

Northern Lights Project Ltd
Company limited by guarantee

Directors' report
for the year ended 31 May 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2023.

Principal activity

The principal activity of the charitable company include the promotion and development of cohesive and confident communities in Northern Ireland as well as empowered and creatively engaged individuals.

Directors

The directors who served during the year are as stated below:

Amanda Koser-Gillespie
Kevin Peter O'Doherty

Purpose and aims

Northern Lights Project is a Derry-based music organisation and charity. It was founded in 2016 with the purpose of creating, producing, and promoting cutting-edge new music and adventurous interdisciplinary arts events. The organisation develops innovative approaches to presentation with performances, workshops, and concerts in a range of public arenas.

Its main aims are to:

- Create, produce and promote new and innovative new music/sound-based and multi-media events;
- Promotes and present performances, concerts and other events;
- Use music as a tool for community engagement and development;
- Encourage and facilitate participation, particularly by young people, in music and the arts;
- Develop partnerships that cross boundaries between music, the arts and beyond.

Activities

Highlights in the season 2022-23, funded by PRS Open Fund for Organisations and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, included:

November 2022 - Pitch Shifting: Commission and workshops for the preparation of an immersive sound installation that will premiere at Outburst Queer Arts Festival in 2023 before touring.

February 2023 - The Language & Shapes of Synthesisers & Electronic Sound // The Art & Science of Interference Patterns: Two workshop/ talk/ performances at NI Science Festival.

March 2023 - Michel Chion: Requiem: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first performance, we embarked on an ambitious project to perform this work live in a number of locations in 2023, starting with Derry's Guildhall exactly 50 years after the first performance.

April 2023 - re:sonance: Performance Art & Sound Event, in partnership with Beyond Belfast. An eclectic mix of contemporary performance and sound works.

In 2022-23 we also continued with our regular series of Derry Sound Factory events presenting new and experimental music by local practitioners with regular events.

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Beneficiaries

Education and Outreach

Most of our concerts have included an education or outreach component with opportunities for various groups to actively take part in creative music-making. These have included school children and young people.

Our concert series provides a platform for new and experimental music and sound art, allowing participating artists to road-test new ideas and develop existing pieces. The series provides a space for creative exploration and risk-taking with a view to developing and presenting high-quality imaginative and innovative work.

We have attempted to programme a diverse series of music and sound-based events, each with a distinct identity and appealing to a slightly different audience segment. The intention is to attract a broad audience with overlapping interests ranging from contemporary art, improvisation, new music and electronica. Contemporary music is rather more established in Belfast and we believe that much is to be gained from developing links between Derry and Belfast to help strengthen both the sector, by catering for a small but curious audience, as well as providing these artists with much-needed exposure and performance opportunities.

Plans for the future

We plan to present a further series of concerts in Derry and Belfast in late 2023 and early 2024. They will feature Northern Irish and visiting artists from a range of disciplines, including improvised music, sound art, live art and electronic music. These artists have been chosen for their unique aesthetic voice, the high standard of their artistic abilities and the high quality of the work they produce. Each concert in the series foregrounds risk, experimentation and imagination and seeks to present inspiring work that would not otherwise be available for local audiences to experience.

The success of this series of events, highlights the need for and level of public interest in experimental music in Northern Ireland, particularly in the north west region. We are gradually building a dedicated audience and plan to continue to support experimental music artists, locally, regionally and nationally.

We have applied for substantial project funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to allow us to continue presenting music projects and to allow us to grow the reach of our activities in Derry and further afield.

Directors responsibilities

The directors of Northern Lights Project Ltd for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the Directors' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

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- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 27 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by


Director


Director