Charity number 11991221

St Paul's Opera

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Address	St Paul's Church Rectory Grove London SW4 0DX
Trustees	Patricia Carter Jonathan Boardman Charlotte Brosnan Matthew Carter Alexandra Dinwiddie Philip Hensher Tanya Hurst Courtney Larkin Lindsey North Susan Roberts
Independent Examiner	Catherine Atkin LLB ACA ATII Atkin & Co Chartered Accountants 75 The Chase London SW4 0NR

History

St Paul's Opera was founded in 2013 within the organisational framework of St Paul's Church, Clapham. From January 2022, St Paul's Opera was fully independent from St Paul's Church. Charitable status was gained on 30 May 2022.

Objectives and aims

To advance the art of opera and classical vocal music for the benefit of the public through the organisation and production of performances and educational classes and events.

St Paul's Opera is embedded in the local community to which it contributes significantly. Its purposes are:

- To advance the experience, understanding and enjoyment of opera and classical vocal music
- To provide development opportunities to singers training for, or early in, their professional opera careers
- To advance education about opera

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Artistic Programme and Schools Outreach

St Paul's Opera's annual programme involves a three-evening and one matinée summer festival of staged opera, and a number of gala and oratorio concerts. The programme also includes a fund-raising gala featuring four internationally renowned opera singers, led by our patron David Butt Philip.

To advance its educational aims St Paul's Opera collaborates with local primary schools to promote and enhance awareness and understanding of opera and vocal music.

This report deals with activities throughout the 2025 calendar year.

David Butt Philip & Friends Gala – 28 March 2025

A fund-raising gala event featuring internationally recognised tenor, and St Paul's Opera patron, David Butt Philip. The event provided an opportunity for audiences to enjoy a special evening of operatic performance from David as well as internationally renowned singers, Alison Langer, Clare Presland and William Thomas.

Radiant Voices Oratorio Concert – 25 April 2025

A concert celebrating the richness of the oratorio repertoire and the expressive qualities of choral and vocal music, including a chamber performance of Fauré's Requiem, sung by regular singers of St Paul's Opera and accompanied by leading UK classical pianist, George Ireland.

L'elisir d'amore – 3–5 July 2025

A production of Gaetano Donizetti's comic opera *L'elisir d'amore*, presented over four performances, including a relaxed family matinée, extending our audience in the community. One of the highlights of our year, rehearsals started in April for the fully staged July production. The cast of 12 included many singers who were at a late stage of their specialist music conservatoire or college training or early in their professional careers. Performances included a six-piece chamber orchestra. SPO was able to provide the singers with a modest bursary for principal vocalists to cover the cost of travel to and from rehearsals and the performances. Audience numbers for the four performances were in excess of 500. This production presented at our annual summer opera festival represented a significant part of the charity's artistic programme for the year.

Aria Aficionados (Quiz Night) – 10 October 2025

An event celebrating operatic arias and vocal performance presented within the format of the much-love quiz night, providing a further opportunity to engage audiences with the operatic repertoire. The evening was decently attended, those present enjoying a hugely entertaining concert with extra attractions.

These events demonstrate the charity's continuing commitment to presenting a varied programme of high-quality opera and vocal music.

Schools' Outreach
St Paul's Opera's Schools Outreach Programme continued in 2025 and involved four local state primary schools. The schools were Macaulay CofE, Heathbrook, Reay and Bonneville, and involved up to 160 children aged 8 to 11. Workshops introducing opera through singing, music, storytelling, and role-play were led by *L'elisir d'amore* cast members experienced with children's choirs and music groups. Cast members involved were all DBS certificated.

Public benefit
In accordance with St Paul's Opera's Objects, the activities reported here benefited three particular groups: our audience, our singers, and local schoolchildren. St Paul's Opera continued a Safeguarding Policy during the year, in recognition of its duty to safeguard the welfare of children and adults at risk of harm from its activities, including online.

Appointment of Trustees
St Paul's Opera's constitution requires that there be at least three Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment, the Trustees are obliged to have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

Finance summary
This report relates to the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

Income for 2025 was £55,090 while expenditure was £45,536, resulting in a surplus of £9,554. Most of the events performed during the year returned a surplus, the exception being the October's Opera Quiz Night concert, which returned a modest loss of £210. It was, however, a hugely successful evening for all those who attended and will be repeated.

The cash balance at 31 December was £20,423. All funds held by St Paul's Opera are unrestricted. The Trustees were confident that the funds were adequate to the projected plans for 2026.

The Trustees are grateful for the funding support received from the Cosman Keller Art and Music Trust, Plumbago Books and personal donations. A successful Friends scheme has also attracted generous funding from supporters.

Structure, Governance and Management
St Paul's Opera is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission on 30 May 2022. St Paul's Opera is governed by its Constitution. There are currently ten Trustees (October 2026).

The Trustees serving during the year reported and since the year end were:

Patricia Carter
Jonathan Boardman
Charlotte Brosnan
Matthew Carter
Alexandra Dinwiddie

Philip Hensher
Tanya Hurst
Courtney Larkin
Lindsey North
Susan Roberts

The Trustees have concluded and affirm that the activities carried out in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025 fulfil St Paul's Opera's charitable objectives.

Trustee

Date: 30th October, 2026

Trustee

Date: 30th October, 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

ST PAUL'S OPERA	1199122

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025		Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Income from Events	34,288	-	-	34,288	36,741
Donations, subscriptions	10,190	-	-	10,190	6,611
Sponsorship and adverts	3,725	-	-	3,725	11,100
Grants	1,750	-	-	1,750	-
Theatre Tax Relief	5,113	-	-	5,113	-
Interest received	24	-	-	24	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	55,090	-	-	55,090	54,452
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	55,090	-	-	55,090	54,452
A3 Payments					
Expenditure on Events	36,987	-	-	36,987	43,789
Rent and Insurance	2,389	-	-	2,389	3,204
Merchant charges and ticket platform	1,754	-	-	1,754	1,668
Artistic Director	870	-	-	870	3,060
Consultancy	438	-	-	438	-
Administration costs	2,098	-	-	2,098	1,980
Independent Examiner	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	45,536	-	-	45,536	54,701
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	45,536	-	-	45,536	54,701
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,554	-	-	9,554	- 249
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,869	-	-	10,869	11,118
Cash funds this year end	20,423	-	-	20,423	10,869

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Bank accounts	20,273	-	-
	Cash float	150	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	20,423	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

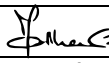
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Matthew Carter	30/10/2026
	Patricia Carter	30/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name St Paul's Opera		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1199122
Set out on pages	1 to 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 /12/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:	Catherine Atkin	**Date:**	30/10/2026
Name:	Catherine Atkin		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACA, CTA		
Address:	75 The Chase London SW4 0NR		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	