

**West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust**  
**CHARITY NO. SC029370**

**Annual Accounts**

**for the year ending 31 July 2024**

# **West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust**

## **Annual Report for the year ended 31 July 2024**

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024 set out on pages eleven to fourteen.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

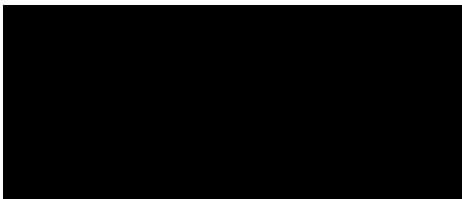
**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Chartered Accountant  
Watson & Company  
Oakfield House  
378 Brandon Street  
Motherwell  
NORTH LANARKSHIRE  
ML1 1XA

Date: 09/04/2025 .....

**WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA TRUST  
REPORT ON SEASON 2024**

**Membership**

A total of 321 applications were received with 272 taking up the offer of a place, a slight drop on 2023 but within expected year to year fluctuations and maintaining healthy membership levels across all 4 ensembles.

Auditions for symphony orchestra and concert band took place in Glasgow during November while the tradition of offering places to training ensemble members on the basis of a teacher report continued to avoid the need for auditions for younger pupils. Membership was distributed across the four ensembles as follows:

Ensemble	Membership '24	Membership '23	Membership '22
Concert Band	60	60	46
Symphony Orchestra	88	92	72
Training Band	63	74	63
String Orchestra	61	66	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>233</b>

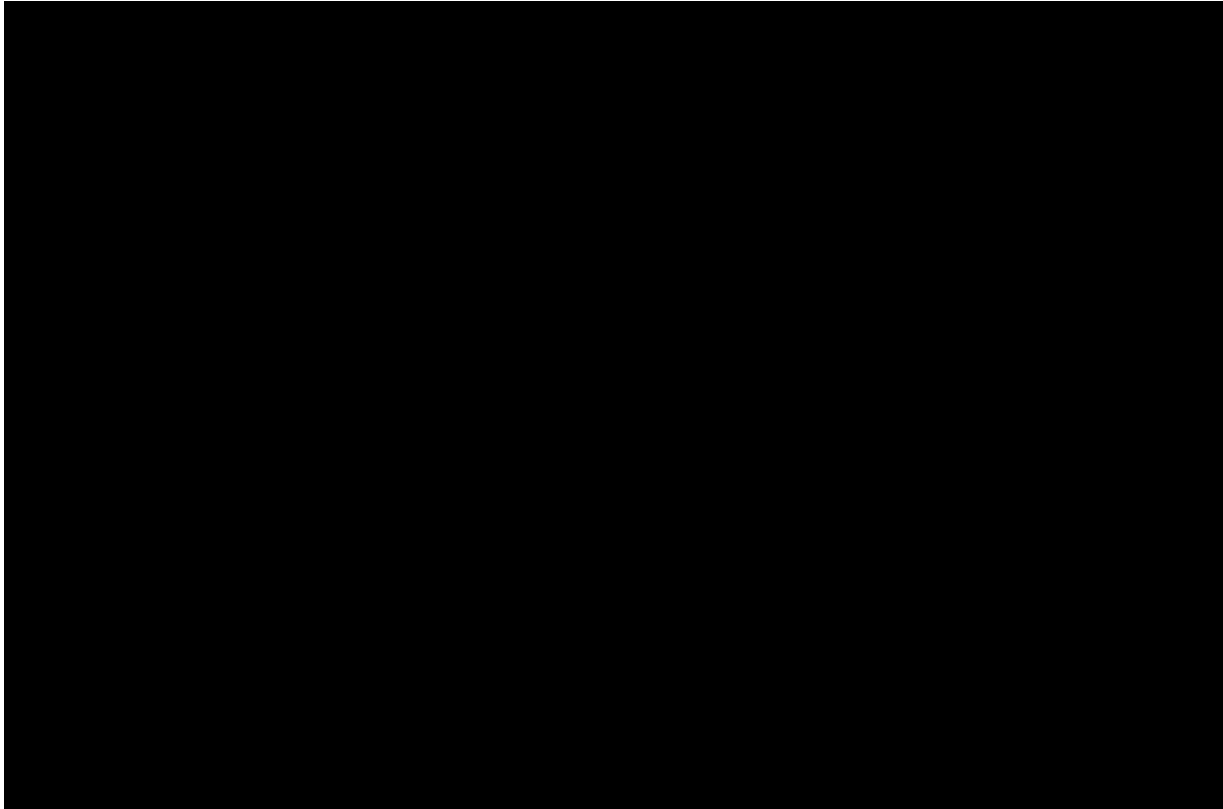


WSSO Members, St Andrews, June '24

## 2024 Calendar of Events & Activities

<b>STRING ORCHESTRA</b> Directed by David O'Connell		<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Details</b>
Sunday	28 April	Taster Day	10am – 4.30pm, Notre Dame HS, Greenock
Sunday	12 May	Sectional Rehearsals	10am – 4pm, Notre Dame HS, Greenock
Sunday	16 June	SCO Workshop	11am – 3.30pm, University of Strathclyde, Royal College Building, Assembly Hall.
Sun – Wed	1-4 September	Residential 4 Day Course	Ardentinny Outdoor Education Centre
Sunday	15 September	Morning Rehearsal	Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15 September</b>	<b>Afternoon Concert</b>	<b>3.00pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow</b>
<b>TRAINING BAND</b> Directed by Michelle McCabe		<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Details</b>
Sunday	28 April	Taster Day	10am – 4.30pm, Paisley Grammar School
Sunday	12 May	Sectional Rehearsals	10am – 4pm, Paisley Grammar School
Mon – Thu	2-5 September	Residential 4 Day Course	Lendrick Muir, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross
Sunday	15 September	Morning Rehearsal	Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15 September</b>	<b>Afternoon Concert</b>	<b>3.00pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow</b>
<b>CONCERT BAND</b> Directed by Chris Mitchell		<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Details</b>
Sunday	21 April	Taster Day	10am – 4.30pm, Notre Dame HS, Greenock
Sat-Fri	1-7 June	Residential Course	Lendrick Muir, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross
Friday	7 June	Afternoon Rehearsal	2-5pm, GRCH New Auditorium
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7 June</b>	<b>Evening Concert</b>	<b>7-9pm, GRCH New Auditorium</b>
Sunday	18 August	Rehearsal	10am – 4.00pm, Notre Dame HS, Greenock
Tuesday	20 August	Afternoon Rehearsal	4pm - 5.30pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20 August</b>	<b>Showcase Concert</b>	<b>7.00pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow</b>
<b>SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</b> Directed by James Lowe		<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Details</b>
Sunday	21 April	Taster Day	10am – 4.30pm, Paisley Grammar School
Sun - Sat	2 - 8 June	Residential Course	University Hall, St Andrews
Sunday	9 June	Afternoon Rehearsal	2-5pm, Ayr Town Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9 June</b>	<b>Evening Concert</b>	<b>7-9pm, Ayr Town Hall</b>
Sunday	18 August	Rehearsal	10am – 4.00pm, Paisley Grammar School
Tuesday	20 August	Afternoon Rehearsal	1.30pm – 3,30pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20 August</b>	<b>Showcase Concert</b>	<b>7.00pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow</b>

The ensembles followed a well-established routine of rehearsals and concert events which included a Taster Day, residential course, and a Showcase Concert held in Glasgow.



String Orchestra Taster Day, April '24

### 2024 Season Highlights

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since before the Covid pandemic, the Concerto Competition was held at City Halls during March with 7 orchestra members, nominated as outstanding during the auditions, taking part. [REDACTED] provided the accompaniment and [REDACTED] adjudicated a very strong field, eventually selecting Inverclyde flautist, [REDACTED], as the overall winner. [REDACTED] performed Chaminade's Concertino for Flute at Ayr Town Hall during June and at City Halls during August' Senior Showcase.

The Concert Band welcomed back Course Director, [REDACTED] who joined [REDACTED] in his first full year as Artistic Director of the Concert Band. The band's performance at City Halls during August was notable for the high level of musicianship achieved and it's clear that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are a formidable team, ensuring staff are well led and highly motivated and ensemble members fulfil their potential as musicians and young people in a safe and nurturing environment.

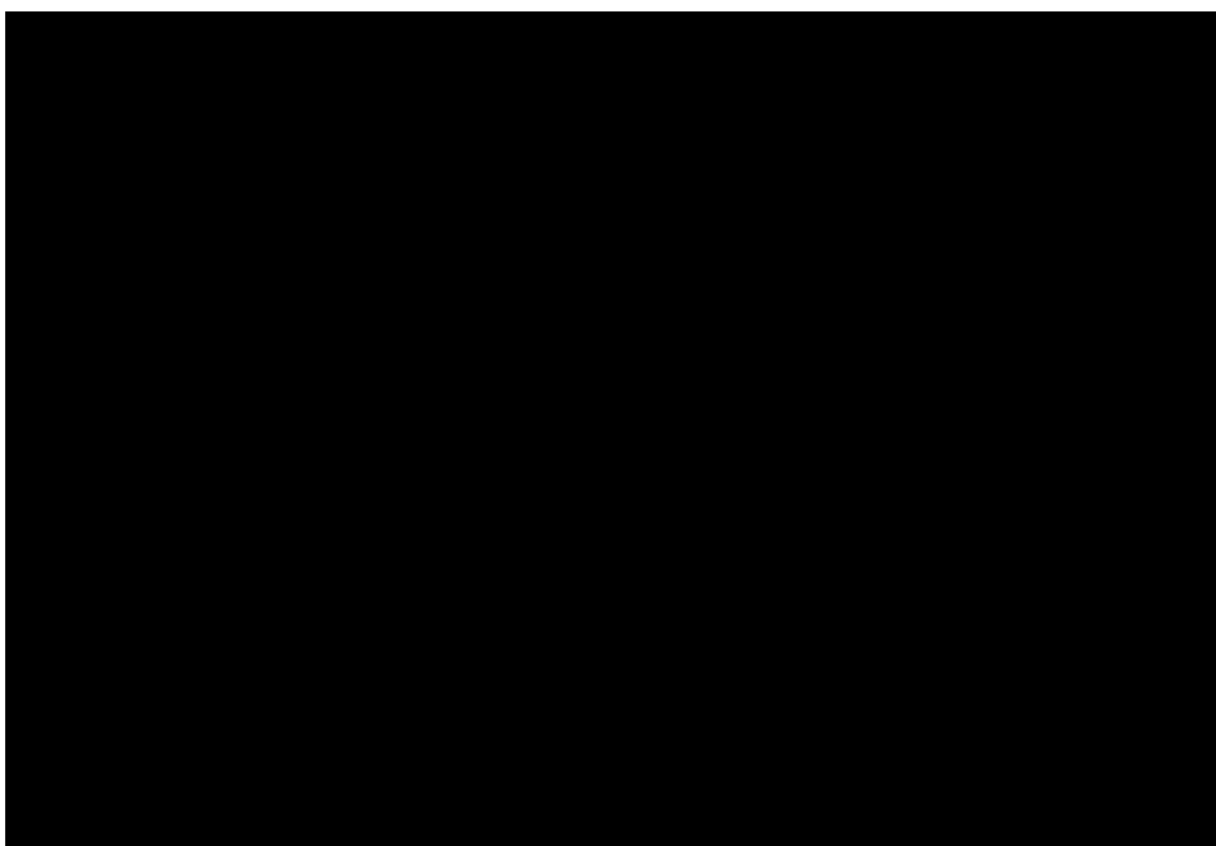
String Orchestra members took part in an enjoyable workshop day with members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra led by [REDACTED]

The Training Ensembles, undertaking their 10<sup>th</sup> season since they were launched in 2025, enjoyed a very successful period of courses during September leading to a highly successful Training Ensembles Showcase at City Halls on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September where a large and appreciative audience enjoyed a wide range of musical styles performed with maturity and flair by our young members.

Feedback from the season's events has once again been entirely positive and encouraging. The following examples are just a few of those received:

1. *I just wanted to say thanks so much to all those who help to make these incredibly ambitious concerts happen. It really was a treat this weekend - two fantastic concerts featuring so many amazing young musicians. Our daughters returned from their residentials really excited by the music, the fun they had and the friends they made. Please pass on our appreciation to all involved." (Parent)*

2. *Thanks for inviting me to coach at West this year. It was a really enjoyable experience with a great group of staff and young people. The concerts were fab and the atmosphere of the course was warm, nurturing whilst striving for musical excellence. A hard balance to find sometimes. (Tutor)*
3. *The pupils of mine who attended this year had a fantastic time. They all came back absolutely buzzing! Full of compliments for their section tutors and for conductor, Dave! (Instrumental Teacher)*
4. *The staff were really nice and inclusive and I feel like a more confident performer after my experience (Ensemble Member)*
5. *Thanks to everyone who organised it. It was a great trip and great experience with an amazing conductor and house staff (Ensemble Member)*



### **Ensemble Programmes**

All 4 Artistic Directors selected programmes reflecting the strengths within each section and ensuring a rewarding and enjoyable challenge for members.

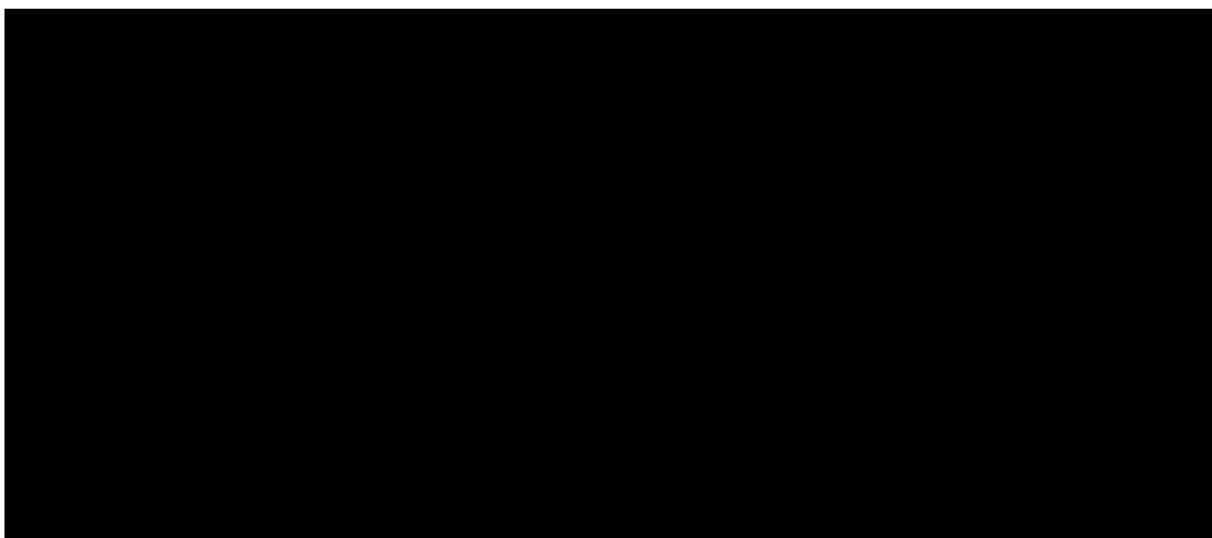
<b>Concert Band Directed by Chris Mitchell</b>	
Fanfare-The Benediction from Sky and Mother Earth	
Flying Jewels	
Breaking Point	
4 Scottish Dances	
Animation	
Arabesque	
Irish Tune from County Derry	
Last letter from Murdoch	
Blues Shades	
Un Cafecito	
<b>Symphony Orchestra Directed by James Lowe</b>	
Toast of the Town - Overture (2016 - 2020) for Orchestra	

Concertino for Flute (Soloist: Cody Macdonald)
Symphonie Fantastique
<b>Training Band Directed by Michelle McCabe</b>
Shakelford Banks
The Flood
Mazama
Nightsong
The Great Locomotive Chase
Call of the Valley
<b>String Orchestra Directed by David O'Connell</b>
Overture from Judus Macabeus
Rhosymedre
The Bird Fancier's Delight by Philip Wilby
Romance in C op.42
Intrada for Strings

### Staffing

Throughout the season, a dedicated team of 72 staff members provided support for WSSO activities. The core team of course and artistic directors, was supported by tutors and house staff who all worked with energy and skill to provide an outstanding and memorable experience for members.

[REDACTED], directing his 20<sup>th</sup> season, was recognised for his incredible support of WSSSO, during a reception at City Halls before the Senior Showcase. [REDACTED] was recognised during the vote of thanks for his 10-year service to the String Orchestra, delivering musical excellence combined with a warm and friendly manner which encourages members and ensures high morale among staff.



WSSSO at Ayr Town Hall, June '24

### Artistic & Course Directors 2024

Name	Ensemble	Role
[REDACTED]	String Orchestra	Artistic Director
[REDACTED]	String Orchestra	Course Director
[REDACTED]	Training Band	Artistic Director
[REDACTED]	Training Band	Course Director
[REDACTED]	Concert Band	Artistic Director
[REDACTED]	Concert Band	Course Director
[REDACTED]	Symphony Orchestra	Artistic Director
[REDACTED]	Symphony Orchestra	Course Director

## Outstanding Ensemble Members – Season 2024

Award	Winner
Orchestra Concerto Soloist	
Orchestra Leader	
Outstanding Member of the Training Band	
Outstanding Member of the String Orchestra	
Outstanding Member(s) of the Concert Band Winner of the Michael Stoakes Trophy 2024	
Outstanding Member(s) of the Symphony Orchestra Winner of the Michael Stoakes Trophy 2024	

### Finance

The draft accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, are expected to become available early in 2025. The shortfall resulting from a significant increase in operating costs during 2023, is expected to be addressed in the short term by the transfer of endowment funds totalling £100,000, from Glasgow City Council to the WSSO account.

The General Manager continues to monitor the financial outlook closely to ensure a steady and stable platform on which to build the season’s annual activities.

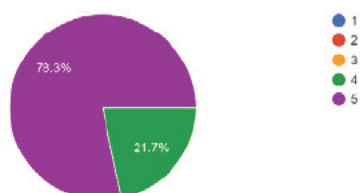


Training Ensembles, New Auditorium, September ‘23

### 10 years of Training Ensemble Activity

The String Orchestra and Training Band launched in 2015 following consultation with local authority partners and stakeholders across the country. As part of our review of the season, members were invited to complete a questionnaire to help provide greater understanding of the impact the training ensembles have on the young people taking part each year. Their responses are summarised below.

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) how would you rate the Conductor?  
23 responses



**Staff**

- 100% rated the Conductor as Very Good or Outstanding
- 100% felt the Conductor made rehearsals interesting and enjoyable
- 87% rated the Section Tutor as Very Good or Outstanding
- 96% rated the staff overall as Very Good or Outstanding
- 96% felt inspired by the Tutors

**Music**

- 96% rated the Programme of Music as Very Good or Outstanding
- 100% thought the music was well chosen and enjoyable to play
- 57% thought the music was more difficult than that played at school or local authority level
- 91% enjoyed the challenge of playing more difficult music
- 87% were surprised at how well they coped with the demands of the music
- 100% felt they were able to play the music well by the end of the course

**Food, Accommodation & Activities**

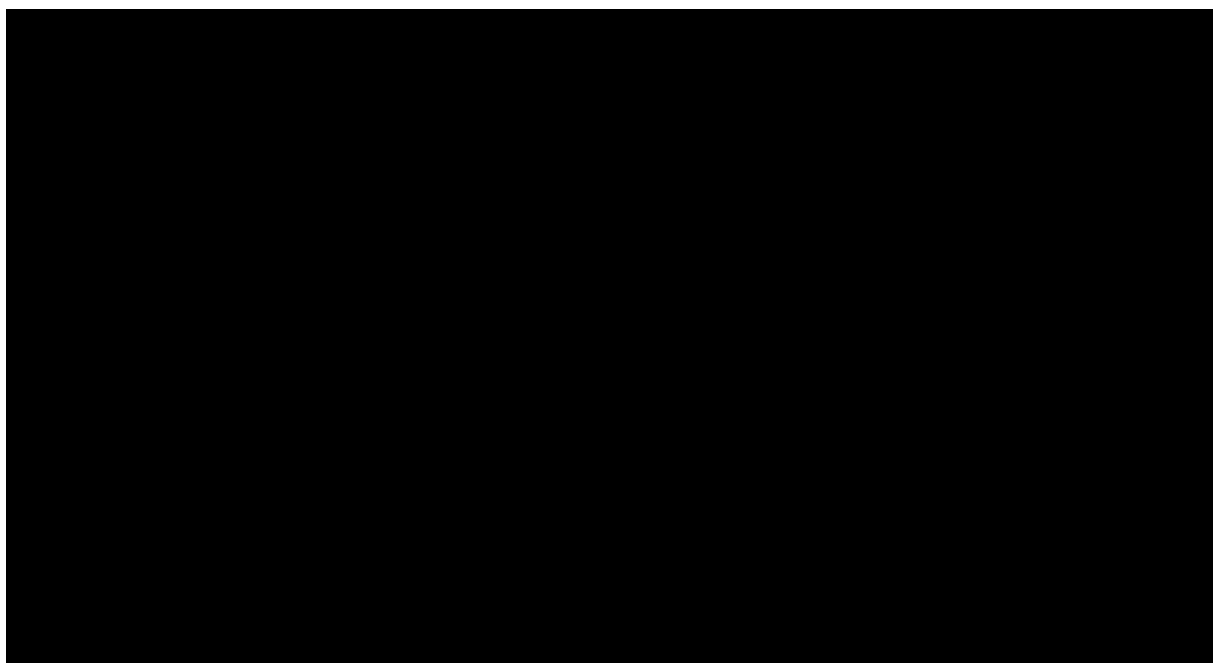
- 65% rated the Accommodation as Very Good or Outstanding
- 68% Rated the Food as Very God or Outstanding
- 91% rated the social activities as Very Good or Outstanding

**Impact**

- 100% felt it's important to meet and play with musicians from other local authorities
- 100% felt the residential aspect of West allows much more progress to be made than rehearsing once a week
- 96% feel they will practise more as a result of being a member of West
- 100% feel they are a better player because of West
- 100% made new friends
- 100% found everyone to be friendly and helpful
- 100% fell more confident about themselves after taking part

**Survey Conclusions**

It is apparent that training ensemble members greatly value their experience with WSSO and there is a great deal to be pleased about among the responses above. One area for development which has been highlighted, is that perhaps programmes could include one more difficult piece to ensure the level overall is more challenging than that encountered locally. This is something for discussion over the coming months as we prepare for season 2025.



*Concert Band, New Auditorium, June '24*

**Financial Summary**

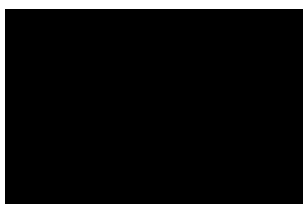
Income for the year includes the transfer of £100,000 from GCC to the University account. A significant portion of these funds is intended for transfer to a savings account with the aim of generating approximately 4-5% interest annually.

When these funds are disregarded, the accounts highlight that income increased by £18k during the period covered when compared to July '23, while expenditure rose by £6k, largely due to an increase in costs related to Accommodation.

The General Manager has continued to work throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024 and early 2025 to increase incoming resources while identifying opportunities to reduce expenditure, the details of which are included in Paper 3.1, Plans for Season 2025.

**Acknowledgement**

The continuing strength and resilience of the Trust, coupled with the high standards of musicianship achieved during the season, are evidence of the very successful work undertaken by WSSO staff and the strong support of local authority partners and the university of Strathclyde. As always, I would like to place on record my thanks to all the organisations and individuals who come together to support the work of the Trust.



**WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA TRUST**  
**CHARITY NO. SC029370**

**Statement of Financial Activities : For the Year to 31 July 2024**

		Income Funds:		Endowed	Total	Total
		General	Restricted	Fund	31.07.24	31.07.23
	Notes	Purposes				
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Donations		30,769.69			30,769.69	32,174.58
Donation - University of Strathclyde		10,329.75			10,329.75	7,392.75
Fund Raising		0.00			0.00	0.00
Local Authority Grants		68,865.00			68,865.00	49,285.00
Member Contributions & Ticket Sales		97,110.00			97,110.00	102,260.00
Receipt of Bequeathed Funds	6	100,000.00			100,000.00	0.00
Investment income:		0			0.00	0.00
Deposit Income	2	3,972.92			3,972.92	1,453.80
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>311,047.36</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>311,047.36</u>	<u>192,566.13</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>						
Equipment & Repairs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Fees - Directors, etc.	3	72,276.84			72,276.84	80,074.88
Musical Supplies		2,459.53			2,459.53	5,355.76
Courses and Concerts Expenses		384.10			384.10	0.00
Transport		14,894.22			14,894.22	13,645.36
Expenses		0.00			0.00	0.00
Accommodation		104,208.90			104,208.90	91,788.67
Miscellaneous		3,379.13			3,379.13	3,748.31
Depreciation		216.31			216.31	559.32
		<u>197,819.03</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>197,819.03</u>	<u>195,172.30</u>
<b>Promotional Activities</b>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Management &amp; Administration</b>						
Insurances		1,126.69			1,126.69	1,126.69
Printing & Stationery		884.37			884.37	919.62
Legal Costs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous		0.00			0.00	0.00
Fees paid to Independent Examiner		902.00			902.00	775.00
General Manager Costs		35,873.05			35,873.05	35,505.63
Contribution to Support Services		10,329.75			10,329.75	7,392.75
		<u>49,115.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,115.86</u>	<u>45,719.69</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>246,934.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>246,934.89</u>	<u>240,891.99</u>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>		<u>64,112.47</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>64,112.47</u>	<u>(48,325.86)</u>
Total funds brought forward		80,344.58	0.00	0.00	80,344.58	128,670.44
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>£ 144,457.05</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>	<u>£ 144,457.05</u>	<u>£ 80,344.58</u>

**Statement of Net Expenditure for the Year to 31 July 2024**

	£	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Gross income as above:</b>			
General purposes fund	311,047.36		
Restricted funds	<u>0.00</u>		
		311,047.36	192,566.13
<b>Total expenditure as above:</b>			
General purposes fund	246,934.89		
Restricted funds	<u>0.00</u>		
		246,934.89	240,891.99
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year</b>		<u>£ 64,112.47</u>	<u>£ (48,325.86)</u>

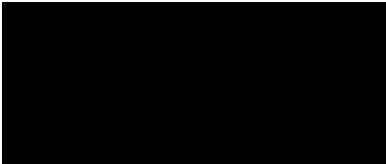
# WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2024

			2024	2023
	Notes		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Musical Instruments	4	69,014.00		
Containers, Laptop & Mobile Phone	4	<u>0.00</u>	69,014.00	69,230.31
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors & prepayments		<u>177,143.91</u>		
				177,143.91
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES: payable within one year</b>				
Creditors and Accruals		<u>(101,700.86)</u>		
				<u>(101,700.86)</u>
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>			<u>75,443.05</u>	<u>11,114.27</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			144,457.05	80,344.58
Net Assets			£ <u>144,457.05</u>	£ <u>80,344.58</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
<b>Income funds:</b>				
General Purpose Fund			£ <u>144,457.05</u>	£ <u>80,344.58</u>

Approved by the Trustees on  
2nd April 2025

Signed on behalf of Trustees



## West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust

### Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

#### 1 Accounting Policies

##### General

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### Depreciation Policy

Due to the nature of the assets being musical instruments and the fact that they generally hold their value, no depreciation has been allowed for in the year. Containers are depreciated 20% straight line basis over the useful economic life. Computer equipment is depreciated 33% straight line basis over the useful economic life.

2 Deposit income included above is for the period 01/04/23 to 31/03/24

#### 3 Fees

Fees above comprise	Basic £	National Insurance £	Superannuation £	Total £
Artistic Directors	8,526.00		-	8,526.00
Part-time Tutors / Course Directors	63,750.84			63,750.84
	<u>72,276.84</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,276.84</u>

#### 4 Fixed Assets for use by the Trust.

The musical instruments are shown at the estimated market value at the date of recognition of the Trust (28 August 1999)

	Musical Instruments	Containers	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1st August 2023	69,014.00	11,655.78	1,677.95	82,347.73
Purchases				0.00
At 31st July 2024	<u>69,014.00</u>	<u>11,655.78</u>	<u>1,677.95</u>	<u>82,347.73</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st August 2023	0.00	11,655.78	1,461.64	13,117.42
Charge for year	0.00		216.31	216.31
At 31st July 2024	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11,655.78</u>	<u>1,677.95</u>	<u>13,333.73</u>
Net Book Value				
At 1st August 2023	<u>69,014.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>216.31</u>	<u>69,230.31</u>
At 31st July 2024	<u>69,014.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>69,014.00</u>

#### 5 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	General Purpose Fund £	Endowed Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	69,014.00	0.00	69,014.00
Current Assets	177,143.91	0.00	177,143.91
Current Liabilities	(101,700.86)	0.00	(101,700.86)
Long Term Liabilities	0.00		0.00
Fund Balance	<u>144,457.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>144,457.05</u>

**6 Funds and Fund Transfers**

Strathclyde Region Fund

This fund, which is held in trust by Glasgow City Council, under a separate Trust, was set up originally by Strathclyde Regional Council, with the purpose of helping to fund the continuing activities of the West of Scotland Schools Orchestra. In accordance with the stated terms of the deed, the revenue from the fund is transferred annually to the West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust's General Purpose Fund.

During the year to 31 July 2024, the Trustees of WSSO have decided that the bequeathed funds held in the separate Trust set up by the Strathclyde Regional Council will be released to WSSO and held in general fund in order to boost the Trust's reserves and with the aim to earn higher interest income.

**7 Trustee's Remuneration and Expenses**

No remuneration, directly or indirectly, out of the funds of the Trust, was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with any of them. No reimbursement of expenses has been made or is due to be made to any of the trustees in respect of the year.

**8 Fees paid to Independent Examiner**

Fees paid to Independent Examiner comprise:	
Fees for Independent Examination	902.00
Fees for other services	-
	<u>902.00</u>