Charity registration number 207324

The Delius Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

31st December 2025

The Delius Trust
Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2025

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The Delius Trust

Legal & Administrative Information

TRUSTEES

Mr John Axon
Mr Paul Guinery
Mr Martin Williams FSA

ADVISERS

Professor Daniel Grimley
Mr Stephen Lloyd
Mr Robert Montgomery

SECRETARY

Ms Helen Faulkner

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Jane Askew FCA
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BANKERS

HSBC Bank plc, City of London Commercial Centre,
60 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TR

The Delius Trust
Report of the Trustees
Year ended 31st December 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the Financial Statements of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025.

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust was established by the Will of Madame Jelka Delius who died on 28 May 1935. Its constitution was varied by a High Court Scheme in 1964 principally by the setting up of a panel of three music advisers. In 1991, the Charity Commission approved a second Scheme which consolidated the Trust's constitution in one document. This permitted the Trust to undertake further activities, particularly in the field of education; and to appoint up to five advisers. In 1997, the Charity Commission approved a third Scheme on much the same terms but with additional provisions, namely: (a) subject to priority for the promotion of Delius's works, the Trust's Object to include any other British composer born since 1860 to the present day with particular preference for contemporaries of Delius; and (b) the appointment of up to seven advisers.

During the year the Trustees were:

Martin Williams
Paul Guinery
Musicians Benevolent Fund (now operating as Help Musicians UK)

Help Musicians UK was represented by John Axon, a former Trustee of HMUK. HMUK resigned on 17th March 2026, and John Axon was appointed independently on 20th April 2026

The Trustees are responsible for the administration and management of the Trust. They are assisted by the panel of Advisers. The Trustees and Advisers together held three meetings during the year. They reviewed the existing Trust Deed and took legal advice on up-dating it. Work was undertaken by lawyers Wedlake Bell in early 2026 and approval for a revised Trust Deed is awaited from the Charity Commission.

The Trustees keep the skills and experience required on the Trustee body under review. Trust policy and guidelines can be found on the Delius website www.delius.org.uk. From 1965 the Trust's archives were in the care of the Honorary Archivist, Lionel Carley, who died in late 2021. The archive is now managed by Helen Faulkner who, in 2022, concentrated particularly on incorporating many of Lionel Carley's papers and ephemera into the Trust's collection with the assistance of Katharine Hogg, Librarian of the Gerald Coke Handel Collection. This work has continued and use of the archive, particularly the collections of letters and images, has increased noticeably in the last three years.

Objectives and Activities

The Object of the Trust is to promote the works of the composer, Frederick Delius, and subject thereto the works of any other composer born or at any time permanently resident in Great Britain or Ireland from 1860 to the present day with a preference for contemporaries of Delius, by:

1) recordings of every description whether mechanical, electrical or electronic;
2) the publication and issue ... of ... all or any part of the complete works;
3) the financing and promotion ... of public concerts and recitals;
4) the purchase of letters and manuscripts for the Trust's archives, and memorabilia and ephemera relating to Delius's life; and
5) preserving and making available to the public, and improving and diffusing knowledge, of Delius's life and works.

The Trust's income is applied as follows:

a) by encouraging publishers to update parts and scores to agree with the Collected Edition and maintaining unmarked parts for use if required;
b) by encouraging the availability of historical recordings and sponsoring those representing a new generation of interpreters;
c) by acquiring secondary archive material and depositing the remaining primary archive with
d) by financing performances of unusual or major works in the UK and encouraging more performances in other countries, particularly those where the copyright continues to run.

Trustees have defined in detail how they would fulfil the secondary Object, i.e., the promotion of works by British composers born from 1860 onwards. They decided that in this area they would not, as a rule, support the works of individual composers but would consider applications from organisations the objects of which include the promotion of this area of repertoire.

Activities and Future Plans

Supported by a substantial grant from the Trust in 2024, Wexford Opera Festival staged a new production of The Magic Fountain in 2025. Performances of this Delius rarity were highly successful and received good press coverage in Ireland, the UK and around the world. Support was also given to projects involving the music of Delius in Bradford during its year as UK City of Culture.

As part of its extended object, the Trust continued to support the Royal Philharmonic Society's annual young composers scheme and the core costs of NMC, a registered charity, which issues recordings of new British music.