Coach Reserve					
Balance brought forward		14,421.94		770.41	
Foyle Foundation		7,000.00		7,000.00	
Sussex Communities Foundation		0.00		4,000.00	
Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust		0.00		3,000.00	
Anonymous donation		5,000.00		0.00	
The Calleva Foundation (all in income in 2026)		0.00		10,000.00	
less School reimbursement		(11,563.20)		(10,348.47)	
Balance carried forward			14,858.74		14,421.94
			127,959.12		**38,682.92**

…… ……..

Sally Maybury, Treasurer Elizabeth Curtis, Chairman

Children's Concerts

Registered Charity number 1189148

Profit and Loss Account 1st July 2025- 30th June 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Concert income					
Ticket sales	4		21,740.00		22,450.00
Bedhampton CT		8,454.00		4,039.00	
Colles Trust		300.00		300.00	
Foyle Foundation (see also coach fund)		68,000.00		0.00	
Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust		2,000.00		0.00	
Sussex Communities Foundation		6,000.00		4,000.00	
The Calleva Foundation		20,000.00		10,000.00	
Total of grants received		104,754.00		18,339.00	
to reserve for future years		(88,000.00)		0.00	
			16,754.00		18,339.00
Interest			2,140.39		756.70
			40,634.39		41,545.70
Concert expenditure					
Orchestra	3	22,867.98		22,420.00	
Conductor fees	3	1,890.00		1,890.00	
Narrator fees		1,050.00		1,050.00	
Venue hire		10,910.44		10,168.57	
PRS license		1,016.41		1,393.90	
Programme costs		217.92		242.83	
Sales commission		0.00		0.00	
Cr card commission		309.80		319.47	
Orchestra refreshments		298.11		275.00	
	5,036.40		38,560.66		37,759.77
			2,073.73		3,785.93
Overheads					
Travel expenses		40.00		40.00	
Insurance		82.00		81.00	
Subscriptions		425.99		411.00	
Website		164.45		108.09	
Poster art		30.00		30.00	
Postage		10.00		10.00	
Photography		480.39		0.00	
Bank charges		1.50		0.00	
			(1,234.33)		(680.09)
Net (loss)/ Profit			**839.40**		**3,105.84**

Children's Concerts 2026

charity no 1189148

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Children's Concerts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2026 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Responsibility 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")

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Petersfield
Hampshire
GU31 4PR

20th September 2026