

Leamington and Warwick Musical Society

Annual report for the year ended 31 May 2025

Governance & administrative details

Leamington and Warwick Musical Society ("LWMS"), is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO"), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registration number 1200030. It succeeded an unincorporated association of the same name, itself renamed from Leamington and Warwick Operatic Society, originally founded in 1921.

The CIO has three Trustees responsible for its legal obligations in accordance with its Governing Document (the "Constitution"). Day-to-day management is delegated to a Management Committee (the "Committee"), which operates in accordance with the CIO's bye-laws and policies, as agreed by the Trustees. The Chair of Trustees is also the Chair of the Committee, and all Trustees are members of the Committee. The Committee routinely meets monthly, while the Trustees meet as required. Trustees and Committee members are elected from the membership of the CIO at an Annual General Meeting, or co-opted as required, in accordance with the Constitution.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing this Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations in England, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102).

Trustees

Dr Nicholas S Kaijaks, Chair of Trustees

Mrs Sarah R Phipps

Mr Samuel J Henshaw

Registered address

9 Lime Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 7DE

Objectives

The Object of the CIO is to promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of drama and musical theatrical performance for all in the local community in and around Royal Leamington Spa and Warwick.

The Trustees are satisfied that the work of LWMS in this period has enabled members to experience training and performance opportunities in the theatrical arts, and provided public benefit by enabling the local community to experience live theatrical art performances, in line with its Object. The Trustees have taken the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance into account when making relevant decisions.

Activities, achievements & performance

In the year to 31 May 2025, LWMS produced *Shrek The Musical* in a six-performance run at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa. Open auditions were held in Leamington Spa, in September 2024 and, as anticipated in last year's report, were extremely popular, with 88 adult registrations, and 62 actually attending audition. It made for an exceptionally difficult process, and the audition panel and Committee regretted that they were unable to cast a number of loyal members. It was a challenge due to both available backstage space and, for *Shrek* in particular, of costume and parts – almost all available roles are either named characters or dance team members. A cast, of 38 adults and 4 children, was assembled, of whom 13 adults were new members to LWMS. The cast received voice, dance and acting training and support during rehearsals from September 2024, and performed to a audience of 2,863 people from 11–15 March 2025 (86% of capacity), providing public benefit to the local area. The audience reaction was highly positive, with an encouraging family attendance. The Committee has secured the theatrical rights to perform *My Fair Lady* in 2026, with auditions planned for September 2025, and LWMS looks forward to staging this for the public in March 2026 at the Royal Spa Centre.

Financial review

This report covers the period of operation of the CIO from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025. Income for the year consisted of charitable activities (primarily ticket and programme sales) and donations through membership fees and fundraising. The Trustees anticipate that the principal source of funds will continue to be the CIO's charitable activities.

With a few to further improving the public benefit of LWMS, the CIO retained its approach of limiting ticket price increases below consumer inflation in spite of increasing costs, and by maintaining a much discounted rate for children. With the positive sales performance and the prudent management of the Committee, the CIO is pleased to report a surplus over the past year. The Trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that provides sufficient funds to cover operational costs and that will allow the CIO to respond to any emergency funding requirements which may arise from time to time. Current reserves are £65,533 as detailed in the statement below.

The CIO currently has no fixed assets, stocks, or investments, and no pension assets or liabilities. No remuneration was paid to the Trustees or members of the Committee during the current or previous year. The CIO has no employees. No expenses were paid to any Trustee by the CIO. No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others, and all funds are considered to be unrestricted. All income is paid into such bank or building society accounts in the name of the CIO as the Committee directs.

The principal risk faced by the CIO is that ticket sales for productions do not provide enough income to cover expenditure. This is mitigated by prudent management of promotion, pricing, and costs. There are related risks in availability of theatrical rights for works which align appropriately with the CIO's Object, are appropriate for the profile of its membership, and are likely to be financially viable to produce in the locality. This is mitigated by care in show selection. There is a risk of changes in the membership, its skill and experience profile, and the availability of appropriately skilled people to engage in production. These are mitigated by promotion and continued engagement with the membership and local community. A final risk is the potential unavailability or financial non-viability of our normal rehearsal or performance venues. This is mitigated by seeking to secure facilities as early as possible. The Trustees consider that none of these risks cast significant doubt on the CIO's ability to continue as a going concern.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.S. Kaijaks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Nicholas Kaijaks
Chair of Trustees
16 June 2025

Note

The following financial records are provisional, awaiting independent examination prior to submission to the Charity Commission.

Leamington and Warwick Musical Society

Statement of financial activities, year to 31 May 2025

	Current year 2024-25 Unrestricted funds £
Income	
Donations	4,617
Charitable activities	64,750
Total income	<hr/> 69,367 <hr/>
Expenditure	
Charitable activities	61,491
Total expenditure	<hr/> 61,491 <hr/>
 Total net income/(expenditure)	 <hr/> 7,876 <hr/>
Reconciliation of funds	
Total funds brought forward	57,657
Total funds carried forward	<hr/> 65,533 <hr/>

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Balance sheet, as at 31 May 2025

	Current year 2024-25 £	Previous year 2023-24 £
Fixed assets		
Total fixed assets	0	0
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	65,533	57,657
Total current assets	65,533	57,657
Liabilities		
Total liabilities	0	0
Total net assets/(liabilities)	65,533	57,657
Funds of the charity		
Unrestricted funds	65,533	57,657
Total charity funds	65,533	57,657

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Breakdown of financial activities, year to 31 May 2025

	Current year 2024-25 £
Donation income	
Membership	2,670
Fundraising	1,947
Total donation income	4,617
Charitable activities income	
Theatre receipts	62,928
Programme sales	1,427
Programme advertisements	395
Total charitable activities income	64,750
Total income	69,367
Expenditure for production activities	
Venue hire	14,917
Venue commission and transaction fees	5,051
Performing rights	7,636
Music hire	2,713
Production team fees	4,805
Orchestra	6,618
Costume hire	4,481
Scenery	3,131
Stage expenses	2,819
Publicity	1,609
Performing rights deposits	788
Audition & rehearsal expenses	4,379
Programme production	760
Total expenditure for production activities	59,706
Expenditure for administrative activities	
Insurance	1,155
NODA membership	505
Stationery, postage etc	111
AGM expenses	15
Total expenditure for administrative activities	1,785
Total expenditure	61,491