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**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees
of the Milton Keynes Sinfonia (The Trust)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023

Responsibility and basis of the report

As the trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 (the '2005 Act'), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). You are satisfied that your charity is not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 44 (1) (c) of the 2005 Act and section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination.

I confirm the **NO** matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

- 1 accounting records were not kept as required by section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; and
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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.

Signed



William Peter Weatherill AFB

Associate of the Institute of Bankers

1 Milfoil Avenue, Conniburrow, Milton Keynes, MK14 7DY

Dated 7. 12 .2023



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2022 To 31st August 2023

Charity name: Milton Keynes Sinfonia

Charity registration number: 296360

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The object of the orchestra is to enable musicians in the local community to come together to practice orchestral music and perform publicly in the Milton Keynes locality. To promote the pleasure gained from communal music making and to encourage its benefits for all; performers and audience alike.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Performance of three main concerts (and additional performances as agreed by the managing committee of the orchestra) each year.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The managing committee comprises 12 volunteers who manage the activities of the orchestra.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The orchestra performed three main concerts and resumed the smaller chamber concert for the first time since Covid.</p> <p>The orchestra broadened its programming by performing music to celebrate John Williams' 90th birthday and attracting new audience members, while also promoting relatively unknown English works such as Moeran's G minor symphony.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See financial report below
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Financial report for period 2021-22

Between 2019-2022, the orchestra's reserves dropped to £8,000, due to the purchase of percussion instruments and three Covid-affected years. To replenish the reserves (thereby providing security to the orchestra for unexpected events) the orchestra planned its expenditure carefully for 2022-23 through the programming committee, moving to hosting all three main concerts at the Chrysalis Theatre and transitioning from Eventbrite to Sum Up. Expenditure is rising rapidly, particularly the hire of buildings, music and printing costs. Expenditure rose in 2022-23 by over £3,000 and is expected to rise by another £3,000 in 2023-24. However, the large audiences in November and March, return of the Chamber concert and the Twinwood Festival concert has put the orchestra in a very good position to be able to resume more costly projects such as the hire of Petrushka, programming a piano concerto and putting on the Snowman concert. Please note that the income for 2022-23 includes the payment for the Twinwood 2022 (£4,800) and Twinwood 2023 (£4,800) concerts but not the expenditure for Twinwood 2023 which will fall in the 2023-24 financial period.

Income	2021-22 (£)	2022-23 (£)
Members' subscriptions	7,310.00	7,600.00
Patrons	1,036.00	1,090.00
Tickets	2,825.51	5,339.32
Programmes	401.01	306.61
Refreshments	64.60	546.50
Twinwood	0.00	9,600.00
Gift Aid	1,500.19	1,661.85
Grants	0.00	300.00
Other	1,644.07	128.82
TOTAL	14,781.38	26,573.10

Expenditure	2021-22 (£)	2022-23 (£)
Professional fees	5,272.00	5,982.93
Rehearsal venues	3,469.20	3,098.50
Concert venues	2,340.00	2,479.71
Music hire	1,930.21	1,789.85
Printing (e.g. Programmes)	500.00	498.75
Refreshments	0.00	151.95
Twinwood	0.00	2,975.05
Other	886.84	519.99
TOTAL	14,398.25	17,496.73

Profit/Loss	£383.13	£9,076.37
Balance at end of period (reserves)	£8,001.70	£17,078.07

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The orchestra's reserves policy aims to maintain reserves equivalent to the expenditure of one financial year (based upon the average of the previous three years). The average annual expenditure from 2019-22 was £13,834, although this includes the Covid period. The expenditure for 22-23 was £17,496.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At the end of 2021-22 period, the reserves had fallen to £8,001 due to the purchasing of percussion instruments and then Covid. At the end of the 2022-23 period, there were £17,078 held in the orchestra's account.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The principal sources of funds for the orchestra are members' subscriptions, ticket sales from concerts and the provision of an orchestra for the Twinwood Festival. These funds are used to pay for music hire, venue hire and professional fees (conductor, leader, soloists, extras).
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Rising costs in venue hire and music hire are the greatest risks to the orchestra. The orchestra needs to continue to attract strong audiences to concerts and should plan programmes accordingly.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Management committee comprises 12 members, appointed by the orchestra through the Annual General Meeting. The committee includes: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Officer, Librarian and Patrons Secretary, three ordinary members, two co-opted members and the Conductor as an honorary member. Four trustees are appointed by the Chairperson from the management committee, to include the Chairperson and Treasurer.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Milton Keynes Sinfonia
Other name the charity uses	MK Sinfonia
Registered charity number	296360
Charity's principal address	106 Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JG

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Christine Kelk</i>	<i>J. Brown -</i>
Full name(s)	CHRISTINE KELK	JENNIFER BROWN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee.
Date	12th October '23	