CHARITY NUMBER 1202139

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026
UNAUDITED

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026

CONTENTS **PAGE**

Trustees' Report	1 – 4
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8 -11

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026

The Trustees submit their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2026.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the governing documents and 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Orchestra shall be:
1. To provide an inclusive, welcoming and sociable musical environment for young orchestral players.
2. To advance the musical education of young people who live in and/or attend school in the Reading or surrounding areas through the provision of orchestral training and the opportunity to perform in public.
3. To further such community or musical purposes as the Trustees shall think fit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Across the year, there were between 43 and 50 members, which represents some growth from last year (40-46 members). We provided our young players with termly performance opportunities during the year:

- End of term performance in December 2025, featuring a mixture of orchestral pieces, Christmas music and pieces by soloists and small groups of students.
- Held our formal Spring Concert in March 2026, featuring one of our members performing as a soloist with the orchestra. Alongside this, we rediscovered an Overture by Richard Rodney Bennett written for RYO in 1959, which had only been performed once before. We also played more well known repertoire by Bizet and Chabrier.
- Invited parents and supporters to an end-of-term celebration of our students' work in June 2026, featuring orchestral pieces plus solos and small groups from the young players. This was rearranged to September 2026 before the start of term, due to the June heatwave.

In addition to performance opportunities, we also ran a workshop with members of the local adult musical community to help our students learn the Richard Rodney Bennett Overture. This was an enjoyable and fulfilling event for both students and adults, playing a rare piece by such a prestigious composer. Our continued relationship with local adult orchestras and stage schools have continued to open doors for several members to play as part of other orchestras and pit bands in several of their events.

We continue to build our students musical knowledge and repertoire, providing esteemed local musicians for coaching and support. We seek out works to learn from both traditional classical and modern film and theatre genres. This year we covered music by Bizet, Chabrier, Richard Rodney Bennett, Saint-Saens and Holst, as well as the popular Fantasia on British Sea Songs from the Last Night of the Proms, and exploring some music from films.

We also maintain our ongoing relationships with local schools The Abbey and St Joseph's, the latter providing us with our rehearsal venue for the year, as well as making a new connection with Crosfields School which will become our venue for the forthcoming year. We were sad to see St Joseph's close, as a valued school in the town, and have explored options for new rehearsal and performance spaces for the future.

FUTURE PLANS

This coming year will feature end of term performances for parents in the Autumn and Summer, and our formal Spring Concert planned for March 2027. We are investigating new venues for our performances given the closure of St Joseph's College. We are continuing with our successful format of inviting orchestra members to form small ensembles for the Autumn and Summer performances, and having trialled additional small ensemble coaching this year, will continue with this to support their rehearsal process. We will be recruiting up to two youth members to represent the views of the wider membership on the committee.

The loss of a large group of A Level students at the end of the year will create an increased need for us to focus on recruitment in the next year, and we will be contacting more local music teachers for this purpose.

We will continue to organise social events throughout the year, and will be recruiting a third youth member to act as the youth social event lead.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have considered the guidance notes provided by the Charity Commission on "Charities and Public Benefit" when deciding on the activities for the year. In assisting develop both the musical talent and self-confidence of young people, the Charity hopes to improve their lives and their contribution to Reading society.

RISKS

The Trustees are continuing to review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and consider systems to mitigate those risks.

RESERVES POLICY

In the development period of the Charity reserves must be held to ensure that sufficient funds are available to commit to the hire of rehearsal venue space costs as well as being able to meet any shortfall in the event that a concert performance fails to attract sufficient ticket sales. The Trustees are aware that significant inflation will erode these reserves, and as the orchestra grows, the demands for larger space to operate should increase the level of reserves put aside to manage the Charity in a responsible and resilient way. The Trustees consider a reserve level of up to £35,000 appropriate at the current time. Our reserves at the balance sheet date of £30,449 go a long way towards achieving the £35,000 target level previously set by the Trustees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the year totalled £15,151 *(2025:£12,164)*. Our concert made a small surplus of approximately £150 *(2025:surplus £270)*. Although membership subscription income rose slightly due to an increase in membership, venue hire costs continue to rise, as the choice of venues becomes constrained by the need for larger venue capacities. The funds available increased from £23,414 to £30,449.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Charity holds insufficient reserves to hold them in any other form than cash. Short term surplus cash is placed in an interest-bearing deposit account.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Reading Youth Orchestra can trace its roots back to before the end of the war in 1944. The Orchestra was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission on 2 March 2023 with Charity number 1202139.

The current constitution was amended by EGM special resolution dated 6 April 2022.

Reference and administrative details

The operations of the Charity are directed from the following address: -

27 Gipsy Lane
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 2BN

Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Melanie Le Breuilly	Chair
Becky Stewardson	Secretary
Alastair Lyon	Treasurer
Natacha Chenchery	Committee member
Agnieszka Debicka	Committee member (resigned 27 Sept 2026)
Pippa Moore	Committee member
Iulia Pantea	Committee member (resigned 27 Sept 2026)
Abi Saxton	Playing member of the Orchestra (resigned 27 Sept 2026)
James Taylor	Playing member of the Orchestra (appointed 27 Sept 2026)

From time to time, Trustees are invited to join the board based on their passion for the Charity's activities and the skills they can bring to strengthen the skills of the board. New Trustees are inducted through a mix of briefings on the workings of the Charity and guidance documents provided by the Charity Commission.

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Orchestra operates a current account and business instant access deposit account; both accounts are held at Barclays Bank plc.

Signed on behalf of Trustees:



Becky Stewardson
Trustee and Secretary

Date: 9 October 2026

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA
TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law. Under Charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its net incoming resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- ensure that the most suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently;
- make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the 2011 Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for their proper application as required by Charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Charity, or for publication, is reliable;
- the Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 4.

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	2026	2025
	£	£
INCOME		
Donations received	**990**	*660*
Memberships and ticket sales	**13,466**	*10,582*
Music hire and other income	**408**	*644*
Bank interest received	**287**	*278*
	15,151	*12,164*
EXPENDITURE		
Rehearsals and concerts	**5,697**	*5,869*
Memberships, insurance and administration	**1,806**	*245*
Other costs	**613**	*425*
	8,116	*6,539*
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	**7,035**	*5,625*
Net movement in funds	**7,035**	*5,625*
Balance brought forward at 1 August 2025	**23,414**	*17,789*
Balance carried forward at 31 July 2026	**30,449**	*23,414*

All funds were unrestricted in the current and preceding year

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA
BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		30,449	23,414
		30,449	23,414
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors		-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**30,449**	23,414
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Unrestricted		**29,449**	22,414
Designated		**1,000**	1,000
TOTAL FUNDS	3	**30,449**	23,414

Approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 9 October 2026
and signed on their behalf by:

M. LeBreuilly

MELANIE LE BREUILLY
CHAIR

Alastair Lyon.

ALASTAIR LYON
TREASURER

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The principal activity of the entity is the operation of Reading Youth Orchestra. The Orchestra is registered with the Charity Commission England and Wales. The principal address of the entity is 27 Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2BN.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Reading Youth Orchestra meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The Trustees have considered the current financial reserves and anticipated cash flows for the coming year and believe it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements

b) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 2a, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimation and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting the assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

c) Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the entity is entitled to the income, receipt is probable, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified.Gifts-in-kind have been included at market value. The value of service of volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

e) Expenditure

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis.

f) Value Added Tax

The Charity is precluded from registering for VAT as its activities are exempt under legislation. Expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT.

g) Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

h) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value

j) Taxation

HM Revenue & Customs has agreed that the entity is entitled to exemption from income tax, being established for charitable purposes only. Accordingly, no tax liability arises on any surplus derived from the entity's activities.

3. ACCUMULATED FUNDS

The fund and its income and expenditure are unrestricted within the boundaries of the objectives as shown in the Trustees' Report.

The Trustees have established a designated fund of £1,000 to support students develop their musical talent, or provide musical opportunities which they may not otherwise be able to afford.

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

No Trustees received any remuneration for services as a trustee during the year (2025: none).

One trustee was paid £2,400 *(2025: £2,000)* for her role as artistic director and conductor to the orchestra. This payment was authorised in accordance with strict rules associated with such payments set out in accordance within the constituting documents.

Donations, including related Gift Aid, received from Trustees totalled £nil (*2024: £nil*)

5. CREDITORS

	2026 £	*2025* £
Accrued costs	-	-
	-	-

6. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2026 £	*2025* £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	**30,449**	*23,414*
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**-**	-

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise other creditors and accruals.

7. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 July 2026 are represented by :	**Unrestricted £**	**Designated £**
Cash at bank	**29,449**	**1,000**
Other current assets	**-**	**-**

Fund balances at 31 July 2025 are represented by :	*Unrestricted £*	*Designated £*
Cash at bank	*22,414*	*1,000*
Other current assets	*-*	*-*