

Company registration no. 3685489

# Music Illuminated

Registered charity no 1074016

## Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019

Directors (at 30 June 2019):

Matthew Saunders  
Fiona Cairney  
Caroline Ardron  
Katherine Hattersley

Registered address:

20 Wimborne Close  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 4DP

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee without share capital.

## **Review of activities 2018–2019**

The Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra (ERSO) was founded in 1931 by Ernest Read, the pioneer in the development of music education and youth orchestras.

The charity Music Illuminated was formed in 1998 by ERSO members in order to continue the running of the orchestra following the ending of this role by the Ernest Read Music Association.

ERSO takes great pride in working to a very high musical standard. Almost ninety years after the orchestra was founded, the community of musicians who make up ERSO strives to continue Ernest Read's legacy with our charitable work with emerging professional musicians and children together with our core symphonic concerts which aim to illuminate the music to our audiences.

### **October 2018 concert**

The 2018-19 season began with our October concert at St John's Church at Waterloo. This was an important event for the orchestra as it was the first concert conducted by recently appointed Principal Conductor Christopher Stark who is best known as co-founder and co-Artistic Director of the RPS Award-winning Multi-Story Orchestra. Chris recently conducted Multi-Story in the 2019 BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and has also worked extensively with the English Touring Opera and Glyndebourne.

Our appreciative audience clearly enjoyed the spirited performance of Der Freischütz and Dvorak's dramatic 7th Symphony. We were delighted to be joined by hugely talented young soloist Michael Stowe, a recent finalist in the 2018 ERSO Soloist of the year competition, whose beautiful and lyrical performance of the Strauss Oboe Concerto was wonderfully accomplished.

### **November 2018 concert**

In our November concert we worked with the Camden Training Orchestra, the most junior orchestral ensemble offered by the Camden Music Service. The aim of this concert was to encourage the young musicians to continue with their music-making by offering them the opportunity to rehearse and perform with ERSO and our inspiring professional conductor at the early stages of their musical journey.

We were joined by 37 young players from the Camden Training Orchestra in this concert themed around the idea of being "In Disguise". The hour-long concert introduced the children to a variety of musical styles and included Khachaturian's romantic Masquerade Suite and Britten's Courtly Dances from the opera Gloriana (modern music "disguised" as Tudor dances) together with arrangements of well-known pieces which were played by the Training Orchestra and ERSO: Entry of the Gladiators by Fucik (best known for its association with circus clowns), a medley of famous symphony themes and the theme song from Skyfall with a young singer from the Camden School for Girls.

Presenter Timothy Keasley brought the music to life for the young players and audience members by highlighting key aspects of the music and showing how each piece linked with the "In Disguise" theme, which involved lots of audience participation and many appearances of "Tim's Big Box of Disguises". The concert culminated with Tim and

Principal Conductor Christopher Stark, who is highly experienced in working with young people, teaching the audience a song that we composed to fit with the story and music of the well-known Waltz from Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite.

Parents called it: *"A rich and meaningful experience for the young players", "Wonderful, beyond expectation", "Amazing, informative and educational"* and said *"It was tremendous. Just the right kind of music, especially the pieces that the children did - v accessible. Great fun."*

Children's comments included: *"An enjoyable, fun concert. I liked the choice of music", "The conductor was v engaging. Thoroughly enjoyed myself!"* and *"ACE! The presenter was brilliant."*

When asked if there were any ways that we could improve the experience, both parents and young performers were clear: *"Nope, you've got the formula", "More often!"* and *"Its lovely just the way it is. Thank you."*

### **February 2019 concert**

In February we returned to St John's for our Russian Masterworks concert which was a truly special evening. Mussorgsky's Khovanshchina Prelude gave us visions of serene scenes of dawn over the Moscow River, which was followed by passion and drama in Prokofiev's Cinderella Suite no 1. The evening finished with the searing Sixth Symphony by Shostakovich, which was warmly applauded by our audience.

### **March 2019 concert**

This "Spotlight on the Set Works" concert was planned in conjunction with the Music Department from the Camden School for Girls, providing the students with the valuable experience of a high quality, live performance of music that they are studying and giving pupils the chance to perform with the adult musicians.

The concert programme featured a full performance of one of the key GCSE set works – Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no 5 with young professional soloists – together with pieces from the 20th century module of the A level course. The concert included a brief history and musical analysis of each of these pieces delivered by our professional conductor and the Head of Music, enhancing their learning and supporting the students in achieving exam success.

Participants included:

- Twenty-two young musicians from the Junior wind, brass and string ensembles who were in years 7 - 9. These pupils benefitted from sitting within the orchestra for the entire concert, giving them the chance to experience what it would be like to play with a more advanced ensemble, and to hear what their instrument could sound like as they progress. We were also joined by some of the school's older and more experienced orchestral musicians who were given the opportunity to rehearse and perform the final movement of Shostakovich's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony.

- Twenty children from the school choir who sang excerpts from Vivaldi's Gloria accompanied by ERSO. The choir had recently performed Gloria with a piano accompaniment and were very excited to have the chance to work with an orchestra.
- The concert had an audience of around 150 people, which included A level students and GCSE students who were studying the pieces being played, together with parents and siblings of the performers.

The concert was very successful - the children who performed with us, the GCSE and A-level students in the audience and the family members who attended all gave extremely positive feedback as did the school Music Department.

We always evaluate the success of each of our children's concert with all of the participants and our partners and ensure that the findings are applied to future projects. Participating children, teachers and audience members are asked to complete a feedback form. Comments included:

*It was amazing to see such great soloists – inspirational for the students as well as sitting with the adult musicians. (Parent)*

*Lovely! Really helpful for music A level (Student)*

*100% professional. Commentary was extremely interesting, nothing was superfluous. Please repeat the event to the same high standards. (Parent)*

*Fantastic standard and verve – so clever to integrate students so successfully. Good mix of accessible and more challenging music. (Parent)*

*Stunning and inspirational soloists! Wonderful variety of pieces (Student)*

*An amazing experience for the students of CSG to play alongside such a fantastic orchestra. (Parent)*

*It was amazing. The commentary made it a lot more interesting (choir member and GCSE student)*

We also received extremely positive feedback from the Head of Music at the Camden School for Girls:

*“This was an extraordinary event put together by ERSO. The concert was entirely arranged around our needs. The programme was not only tailored toward our GCSE and A level curricula but held together as a rich concert of some less-performed repertoire that I would have paid good money to hear!*

*That we could also find a way for a range of students to perform with the orchestra meant that the event was a great success.*

*Our GCSE and A level students had this music brought to life for them. The Brandenburg was a rare performance with an expert harpsichord player requiring virtuosity alongside the other two soloists. And that we can have an orchestra personally perform Ives, Milhaud and other challenging 20th century works for our A level students is amazing. For the performers this was an extraordinary opportunity to sit during this experience. The younger students were well prepared and received a welcome from their adult counterparts. They*

*had a great time! The chamber choir who sang Vivaldi's Gloria sounded beautiful with ERSO and the whole event was deeply enriching for them."*

### **June 2019 concert**

The final concert of the season took place at St John's and was ERSO's first performance as part of the successful Waterloo Festival. Soloist Henry Hargreaves, the winner of our 2019 ERSO Soloist of the Year competition, gave an incredibly poised and characterful performance of the Schumann Cello Concerto.

The large and appreciative audience clearly loved Henry's playing. Henry said: *"It was wonderful last night, thank you so much for the amazing opportunity to perform that incredible piece with orchestra. I enjoyed it very much and the rehearsal process was also very rewarding."*

The evening ended with a stirring performance of Mahler's epic 1st Symphony, expertly conducted by Christopher Stark.

### **The ERSO Talent Programme**

During the season we also carried out activities related to the ERSO Talent Programme. The purpose of the Talent Programme is to help young musicians to bridge the gap between formal training and a musical career through the provision of valuable professional experience and mentoring which will boost their CVs. In 2018–19 the Talent programme provided opportunities to emerging soloists and orchestral musicians.

### **ERSO Soloist of the Year**

The ERSO Soloist of the Year is an annual event which provides emerging soloists with the valuable and rare opportunity to rehearse and perform a concerto with a full symphony orchestra. The competition is open to players who have played in at least one concert with ERSO during the season, widening the eligibility to many music students, post-graduates and professional musicians at the start of their careers. Candidates audition for a panel of Committee members, our professional leader and conductor. All candidates are given feedback upon their auditions.

The panel select four Finalists who are each given rehearsal time with ERSO, a huge opportunity as the young soloists have the chance to work on a movement of their concerto with a full symphony orchestra and receive valuable advice and insights from our professional conductor and leader which will help them to develop their performances in the future. The winner is awarded the invaluable opportunity of performing their concerto with ERSO as well as a £100 prize.

*"Having had the opportunity to perform with ERSO and Peter Stark was without a doubt one of the most fulfilling and rewarding performance experiences of my career thus far. The ERSO players are enthusiastic and extremely dedicated, they provided an ideal environment for a young soloist like me to feel comfortable and supported on stage. Having the chance to work with someone like Peter Stark is difficult to come by, and I am so thankful to ERSO for giving me that opportunity to learn and perform. I think this competition is an amazing chance for musicians to expand their musical perspective and enhance their learning. I will*

*cherish my performance with ERSO for years to come!"* Callie Brennan, Winner of ERSO Soloist of the Year, 2018

*"Having the opportunity to perform the Schumann Concerto with the ERSO was an amazing experience. Taking a piece which I love so much and having the chance to play it with full orchestra in the final was a treat and a joyful experience, let alone the concert at Waterloo Festival. I learnt a lot in the rehearsal process from both Chris and the orchestra and this has helped me to take my phrasing, projection and rhythm to a much more detailed level in the piece. The competition was fantastically organised and I feel honoured to have had the chance to participate! Thank you ERSO."* Henry Hargreaves, 2019 winner

#### ERSO's Paid Section Leader Scheme:

The Paid Section Leader scheme began in 2016 with the aim of supporting emerging orchestral players. These 2-year developmental positions (Deputy Leader, Principal 2nd Violin, Principal Cello and Brass Leader) have proved to be extremely successful and beneficial to the role holders. In 2019-19 we appointed our second group of section leaders.

The roles provide aspiring professional musicians with valuable experience of leading, coaching and managing their sections and they benefit from mentoring from our professional leader and conductor. The roles also include being a member of ERSO's Committee, helping to manage the running of the orchestra, planning future seasons and helping to plan and deliver our ERSO Talent Programme and education projects with children.

*"I am delighted that ERSO is recruiting paid principal players. It is an invaluable experience for the young professionals".* Dr Peter Stark - Conductor Emeritus (HonDMus, HonFTCL, HonARAM, GRSM, ARCM)

*"Having the role of Principal 2nd Violin at ERSO is a fantastic opportunity to gain professional experience, which will serve me well for my future career. I am also thrilled to be part of an ensemble which places music education at the forefront of its values."* Lucy, current Principal 2nd Violin

*"For a young professional at the start of a career, this is an amazing first step into the professional world of orchestral playing, leadership responsibilities and management. The orchestra and members provide a very positive and encouraging learning environment. I have been offered various other opportunities due to knowledge, skills and experience gained through the Talent Programme. I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this experience and I sincerely hope that the programme will continue its good work providing opportunities for young musicians."* Barbara, former ERSO Principal Cello

Music Illuminated and ERSO wish to thank the Ernest Read Trust for their continued financial support.

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **1. Constitution of the scheme**

Music Illuminated is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts and is also registered as a charity. Accordingly there is no share capital.

Music Illuminated is governed by a Memorandum and Articles incorporated on 17 December 1998, as amended by Special Resolution registered at Companies House on 20 May 2016.

### **2. Accounting policies**

#### **2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### **2.2. Income and expenditure**

Direct income from musical activities, in the form of ticket and other sales and subscriptions, is included and accrued in the accounting period to which it relates.

Donations and grants are also accounted for in the period to which they relate. During 2018/19, donations and grants totalling £11,413.92 were received relating to projects in the 2019/20 season; these grants are included under current liabilities.

Payments representing basic rate tax reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs under the Gift Aid scheme are also accounted for in the period during which they were received.

Ticket sales and related expenditure in respect of the season starting after 30 June are carried forward to the following accounting period.

#### **2.3 Donations by waived charges**

The orchestra receives the benefit of much unpaid assistance, reduced charging rates and other benefits in kind. These benefits are not reflected in the accounts.

### **3. Tangible fixed assets.**

During 2011/12, two violins with a value of approximately £2,000 were donated to the orchestra by a member. Opportunities will be sought to loan these instruments to talented young players.

### **4. Taxation**

No charge to direct taxation arises, because Music Illuminated is a registered charity and therefore exempt from corporation tax.

## **Report**

### **Principal activities and review of activities**

The principal activity of Music Illuminated is the provision of concerts and to provide a training orchestra of a high standard.

A summary of the results for the year is given on page 8 of the accounts.

### **Directors**

Matthew Saunders, Fiona Cairney, Caroline Ardron and Katherine Hattersley served as directors throughout the year.

### **Audit**

Due to Music Illuminated's status as a small company, exemption from audit is requested. Voluntary audit may be sought in future years.

### **Independent Review**

These accounts have been reviewed by Kathryn Ellis, ACA.

Director's signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Matthew J Saunders



**Income and expenditure for the period ended 30 June 2019**

	£
<u>Turnover</u>	
Income from musical activities	2,784.11
Direct expenses	<u>-30,702.61</u>
Net deficit from musical activities	<u>-27,918.50</u>
Bank charges	-
Deficit before other income	<u>-27,918.50</u>
<u>Other income</u>	
Donations	29,593.30
Interest	-
Gift Aid	<u>463.32</u>
	<u>30,056.62</u>
Profit for year	<u><u>2,138.12</u></u>

**Balance sheet as at 30 June 2019**

	£
<u>Current assets</u>	
Cash at bank	33,586.20
Cash/cheques in hand	-
Debtors	<u>1,014.84</u>
	<u>34,601.04</u>
<u>Fixed assets</u>	
Tangible assets	2,000.00
<u>Current liabilities</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-116.07
Donations and grants received in advance	<u>-11,413.92</u>
Net assets	<u><u>25,071.05</u></u>
Funded by: accumulated funds	22,932.93
Profit for period	<u>2,138.12</u>
	<u><u>25,071.05</u></u>

Audit Exemption Statement

For the year ending 30 June 2019 the company 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 company to obtain an audit of its accounts 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 accounts;
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Director's signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Saunders'.

Matthew J Saunders