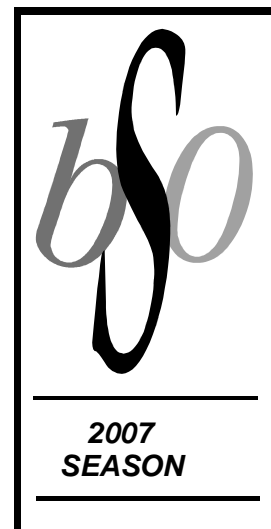


BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity N°	1077033		
Registered Address	12 Glendale Drive, Bolton , BL3 4PD		
Governing Document	Constitution adopted 10.03.99 as amended 14.07.99		
Trustees	R.Aston E.Williams L.Fisher	L.Fisher P.Witkiewicz M.Jones	D.Greenhalgh C.Baxendale L.Threadgold
Bankers	Lloyds TSB		
Auditor	Ronald A. Lowe ACMA		



Trustees' Annual Report - 2007 Concert Season

Aims and Organisation

The objectives of the Bolton Symphony Orchestra are to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects including, but not limited to, the presentation of public concerts by the Orchestra or any ensemble constituted from its membership.

Voting members of the Orchestra are those who pay the annual subscription, and day to day running is in the hands of a Committee consisting of officers elected from the membership.

The aims of the organisation are achieved by means of six or seven concerts annually, open to the general public and in some cases preceded by talks given by the musical director or others.

There have been no major changes in either aims or organisation of the charity during the 2007 season.

Review of Progress and Achievements

Artistic

With the imaginative programming of Musical Director Bob Chasey, 2007 demonstrated yet again the Orchestra's ability to stage the very best in symphonic repertoire. As usual the season started with the New Year concert, moving to the Victoria Hall for the first time. Financially this was a great success and the new venue was able to attract a larger audience for this firm fixture in Bolton's cultural calendar.

For our March concert we staged a *Night of Mystical, Magical Music*, a concert based around witchcraft. In order to bring a further dimension to this, we engaged Shonaleigh, a professional story teller. There was an element of apprehension about this but both audience and members of the Orchestra were spellbound as Shonaleigh journeyed into a wonderful magical musical world, and we look forward to working with her again. Orchestra member were suitably dressed for the occasion with an interesting contribution from our Artistic Director.

The music of Richard Strauss is repertoire that the Orchestra has not performed greatly, so our May concert was greatly anticipated particularly as we were to be joined not only by one soloist but also by two others from the orchestra. The horn player Bob Ashworth, principal horn with the Opera North Orchestra was outstanding in *Strauss' 1st Horn Concerto* and Lynn Threadgold and Emma Cunliffe our own principal clarinettist and bassoonist performed wonderfully in the rarely heard *Duet Concertino*. Each half of the performance began with two impressive fanfares for brass performed by our own excellent orchestral brass section and the whole concert ended with a

stunning rendition of *Dance of the Seven Veils* from Strauss' epic Opera Salome. This was a wonderful performance and, not surprisingly, will be one of the items on our forthcoming CD.

The year 2007 was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Edward Elgar and what better way to celebrate than to perform two of his greatest works. Once again we were joined by the Bolton based mezzo soprano Helen Francis in Elgar's ever popular Sea Pictures. This is a piece that Helen has performed with the Orchestra before and it is always a pleasure to work with such an accomplished interpreter of this majestic work. The remaining programme was given over to a performance of the mighty 1st symphony - not always the most technically demanding but its challenge comes in the ensemble playing.

Musical Director Bob Chasey had been keen for some time to perform a work by Bruckner and for our September event we finally got the opportunity in a stunning performance of his 4th symphony, the '*Romantic*'. Due to its length it was decided to perform this work with a short break between the first and second movements.

Our final concert for 2007 was '*A Return to St Petersburg*' with Peter Dixon making a welcome return to perform with the Orchestra in the exceptionally difficult second cello concerto by Kabalevsky. The second half of the concert saw a scintillating performance of Shostakovich' 10th *Symphony*. This is one of the most challenging works that the orchestra has performed, particularly for the wind section.

Community partnership

We have had many fruitful partnerships with other organisations and it was with great pleasure that we were able to stage our March event with the Bolton Hospice. This was the second time we had worked with the Hospice and the event raised nearly £4000 for this worthwhile cause. In addition to this, we also welcomed the North West Elgar Society who kindly gave an excellent pre-concert talk as part of our July concert.

Governance

The Orchestra's committee continues to meet its constitutional obligations and section coordinators continue to be a vital aspect of our organisation in ensuring that each event is fully and effectively resourced.

Friends Association

The Friends association continued their excellent work on behalf of the orchestra with financial and front of house support being an essential part of our ongoing success. A new venue was found for Friends events when a concert was organised at the Howarth Art Gallery in Accrington. This proved to be an excellent setting and the concert incorporated a talk on the Tiffany glass collection prior to the performance.

Sponsorship

2007 proved a successful year for commercial sponsorship. Thanks go to Booths Music who celebrated their 175th anniversary at our July concert, Whittakers department store for sponsoring the Hospice event in March and special thanks go to Phil Turner of Nexus for sponsoring Peter Dixon our soloist in the November concert and Pete Cunliffe of Fieldings Porter for sponsorship of our soloist at the May concert.

Audience

Particularly good attendances were in evidence for the New Year, Hospice and Elgar events. Publicity for our concerts continues to be centred around the BSO brochure and inclusion in the Albert Halls What's on Guide. Some success has been achieved with the Bolton News but not as much as would be liked in order to maintain the profile of the Orchestra within the town.

Review of Financial Activities

The accounts have been examined by Ronald A. Lowe ACMA and found to be satisfactory and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2007 are in accordance with the books and records maintained for the year.

Net worth of the Orchestra at 31 December was £9,870 as indicated on the balance sheet.

The Operating Surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £603 as indicated on the statement of income and expenditure.

Box Office income at £8,643 was lower than 2006 but more in line with a normal season – the previous year had included the extraordinary Peter Donohoe concert.

Total sponsorship & grant income including tax refunds was £1,516 – again lower due to the ‘Donohoe effect’ during the previous year. Financial backing during 2007 came from Fieldings Porter (£250), Nexus Solicitors (£400) and Booth’s Music (£350).

Income from subscriptions totalled £1,900. As a result of the Orchestra’s charitable status we were also able to reclaim £368 of tax paid on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme.

Expenses were generally in line with previous years.

Net worth of the Orchestra at 31 December was £9,267 as indicated on the balance sheet.

The Operating Surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £3,228 and more than compensates for shortfalls recorded in 2004 and 2005.

Box Office income at £9,285 was considerably higher than the previous year, due mainly to full houses and increased ticket prices for both the Peter Donohoe and NSPCC concerts. In addition the final Sinfonietta concert at the Arts Centre was very well supported.

Total sponsorship & grant income including tax refunds was £3,896 – a considerable increase on the year before. The Donohoe concert in particular received generous financial backing from the Friends of BSO, The National Grid, Bolton Arts Forum and Harker & Howarth. We were also pleased to receive £250 from Fieldings Porter as sponsorship of the soloist at the May concert.

Following the increase in subscription rates income from this source totalled £1,740. As a result of the Orchestra’s charitable status we were also able to reclaim £446 of tax paid on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme.

Expenses were generally in line with previous years, the exceptions being the additional cost of soloists (principally Peter Donohoe) and the payment to the NSPCC from the proceeds of the charity concert.

No immediate cash crises are foreseen for the year 2008 and once again the artistic ambitions of the MD and Orchestra need not be too constrained by financial considerations.

In summary, Orchestra finances are sound, artistic management is in good hands and there is a supporting committee structure in place which will enable BSO meet its objectives as set out in its constitution.



Robert Aston
Chairman
October 2008