

Registration number NI 621437

Sestina Music
Financial Accounts and Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Prepared By:

Fergus McAteer & Co
Chartered Accountants
31/33 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7ER
Tel No. (028) 7126 3377

**Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee**

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Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Legal and Administrative Information

Status :

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 November 2013 and is recognised as a Charity with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission and HMRC. The governing document is a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Directors :

David Black
William Irwin Thompson
Irene Kingston
James Kelley
Karenanne Coughlan-Pierse
Maurice Kelly

Company Secretary :

Irene Kingston

Accountants :

Fergus McAteer & Co
Chartered Accountants
31/33 Clarendon Street
Derry, BT48 7ER

Main Bankers :

HSBC
12-14 The Diamond
Derry
BT48 6HW,

Registered Office :

94 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1HE

NI Charity Commission Reference Number

NIC100067

Revenue & Customs Charity Number

NI 00342

Company Number :

NI 621437

Sestina Music

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Directors are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the the Charities Act (NI) 2022, Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019.)

The company is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14 November 2013. The company number is NI 621437 and the registered office is 94 University Road, Belfast, BT7 1HE. The company is a registered Northern Ireland Charity - reference NIC 100067.

Directors

The directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are the trustees for the purpose of Charity Law. The trustees during the year and at 31 December 2023 were as follows:

David Black (Chair)
William Irwin Thompson
Irene Kingston
James Kelley
Karenanne Coughlan-Pierse
Maurice Kelly (appointed 17/07/2023)

Trustees' Report

The affairs of Sestina Music during 2023 have seen a number of challenges and have sadly been touched by tragedy. The year opened with the appointment of Erin Smith as administrator who replaced Ciara Burnell. Erin left us in August 2023 so to give us time to consider the future, former Chairman James Kelley took over the accounts management, and we appointed as temporary administrator, the renowned cellist and administrator of the Cork International Festival, Norah O'Leary, which has proved a happy choice.

No sooner had the Charity commenced the season 2023-2024 than it was announced that our President and principal sponsor Mr. Mark Allport of Exitex Ltd had sadly died. Mark's death has affected us all; he was a member of the team, putting out chairs, stapling programmes and driving vans without complaint or acknowledgement of his contribution to our efforts. He will be greatly missed.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has continued to support Sestina Music with the extraordinary granting of our applications, a testament to the success and achievements of the Charity. The work with school children has been actively supported by the Foyle Foundation and the Board continues to meet regularly to set the direction of Sestina Music and provide necessary support to our Musical Director and Temporary Administrator.

We face 2024 with many challenges and opportunities, and are confident that Sestina Music will continue to thrive.

Finally, reference must be made here to the most generous financial and personal support Sestina Music has received from Oonagh and Mark Allport and Exitex Ltd since 2011; it is beyond doubt that without their backing, Sestina Music would not have been created, let alone excelled in its purposes:

Sestina Music

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Our purposes and activities

The purposes of the Charity are to promote the performance and study of music, in particular early music and contemporary repertoire in, though not exclusively in, Ireland and in doing so, to actively seek and develop the skills of young artists while supporting and encouraging the development of interest in music, particularly early European and contemporary music.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the directors have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit requirement (PBR1). We endeavour to encourage a wide range of young people and children to take advantage of our expertise and promote all within our community to take part in our activities and to attend our performances.

We have put these strategies into action through various performances and courses as outlined in the Chairman's Report and in our programme for the coming season. This programme of activities focuses very much on bringing classical music to the community and in fostering the development of those who will be among the foremost artists of the future.

Achievements and performance

The working of our Next Generation Programme, the audition process and promotion of an annual cohort of young people through our rehearsals and performances continues to be particularly satisfying; lectures and auditions by Mark Chambers in Cork, University College Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music led to 24 singers becoming involved in Sestina Music's programmes and the educational webinars have been well received.

Our season began with another collaboration with the Irish Baroque Orchestra in performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion in Kilkenny, Galway and Dublin to great acclaim and the Easter programme "Music of Celebration" in Belfast, Kilkenny and Dublin was an outstanding success, especially the childrens' programme for 30 young people led by Anne McCambridge. Five of our singers joined the Waterford International Organ Festival in "Songs of Sundrie Natures" during the summer. The autumn recital series included "Music For Christian IV" in Armagh, Portaferry and Bellaghy which were artistically very successful although we strive to increase audience numbers. The collaboration with East Cork Early Music Festival in October "In Praise of Bacchus" was most satisfactory in every way as were the four Carol Concerts in the Ulster Museum in December.

Financial review

Funding of £86,932 was secured during the year and £29,857 of sponsorship for events was received from Exitex Ltd. Box office, performance fees and donations of £55,211 were received resulting in total income of £172,000. Artist and production costs were £135,284 and administration overheads were £39,678. This resulted in a deficit for the year of £2,962 which was funded from opening reserves of £22,616. At the year end the Charity had reserves of £19,658.

The Directors were pleased with the results for the year. At the year end unrestricted reserves were £24,237 and restricted reserves were £-4,579 as grants are due at the year end. These reserves together with Arts Council funding put the Charity on a sound financial footing for the next twelve months.

Sestina Music

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Reserves policy

The officers have reviewed the reserves of the organisation. This review encompassed the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the balance and nature of the reserves themselves.

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency costs. Due to the nature of the activities of the Charity no material unplanned costs are expected. The only major costs are artist fees, production costs, venue hire and publicity for events but the directors would not undertake a major event unless reserves were already in place or funding was secured to cover the costs of the event. The Directors in consultation with Arts Council NI consider that a satisfactory level of reserves is three months unrestricted administration costs which would currently be in the region of £10,000. At the year end the Charity has £24,237 of free reserves.

Risk management

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces and confirm that systems are in place to ensure necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks, and that a substantial review of the Charity's risk management procedures in view of the expansion of the work of the Charity was completed and adopted by the Board in Summer 2021.

Volunteers

The Charity continues to be very involved in the community, relying on substantial voluntary help to assist its excellent professional staff. As part of our new "Next Generation" audition and involvement programme, we continue to encourage the successful youngsters to be involved in front-of-house and concert management operations of our performances.

Plans for future periods

Plans are well-developed for the Easter Programme "In Praise of St. Cecilia" in a scaled down operation and we have been approached for collaborative self-funding performances with the Lir Festival, Opera Collective and Newry Chamber Music.

Sestina Music

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charity Trustees (who are also the directors of the Sestina Music for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year.

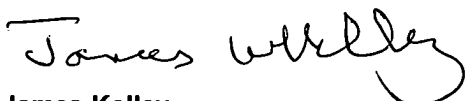
In preparing these the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on 6 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by



James Kelley
Director

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Sestina Music
Year ended 31 December 2023

We report solely to the Charity Trustees on our examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Sestina Music and its Trustees as a body for our work or for this report. As a practising member firm of Chartered Accountants Ireland, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.charteredaccountants.ie.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the Charity Trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Having satisfied ourselves that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your Charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

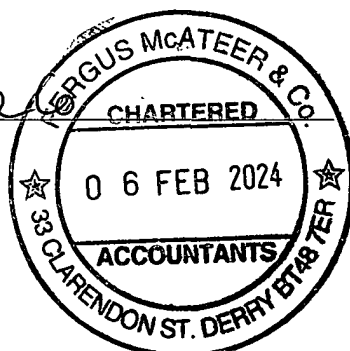
Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us concern to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. that the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act and with methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practise applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Of Ireland.
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Fergus McAteer
Fergus McAteer & Co
Chartered Accountants
31/33 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7ER



6 February 2024

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources	4	2,418	-	2,418	3,701
Income from activities of furtherance of charitable objects	4	29,857	86,932	116,789	97,243
Income from activities for generating funds	4	52,747	-	52,747	58,522
Other incoming resources	4	46	-	46	10
Total incoming resources		85,068	86,932	172,000	159,476
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Charitable expenditure:					
Costs of activities for charitable objectives	5	66,245	69,039	135,284	150,105
Management and administration	5	12,174	27,500	39,674	31,455
Total resources expended		78,419	96,539	174,958	181,560
Net incoming resources before transfers		6,649	(9,607)	(2,958)	22,084
Re-allocation of funds		-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources after transfers		6,649	(9,607)	(2,958)	22,084
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation and disposal of investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,649	(9,607)	(2,958)	(22,084)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		17,588	5,028	22,616	44,700
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2023		24,237	(4,579)	19,658	22,616

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>					
Tangible Assets	7	1,241	1,745	2,986	3,318
Total fixed assets		1,241	1,745	2,986	3,318
<u>Current Assets</u>					
Cash at bank and in hand		28,801	(6,324)	22,477	23,408
Total current assets		28,801	(6,324)	22,477	23,408
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	5,805	-	5,805	4,110
Net current assets		22,996	(6,324)	16,672	19,298
Total assets less current liabilities		24,237	(4,579)	19,658	22,616
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-
Net assets		24,237	(4,579)	19,658	22,616
<u>Financed by:</u>					
Funds	11	24,237	(4,579)	19,658	22,616

For the year ended 31 December 2023 the Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

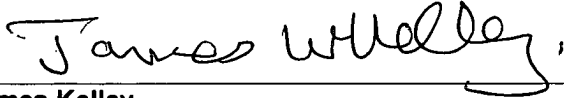
Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Sestina Music
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These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 6 February 2024, and are signed on behalf of the Board by;



James Kelley
Director

Company Registration Number NI 621437

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31 December 2023

1. General information

The Charity is a charitable private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 94 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HE.

2. Accounting policies

2.1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sestina Music 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(s).

Turnover

Turnover represents the total value of grants, donations and sponsorships received during the year and box office receipts generated from performances funded by the charity. Grants are recognised in the Profit and Loss account when the conditions for their receipt have been complied with and there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fittings fixtures and equipment - 10% reducing balance

Sestina Music
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Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2023

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the Charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

3. Funds

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Unrestricted Revenue Funds - | comprise those revenue funds which the management committee are free to use in accordance with the company objectives. |
| Restricted Revenue Funds - | comprise those revenue funds which have been given for particular purposes and projects. |
| Unrestricted Capital Funds - | comprise those net assets which the trust is able to apply freely in pursuit of its own charitable objectives and related purposes. |
| Restricted Capital Funds - | comprise those net assets which at the end of the accounting period have specific grant and other conditions restricting either their use or their disposability for defined periods. |

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2023

4. Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources</u>				
Donations (inc recording donations)	2,418	-	2,418	3,701
Total	<u>2,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,418</u>	<u>3,701</u>
<u>Income from activities of furtherance of charitable objects</u>				
Arts Council Northern Ireland	-	49,400	49,400	40,767
Arts Council Of Ireland	-	37,532	37,532	16,476
Exitex Ltd	29,857	-	29,857	40,000
Total	<u>29,857</u>	<u>86,932</u>	<u>116,789</u>	<u>97,243</u>
<u>Income from activities for generating funds</u>				
Box Office Sales	14,561	-	14,561	10,269
Performance fees	38,186	-	38,186	48,253
Total	<u>52,747</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,747</u>	<u>58,522</u>
<u>Other incoming resources</u>				
Bank interest received	46	-	46	10
	<u>46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>10</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>85,068</u>	<u>86,932</u>	<u>172,000</u>	<u>159,476</u>

Sestina Music
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Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2023

5. Resources expended	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Costs of activities for charitable objectives</u>				
Artist fees	59,650	54,300	113,950	116,411
Production costs	838	2,723	3,561	9,493
Venue hire	400	3,282	3,682	5,295
Publicity	3,510	3,125	6,635	11,984
Artist transport	1,847	5,609	7,456	6,922
Total	66,245	69,039	135,284	150,105
<u>Management and administration costs</u>				
Wages & administration	5,162	23,998	29,160	23,166
Staff training	-	-	-	43
Rent	1,620	540	2,160	2,340
Insurance & Affiliations	526	1,067	1,593	1,076
Printing, postage and stationery	552	8	560	66
Advertising	20	-	20	352
Internet	247	198	445	-
Computer costs	959	925	1,884	1,324
Travel costs	95	187	282	668
Accountancy fees	1,477	240	1,717	1,692
Bank charges	230	130	360	161
Loss on exchange	1,025	-	1,025	52
General expenses	123	13	136	146
Depreciation on equipment	138	194	332	369
Total	12,174	27,500	39,674	31,455
Total resources expended	78,419	96,539	174,958	181,560

Sestina Music
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Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2023

6. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year, including the directors and administrative assistant was 1 (2022: 2).

The key management personnel of the Charity comprises of the Trustees and the Manager. The total benefits of the key management personnel was £29,160 (31 December 2022 - £23,166).

No wages are paid to the directors of the Charity.

7. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	5,245	5,245
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	1,927	1,927
Charge for the year	332	332
At 31 December 2023	2,259	2,259
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2023	2,986	2,986
At 31 December 2022	3,318	3,318

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	4,365	2,670
Other creditors	1,440	1,440
	5,805	4,110

9. Limited by guarantee

Sestina Music is a registered charity limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Northern Ireland Charity Commission Number: NIC 100067

Sestina Music
Company limited by guarantee

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 December 2023

10. Contingent assets and liabilities

Sestina Music has received grant assistance from government, public and other bodies. The payment of these grants is made subject to certain conditions being fulfilled. The directors consider these conditions will be satisfactorily fulfilled and the likelihood of having to repay any grant is remote.

11. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Funds at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	17,588	85,068	(78,419)	-	24,237
	<u>17,588</u>	<u>85,068</u>	<u>(78,419)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,237</u>

Name of unrestricted fund Description of the Fund

General Funds Funds which the Charity is able to apply freely in pursuit of its own charitable objectives and related purposes.

Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Funds at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	5,028	86,932	(96,539)	-	(4,579)
	<u>5,028</u>	<u>86,932</u>	<u>(96,539)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,579)</u>

Name of restricted fund Description of the Fund

Restricted Fund Funds which the Charity applies for particular purposes and projects in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Total
Fixed Assets	1,241	1,745	2,986
Cash at bank and in hand	28,801	(6,324)	22,477
Creditors	(5,805)	-	(5,805)
Total	<u>24,237</u>	<u>(4,579)</u>	<u>19,658</u>