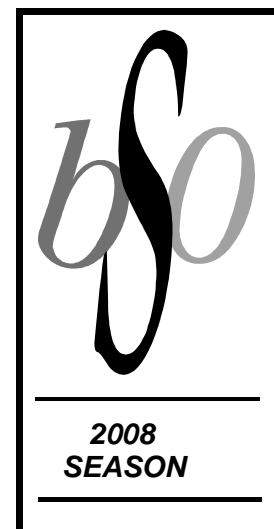


BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Trustees' Annual Report - 2008 Concert Season

Reference Details

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	Les Fisher	D.Greenhalgh
	L.Threadgold	P.Witkiewicz	C.Baxendale
	Lyn Fisher	M.Jones	E.Williams
Administrator	David Greenhalgh		
Bankers	Lloyds TSB,	Hotel Street, Bolton	
Auditor/Independent Examiner	Ronald A. Lowe ACMA, 252 Portland Street, Southport		

Governance and Management

The Governing Document which underpins the operation of the Orchestra as a Registered Charity is the Constitution adopted 10th March 1999 and subsequently amended 14th April 1999.

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, who are also Trustees of the Charity.

Trustees have been made aware of their duties and responsibilities as detailed in document CC3 published by the Charity Commission and new Trustees may be appointed by the Committee from within the membership as required. Induction of new trustees will include communication of an awareness of their duties and responsibilities.

There have been no major changes in the organisation of the charity during the 2008 season.

Risk management has been carried out by means of an assessment and compilation of a risk register. Principal risks for which contingency plans are in place include:

- Loss of conductor, soloist or venue
- Loss of principal officers including administrator and treasurer
- Financial risk of insolvency

Objectives and Activities

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.

The aims of the organisation are achieved by means of a number of concerts each season, open to the general public and in some cases preceded by talks given by the musical director or others.

Achievements and Performance

There have been no changes in the aims of the charity during the 2008 season and these have been achieved by means of five public performances and the recording of a CD which will be available to the public in 2009. Further details are given below.

The New Year concert, as always, started the year and probably for the only time ever the Orchestra played a piece of music that had 'pigeon' in the title - truly a unique occurrence!

The February concert featured an all English programme but unfortunately at short notice our Musical Director had to withdraw due to family difficulties. Paul Witkeiwicz kindly agreed to step up to the mark and conduct the concert - a particularly brave gesture given the nature of the programme. The Bowen Viola concerto is a little known work and it is believed that we were the first amateur orchestra to perform it. It is also very long being some 35 minutes in duration and much credit is due to Paul for learning the piece so quickly. Thanks also go to our soloist Steve Burnard for his patience, support and above all outstanding playing. This concert also saw the world premiere of a concert overture for full orchestra by Ivor Hodgson commissioned by the BSO. Catsye Cam, a mountain in the Lake District was the subject of the commission and the performance was conducted by the composer. The work was well received not only by the audience but also all the players involved.

The Russian Connections concert in May should have been a straightforward event but our second challenge of the year occurred when the advertised trumpet soloist Jamie Prophet was unable to play due to problems with his lip. Bob Chasey's excellent network of musical contacts soon came to the rescue and we were delighted to be joined by the young flautist Helen Wilson in a performance of the Khachaturian flute concerto, a transcription of his original work for violin and orchestra. Helen, a student at the RNCM in Manchester and a pupil of Richard Davis, gave a stunning performance. Her technique and musicality are world class and she is surely a name to watch out for in the future.

For the summer concert in July the Orchestra staged a 'Spanish Nights' programme. The original intention had been to perform with Bolton's very own international guitarist Neil Smith and negotiations to set up the event had been going on for over eighteen months. Everything had gone well up until the Friday evening rehearsal, when it became apparent that Neil was struggling to play. At the Saturday dress rehearsal he appeared clearly very upset by an ongoing medical condition and was unable to play in the concert. Fortunately Neil had already been in contact with the professor of Guitar at the RNCM who, although being unable to perform in the concert himself, had an ex-student who had recently performed our planned guitar concerto. Rory Russell was duly contacted and at extremely short notice was available and willing to perform. After all this difficulty the concert was a great success and Rory was able to perform the twenty minute solo recital that had been originally planned.

September saw the final public performance of the year by the Orchestra. We were joined by the trombonist Robert Holliday making a welcome return to perform the rarely heard Grondhal concerto. The programme also included the delightful third symphony of Sibelius and a performance of the beautiful Svendsen 'Romance' by our leader Helen Brackley Jones.

Due to difficulties in obtaining a concert venue for the end of the 2008 season, the opportunity was taken to use this space in our concert year to record a CD. The idea had been in discussion for some time and Studio 7 at the BBC in Manchester was duly booked and a programme of pieces chosen. Following a number of rehearsals recording was completed during the course of a single day and resulted in a professionally produced CD which will be available for sale during 2009.

As previously mentioned, the orchestra had commissioned its first work the subject of which was 'Catsye Cam', a mountain adjacent to Helvellyn in the Lake District. In order to commemorate the commission a trip was arranged by a hardy group of musicians to climb this majestic peak and on a wind swept and soggy Sunday in August four intrepid climbers ventured forth for a very damp day. Sadly Ivor Hodgson was unable to join the party but to compensate for his lack of attendance a picture of him was used for a photo opportunity at the top of the peak. He was at least there in spirit!

The Friends association continued their excellent work on behalf of the orchestra with financial and front of house support essential to our ongoing success. A number of events were staged, all being well received.

Attendance figures are a key measure by which achievements of our objectives can be assessed and these have still managed to be maintained with a particularly good audience for the traditional New Year concert and a full house being achieved for the Spanish Nights concert in July. Publicity continues to be centred around the BSO brochure and inclusion in the Albert Halls What's on Guide.

Financial Review

The accounts have been prepared using the accruals method and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP). They have been examined by Ronald A. Lowe ACMA and found to be satisfactory and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2008 are in accordance with the books and records maintained for the year.

Net worth of the Orchestra at 31 December was £8,911 as indicated on the balance sheet. This is comfortably within the level of approximately one third of annual running costs which has been adopted as a reasonable and practical level of reserve to be held by the organisation.

The Operating Deficit of expenditure over income for the year was £959 as indicated on the statement of income and expenditure.

In line with previous years principle sources of funding have been box office income, sponsorship and subscriptions payable by members.

Box Office income at £8,296 was generally in line with a normal season.

Total sponsorship & grant income including tax refunds at £1,943 was higher than the previous year, thanks mainly to support from the *Friends of BSO*.

Income from subscriptions totalled £1,650. As a result of the Orchestra's charitable status we were also able to reclaim £443 of tax paid on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme.

Expenses during the year have been incurred exclusively to support the objectives of the Charity ie: to enable the successful staging of five public performances by the Orchestra. Most expenses were generally in line with previous years although there was a significant increase in music hire costs, possibly due to the choice of programming.

No immediate cash crises are foreseen for the year 2009 and the overall financial position of the Orchestra remains in good shape. Although the planned concert at the Bridgewater Hall in November 2009 will place short term pressure on cashflow, a reasonably sized audience should ensure that the event approaches break-even. Sales of the CD recorded in November will also contribute to the income stream for the coming year.

Future Planning

2008 demonstrated our resilience as an arts organisation, with a number of significant challenges effectively managed. The orchestra has placed itself in a strong position having had the foresight to prepare artistically, organisationally and financially for a challenging year ahead, with particular emphasis on the 'Bolton at the Bridgewater' event in November 2009 which will be undertaken along with five other public performances during the year to further the objectives of the Organisation. Plans are also being developed for the concert programmes for 2010 and 2011.

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 to meet its objectives as set out in its constitution.



Robert Aston, Chairman

October 2009