Annual Report and Accounts

Structure, Governance and Management

Penkhull Festival of Music and Art follow the Charity Commission's constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organization whose only voting members are its charity trustees

The trustees who take office as provided by the Constitution elect new members to the Board. The Board decides the artistic content of the Trust's activity but consults widely before coming to a decision. Trustees are provided with the Charity Commission advice to trustees on the nature and extent of their duties and thereafter expected to keep abreast of what they need to know.

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document
For the public benefit to advance education and promote music, art and culture in particular but not exclusively by the organising of an annual festival in Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent

The main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.
Beneficiaries are the public, and modest charges ensure that no section of the community is unduly restricted from benefiting. No private benefit is derived from this activity. Trustees have decided that the best way to achieve the aims of the charity, consistent with present resources, is to promote an annual festival of music and other arts in Penkhull in the autumn of each year.
Each year the festival brings high quality performances to the local area at a fraction of the cost of venues in Manchester/Birmingham – thus broadening the opportunities for local people to hear and develop an appreciation of a varied classical repertoire.
The charity funds singing workshops lead by experts for local primary schools which are free to the schools

Contribution by volunteers and others
The trustees thank St Thomas' Church, Penkhull, for use of its church and the Penkhull Village Hall Community Trust for use of the Village Hall, both venues are very important to the success of this venture and gratefully received.
They thank the volunteers who steward, provide refreshments etc during the festival.

Achievements and Performance

The Penkhull Festival of Music and Art 2025: Review
At St. Thomas's Church 18th – 20th September 2025

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER



Piano Perfection 7:30pm
Simon Callaghan – piano

Renowned concert pianist Simon Callaghan returned to Penkhull to give a solo recital of stunning music. Simon performs internationally as a soloist and has a successful career as a recording artist. His programme included Grieg's ever-popular Holberg Suite, Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Debussy's magical Images - alongside two pieces from Stephen Hough's Rogers and Hammerstein Transcriptions.

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Pupils of Newcastle-under-Lyme High School 1:00pm

Talented young musicians from nearby Newcastle-under-Lyme School presented a lunchtime recital accompanied by their Director of Music, Stephanie Burns.

The annual May Walley Young Musician Award was presented by May's son – Bob Dulson. The award is given for musicianship, musicality and excellence in performance and is presented in memory of May Walley MBE (1910-2010), Penkhull Festival's creator and director from 1966-2005.

Primary Schools' Singing Workshops

Over 100 children from local schools benefitted from the expertise of Suzzie Vango – a member of the Ex-Cathedra Education Team. They, and their teachers, learned new songs in two enjoyable and fun workshops.





Sophisticated Saxophone 7:30pm

Claire Tomsett-Rowe - saxophone
Alistair Parnell – piano

Festivalgoers knew Claire and Alistair from the Equinox Saxophone Ensemble who have delighted audiences at Penkhull twice in recent years. Both hugely multi-talented musicians, Claire played various saxophones as well as the violin, and Alistair, equally at home on the piano as on the saxophone, also performed on the EWI (Electronic Wind Instrument), of which he is a leading proponent. Their programme included an array of music in many styles, from classical to jazz and many things in between.

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

A Concert to Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the formation of The Bedford Girls' Choir by May Walley. 1:00pm.





Performed by Marjorie Seddon – vocalist, Alison Hendricken - piano and five friends. The audience was enchanted, entertained, bewitched, and beguiled with a selection of choral favourites and recitations – celebrating the early days of the Bedford Girls' Choir.

Loves, Legends and Lullabies 7.30pm



Papagena

Performing at Penkhull for the first time, Papagena is an unaccompanied vocal quintet set up to explore the wealth of music from medieval times to the present day written specifically for women's voices. No props, microphones or gimmicks, just five stunning voices form

Papagena. The audience was treated to an eclectic variety of music from medieval, classical, folk and contemporary genres.

Festival Art Exhibition in Penkhull Village Hall.



"Harmony in Hues; landscape watercolours by two kindred spirits"

Trent Art Gallery exhibited an extensive collection of watercolour paintings and sketches by Reginald Hagger's long-standing student, friend and protégée - Doris Brown. All the paintings were previously unseen.

Reginald Haggar, Bottle Ovens, Shorts Passage, Longton, Watercolour

Financial Review

The trustees are accountable for preparing accounts to which they consider audit requirements do not apply

The Artistic Director was paid £500 towards his time developing the musical programme and contracting artists for the festival.

Accounts have been drawn up on a receipts and payments basis. They were approved by trustees on 17 May 2026. No unusual or exceptional expenses are foreseen in the coming year.

20th November 2023 To 28th February 2025		
Income		
Donations		5980.65
Grants		500.00
Fundraising		573.35
Ticket sales (Festival only)		4852.43
refreshments/programmes)		742.25
Total		12648.68
Payments		
Artistic Director expenses		171

Artistic Director payment		500
Venue (Festival)		1380
Concerts		6417.04
Publicity		1142.90
Refreshments/decorations		527.84
Insurance/accountancy/stationary/PPL		708
Total		10846.78
Surplus/Loss		1801.90
To start the next year		12632.96

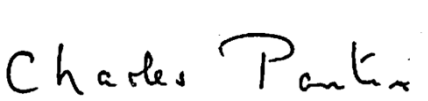
Reserves
In the light of the uncertain nature of subscription and ticket revenue and the short period during the year when all activity happens, giving little chance to correct any difficulties, trustees have decided to maintain financial reserve approximately equivalent to a year's projected turnover (approximately £10-12K) both to supply working capital and as insurance against losses.

Assets
Financial reserves accumulated from earnings, grants and donations are the sole asset of the Trust.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Charles	Pantin
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer/trustee	
Date	16th September 2026	