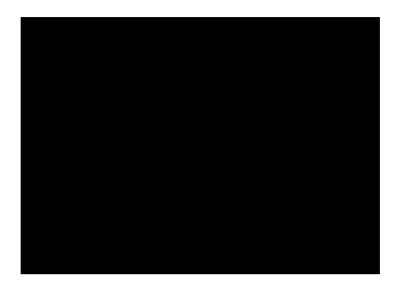
# THE CUMNOCK TRYST ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Trustees**



Charity number (Scotland) SC044068

Registered office Whittlieburn House

Brisbane Glen Road

Largs KA30 8SN

Independent examiner McFadden Associates Limited

19 Rutland Square

Edinburgh EH1 2BB

# **CONTENTS**

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 5
Independent examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 14

#### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

#### Objectives and activities

The Cumnock Tryst was established to further the promotion, management delivery and development of a classical music festival, which has taken place annually in Cumnock. The festival and its expanding year-round programme of events and educational activity are held in or provide benefit for the town of Cumnock and nearby vicinity of East Ayrshire, in a manner which has regard to factors such as:

- · Accessibility, in intellectual, physical and financial terms;
- The contribution that cultural activity makes to civic and community pride;
- The engagement of young people and community groups through working in close partnership with established organisations and schools;
- Providing opportunities to participate in and enjoy classical music and other art forms;
- The recognition of Cumnock's musical heritage.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the trust should undertake.

#### Achievements and performance

The period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 marked a number of significant milestones in The Cumnock Tryst's development, as the organisation fully emerged from the constraints of the pandemic to realise some of its most ambitious programming to date. In addition to the festival, a year-round programme of concerts and educational initiatives demonstrated The Cumnock Tryst's maturity in delivering its strategic aims of making world-class music accessible to all, directly contributing to cultural regeneration in East Ayrshire.

The 2023 festival (5-8 October) achieved several targets associated with the three main strategic goals outlined in the 2020 business plan (Concert Programme, Engagement, Audience), including:

- Performances by leading international artists, including
- Increased community participation in the Festival Chorus, *The Way We Are*, and *A Musical Celebration* of the Coalfields projects, which included opportunities for local performers and emerging composers
- A rise from 1099 total attendees in 2022 to 1750 in 2023, marking a significant increase of 59%
- An increase in tickets purchased from Ayrshire postcodes, from 47% in 2022 to 57% in 2023, demonstrating the benefits of continued local engagement
- The post-festival survey reporting high levels of audience satisfaction, with 92% responding that they would return to future Tryst events

The Cumnock Tryst began the year strongly in April 2023 with a joint concert featuring internationally renowned mezzo-soprano performing alongside students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. This also served as our festival launch, setting the tone for a year that would combine the highest levels of musical performance with community engagement at every level.

# TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Spring and summer saw the beginning of several major projects. Led by and The Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus began regular rehearsals from April onward, preparing Constant Lambert's cantata <i>The Rio Grande</i> and <i>Gloria</i> , a new work commissioned by The Cumnock Tryst from Aberdeen-based composer.
Meanwhile, our <i>Musical Celebration of the Coalfields</i> project was gathering momentum, with ten community groups working with specialist workshop leaders, including to create new music reflecting on the area's mining heritage.
Our partnership with the Boswell Book Festival brought Tryst's ongoing commitment to cross-arts collaboration.
From August, our educational work intensified with the launch of three significant projects: a composition programme at St Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock led by three primary schools with renowned percussionists and a creative music project with the Supported Learning Centre led by the state of a significant projects: a composition project linking; an innovative percussion project linking; and a creative music project with the Supported Learning Centre led by the state of a significant projects: a composition project linking; and innovative percussion project linking; and a creative music project with the Supported Learning Centre led by the state of a significant projects: a composition project linking; and innovative percussion project linking and the state of
The 2023 festival (5-8 October) represented the culmination of much of this work, featuring high-profile artists, including soprano performing dramatic monologue <i>La voix humaine</i> in Cumnock Old Church, the renowned choir Tenebrae performing a serene programme in St John's Church, and local performers from the Supported Learning Centre, led by their project entitled <i>The Way We Are.</i> The festival also featured folk musician and an illuminating Cumnock Hour discussion between and an an an illuminating cumnock Hour discussion between music and place.
The festival's centrepiece was the <i>Big Saturday</i> event, which saw two landmark performances of the new works created as part of <i>A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields</i> . This project was supported by the Coalfields Community Landscape Partnership, a long-term initiative funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by East Ayrshire Council, in conjunction with Ayrshire Leisure, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, Scottish National Heritage, Forest and Land Scotland, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, and East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.
Two concerts at the Barony Hall featured the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra performing alongside 350 local performers from ten community groups. The first concert, <i>In the Stars</i> , showcased work from Dalmellington Brass Academy, Doon Academy, Netherthird Primary School, Logan Primary School, and Robert Burns Academy. The second performance, <i>Darkness Into Light</i> , featured Cumnock Youth Musical Theatre (CYMT), Cumnock Area Musical Production Society (CAMPS), Strings N' Things, Things Tae Dae, and The Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus. Both concerts included new music by Ayrshire composers  designed to act as links, and concluded with <i>Eleven</i> , a work celebrating East Ayrshire's storied junior football tradition.
The festival's final day began with the Festival Mass at St John the Evangelist in Cumnock with music from the choir of St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, Edinburgh, followed by a series of promenade concerts at Dumfries House that included emerging artist (a finalist of Scottish Young Musician of the Year), St Mary's Schola Cantorum, and viola duos with and of the BBC SSO. The Festival Chorus, under the direction of , concluded the festival with a gala performance, including Lambert's <i>Rio Grande</i> and Cooke's <i>Gloria</i> , demonstrating the group's artistic ambition and continued progress.
BSL interpretation was provided at key events by of-hearing audience members.

#### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The autumn saw the fruition of our Dean Castle project with a concert in November 2023. Pupils from Auchinleck
Primary School, James Hamilton Primary School and St Andrews Primary School came together to share the
stage with renowned percussionist performing their own compositions for percussion celebrating the
history of the castle and marking the conclusion of significant restoration work. Each school focused on a
different musical sculpture created by local blacksmith and created their music with percussionist
. The final showcase brought the sculptures and pupils together to perform their compositions
with backing tracks created by sound artist and electroacoustic composer nald. An audience of
friends, family and the general public braved the Scottish winter weather to attend the open-air concert at the
castle, which was a resounding success and the first time the Tryst had presented an event in Kilmarnock.

The St Joseph's Academy composition project continued through the winter, culminating in a concert of new student works in February 2024. There was also a successful Festival Chorus Come & Sing event in March 2024, which attracted new members from across the region.

Throughout the year, our volunteer programme engaged 25 local people in supporting event delivery, while the Festival Chorus maintained a strong membership of almost 100 singers, predominantly from Ayrshire.

Feedback from participants and audiences consistently highlighted the value of having world-class music and creative opportunities available locally, with 85% of surveyed audience members indicating they would return to future events.

Plans for the 2024 festival, celebrating The Cumnock Tryst's 10th anniversary, were largely confirmed, including:

- The launch of The Cumnock Tryst Ensemble, a flexible chamber group dedicated to both performance and community engagement
- An inaugural International Summer School for Composers, to be held in August at Dumfries House
- Performances featuring pianist Steven Osborne, Maxwell Quartet, The Gesualdo Six, Youth Jazz Orchestra, and leading Scottish traditional and jazz musicians, as well as a panel discussion to consider the role of culture in regeneration
- A 10th-Birthday Gala Concert featuring Concern featuring All the Hills and Vales Along (concernissioned by The Cumnock Tryst and London Symphony Orchestra), with The Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus and Dalmellington Band
- Two new commissions from young Scottish composers

  and
- The continuation of our commitment to education, with a composition project for Advanced Higher students at Robert Burns Academy, and work with pupils with additional support needs at Hillside School, in partnership with Drake Music Scotland and Hebrides Ensemble
- The development of a comprehensive fundraising strategy, with a focus on delivering year-round work and ensuring the organisation's financial sustainability

The achievements across the years 2023-24 demonstrate The Cumnock Tryst's continuing evolution from a four-day festival into a year-round cultural institution in East Ayrshire, maintaining the highest artistic standards while contributing significantly to the area's cultural regeneration.

The organisation was also successful in making it through the first stage of the application process for Creative Scotland's new Multi-Year Funding programme. This marked a significant milestone in the organisation's development. The application, submitted in October 2023, outlined the Tryst's vision for 2025-2028. Following the positive news regarding the first phase, a detailed business plan was produced in line with the requirements for the second stage of the application, detailing our ambitious plans, including enhanced community engagement and longer-term strategic development for the organisation, now a feature in the East Ayrshire and Scottish cultural landscape. Creative Scotland communicated that final decisions would be announced in October 2024. A Multi-Year Funding award would provide crucial long-term stability for sustainable growth and development.

The value of The Cumnock Tryst's ambitious programme was recognised by *The Guardian/Observer*, which named the 2023 festival their top classical music event of the year. Critic praised the Tryst as "a remarkable venture, an outstanding series of concerts, but equally an instrument for social change," adding that she could not "think of a comparable example anywhere, nor a local hero as modest as "." As the organisation approached the ten-year anniversary of its foundation, this review perfectly captured the essence of The Cumnock Tryst's distinctive artistic approach to integrating international excellence with meaningful local participation in a rural, post-industrial community.

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### Financial review

#### Reserves policy

Upon reviewing future income streams and committed expenditure, the trustees have agreed a policy of establishing unrestricted reserves of at least £40,000 at the year end.

Actual unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 amounted to £93,277 (2023 - £114,024). This higher level of unrestricted reserves will mostly be expensed in the following year leaving a level closer to our desired level at 31st March 2025. Additionally, the charity held restricted reserves of £713 (2023 - £10,000).

The Cumnock Tryst Endowment Fund (SC045509) was set up in 2015 to support and promote the Cumnock Tryst. As a result, and in consideration of risk assessment, to identify potential commitments and contingencies, it is the opinion of the trustees that the above level of unrestricted reserves is sufficient.

#### Results for the period

The results for the year show an overall deficit of £30,034 (2023 - surplus £49,980) as detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 5.

Our income in the year under review came from various sources. We continue to be supported by a group of funders and supporters and we are immensely grateful to them all. We are also sincerely indebted to our Artistic Director, His time and artistic direction in terms of a benefit to the Cumnock Tryst is immeasurable.

#### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which The Cumnock Tryst is exposed and these are contained within a Risk Register and reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees believe that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to manage these risks.

#### Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:



The Board members are recruited for their skills and experience and appropriate training is given as required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the SCIO. All of the trustees are members of the SCIO.

# TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The charity trustees who hold regular meetings, communicate with each other regularly and generally control the activities of The Cumnock Tryst. The charity trustees are referred to collectively as the "Board."

The members, who have the right to attend members' meetings including AGMs. The members and the trustees are one and the same.



#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CUMNOCK TRYST

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeks explanations from the 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 financial statements.

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (i) 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 financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

have not been met or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Dated: 3 December 2024

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:		_	~	_	~	~	_
Donations and legacies	2	9,498	2,400	11,898	21,819	131	21,950
Charitable activities	3	314,414	20,000	334,414	153,115	126,062	279,177
Investments	4	6,847	-	6,847	2,721	-	2,721
Total income		330,759	22,400	353,159	177,655	126,193	303,848
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	351,506	31,687	383,193	92,364	161,504	253,868
Net (expenditure)/inco the year/ Net movement in fund		(20,747)	(9,287)	(30,034)	85,291	(35,311)	49,980
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		114,024	10,000	124,024	28,733	45,311	74,044
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		93,277	713	93,990	114,024	10,000	124,024

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# **BALANCE SHEET**

### **AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	5,783		26,553	
Cash at bank and in hand		102,656		109,826	
		108,439		136,379	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(14,449)		(12,355)	
one year	10	(14,440)		(12,000)	
Net current assets			93,990		124,024
Income funds					
Restricted funds	11		713		10,000
Unrestricted funds			93,277		114,024
			93,990		124,024

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 3 December 2024

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Constitution, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donated services are included at the value to the charity where this can be measured reliably. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

#### 1.3 Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### 1.4 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on income and capital gains. Donations to the charity attract income tax relief for the donors. As the charity is not registered for value added tax such tax is not recoverable and is accordingly included in the expenditure.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Donations and legacies	2	Donations	and	legacies
--------------------------	---	-----------	-----	----------

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	7,966	2,400	10,366	18,303	131	18,434
Legacies receivable	1,532	-	1,532	3,516	-	3,516
	9,498	2,400	11,898	21,819	131	21,950

#### 3 Charitable activities

	The Cumnock Tryst 2024	The Cumnock Tryst 2023
	£	£
Admissions	101,008	78,075
Grants Sponsorship	230,906 2,500	197,402 3,700
	334,414	279,177 ———
Analysis by fund Unrestricted funds	314,414	153,115
Restricted funds	20,000	126,062
	334,414	279,177

#### 4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024 £	2023 £
Interest receivable	6,847	2,721

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 5 Charitable activities

						The Cumnock Tryst 2024 £	The Cumnock Tryst 2023 £
	Staff costs					94,136	85,749
	Insurance					2,910	2,823
	Postage and stationery					14,971	7,854
	Sundries					29,135	5,526
	Artists costs					134,316	113,576
	Event costs					74,372	10,742
	Press manager/PR Consultan	t				10,972	10,862
	Marketing manager/consultan					10,398	8,662
	Producer					1,120	411
	Travel and accommodation					1,039	615
	Marketing and design					1,680	3,131
	Advertising					761	682
						375,810	250,633
	Share of governance costs (s	ee note 6)				7,383	3,235
						383,193	253,868
	Analysis by fund Unrestricted funds					351,506	92,364
	Restricted funds					31,687	161,504
						383,193	253,868
6	Support costs						
·	Support costs	Support Go costs	vernance costs	<b>2024</b> Sup	port costs (	Governance costs	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Independent Examination	_	990	990	_	1,020	1,020
	Legal and professional	-	6,393	6,393	-	2,215	2,215
		-	7,383	7,383		3,235	3,235
	Analysed between Charitable activities		7,383	7,383		3,235	3,235
							<u> </u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year. No trustees were reimbursed expenses in the year.

#### 8 Employees

9

10

Number (	of en	/olan	ees/
----------	-------	-------	------

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	2024 Number	2023 Number
Production	2	2
Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs	87,026 4,499 2,611 ———————————————————————————————————	79,467 3,898 2,384 ——— 85,749
There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.  Debtors		
Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors Prepayments and accrued income	32 5,751 —— 5,783	26,553 ———————————————————————————————————
	====	====
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security Other creditors Accruals and deferred income	2,324 6,055 6,070 ———————————————————————————————————	2,265 4,020 6,070 ———————————————————————————————————

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 11 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended 31	Balance at March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trinity College Composition Projects	4,825	_	(4,825)	_	_	_	_
Chamber Music Scotland	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	_	_	_
East Ayrshire Council Hall opening	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	_
SCOPS Community Opera	3,059	20,000	(23,059)		-	-	_
Fieldstead Trust	2,500		(2,500)	-	-	-	-
CCLP	· -	39,410	(39,410)	-	-	_	_
Genesis Kick Start	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	_	_
Fieldstead	13,927	49,522	(63,449)	-	-	-	-
Donations Compositions	-	131	(131)	-	-	-	-
Museum & Galleries Scotland	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-	-
Tryst Endowment	-	2,130	(2,130)	-	-	-	-
Fieldstead Coalfields	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-	-
Festival Service & St Mary's Cathedral Choir- Columba Trust	-	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
	-	-	-	-	2,400	(2,400)	-
	-	-	-	-	5,000	(4,287)	713
Coalfields McGlashan	-	-	-	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
	45,311	126,193	(161,504)	10,000	22,400	(31,687)	713

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	93,277	713	93,990	114,024	10,000	124,024
	93,277	713	93,990	114,024	10,000	124,024

#### 13 Related party transactions

#### **Transactions with related parties**

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

There were donations received during the period from related parties without conditions amounting to £nil (31 March 2023 - £2,130) in aggregate.