

A photograph of an orchestra performing in a grand, ornate hall. The musicians are seated and playing various instruments, including violins, violas, cellos, and a harp. The conductor is standing on the right, facing the orchestra. The background features intricate architectural details, including arches and floral patterns on the walls. The lighting is warm and focused on the performers.

Annual Report 2023

Talent. Impact.

Last year, Manchester Camerata celebrated 50 years of making a difference. It is a journey that has seen us evolve into one of the most innovative and respected orchestras in the UK. Thank you to our friends and supporters who have helped us get this far.

That milestone was important to our audiences, musicians, staff and supporters. There is much that we have achieved that is a source of pride. We wanted to pause to recognise that, with programming throughout the year that provided a fitting focus for our celebrations.

In 2022-23, as well as looking back, the Board has also been looking forward. Our focus has been on ensuring we have a clear strategic vision and plan that sets out our long-term objectives and the policies and procedures in place to deliver them. We are also creating the foundations for our next half a century. That future legacy will be built through

capturing and telling new stories that have relevance and meaning for today's audiences.

That is because in another 50 years time we want Manchester Camerata to be continuing to nurture innovative talent and create meaningful human connections for everyone. That demands an approach to sustainability that goes beyond short-term funding cycles and immediate pressures caused by the current cost of living crisis. Instead, we are adopting a strategic approach that considers the longer-term threats to sustainability, not just for ourselves but for the performing arts sector in general.

This thinking led to the identification of nurturing talent as one of the vital building blocks required to support our long-term ambitions. We are starting by putting those values into action within our own organisation, this year implementing a significant pay rise for our freelance musicians. In the longer term, our exciting new Manchester Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowships

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We are moving from celebrating our past to creating the foundations for a new legacy. That future legacy will be built through capturing and telling new stories that have relevance and meaning for today's audiences.

are set to provide a range of structured pathways to support young musicians as they develop their craft and embark on fulfilling careers within the sector.

We know the talent pipeline is under threat. This is our response. To fulfil its mission, Manchester Camerata should not and will not stand still. That means translating our words into action and challenging the way we think and the way we work. It is only by operating on the edge of what is comfortable that we learn and define new possibilities for the role of music in driving change.

This year has been no exception. We have delivered large-scale and experimental works in the UK and undertaken our first commercial tour to Saudi Arabia. These projects were very different, and each brought a different set of challenges. But it is through challenge that we learn - as a board, as a management team, and as musicians. And always, what sits at the core of our decision making, is a strong set of values and principles that underpin everything that we do. Those values will continue to shape the way we work.

I would like to thank our musicians, staff, and fellow board members for playing their part in delivering another year of excellence and impact. Together we will continue to innovate, support talent, and open up access so that the lives of audiences are elevated and enhanced.

Steve Dauncey, Chair

Legacy.

Our strategy 2022-2026

Manchester Camerata's strategy focuses not just on what we do, but how we work, drawing connections between the quality of our craft and the impact that we are seeking to achieve.

Foundations

We will be an exceptionally well-run organisation with solid foundations of funding and governance in place to support transformational change.

Talent

We do things brilliantly. Everything starts with the quality of our musicians, and we must value, nourish, and support them. Manchester Camerata is committed to being a best-in-class employer of musicians.

All our Concerts and Community programmes are aligned with these key strategic aims. Our Communications and Fundraising strategies support them. In combination, these three themes will build the reputation of the organisation as an acknowledged global thought leader when it comes to the transformative role culture can play in society.

Innovation

We do things differently. We will be bold in identifying new ways of working and new ways to reach audiences in Greater Manchester and beyond.

Impact

Manchester Camerata exists to make a difference. We believe music changes the lives of people and the prospects of places. Part of our mission is not just to say this but to prove it

Our impact 2022-2023

Musicians

33 Freelance members **200** Deputies

Audiences

62k reached live **857K** reached digitally

Community

Over 8,000

people reached through our community programmes
e.g. in schools and for people living with dementia and their carers

Turnover

£2.16 million

Concerts

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In 2022-23, we have seen many examples of the way that our concerts can engage and inspire - from the streets of Gorton to the stages of world-class concert halls.



Manchester Camerata is dedicated to achieving excellence in every aspect of performance. Every time we step onto a stage or into a community venue, our talented musicians strive to deliver truly world-class music that connects with and inspires audiences.

This year the organisation welcomed back Samantha McShane as its new Creative Director. Sam, who was previously Manchester Camerata's Head of Creative Programming, returned to the organisation following 6 successful years as Head of Artistic Planning at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She will be working to support our orchestra and musicians to deliver performances that span the local, national, and international whilst setting new standards in quality.

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We also continued to seek out innovative collaborations and connect with new audiences and different musical and cultural traditions, for instance performing the world premiere of a symphonic interpretation of Allama Muhammed Iqbal's legendary Urdu poem, Shikwa, at the Bradford Literature Festival.

We are also nearing the culmination of our ambitious project to record all of the Mozart Piano Concertos,

a project that has gained widespread critical acclaim and connected with audiences across the world.

Our performers have also been taking the name and the music of Manchester Camerata onto the world stage, through our international touring schedule. A key highlight was our tour of the Baltics with our Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy and Jean-Efflam Bavouzet delivering a series of five concerts that inspired audiences and musicians alike.

Looking forward »»

As we move into 2023-24, Manchester Camerata will be unwavering in its commitment to supporting talent, and relentless in its pursuit of excellence. The organisation will continue to unlock new creativity by connecting with audiences, cultures, and musical traditions that inspire and challenge us as performers. This is part of our ongoing commitment to work with humanity, originality, excellence, and fearlessness, and to constantly redefine what an orchestra can do.

Artistic Partners:

Daniel Piore – New for 23/24
Jess Gillam
Rushil Ranjan – New for 23/24
AMC Gospel Choir
Kantos – New for 23/24

Community

Manchester Camerata exists to make a difference. We believe that orchestras and music are for everyone, enhancing people's lives and delivering positive change for places.

This year, we continued to use music to give voice to people in diverse community settings. Our Music Cafés provided support and connection for people living with dementia and their carers, continuing to show a tangible impact on the lives of people. During the year, the difference we are making was showcased in a major BBC documentary, that charted the experiences of participants and performers. To enhance the lives of more people this year, a new company, Music in Mind Remote, was founded by Manchester Camerata and The University of Manchester. This new enterprise will expand the reach of Music in Mind, providing resources and support to professionals who wish to use music in community and care settings.

Music in Mind continues to expand, both in terms of the number of people benefitting and an increase in the number of music therapists engaged and supported by the programme.

Alongside our sector-leading work on dementia, Manchester Camerata has also continued to find new ways to bring music into the lives of local communities across Greater Manchester. This work is guided by our Social Impact Plan which sets a framework for us to consult with local communities to create experiences and programmes that are embedded in place.

In 2022-23, our focus has been on Rochdale, Wigan, Oldham, and Manchester. One major highlight of 2022 was The People Make the Place. This high-quality celebratory event pulled together the entire Gorton community, including local schools, youth clubs, a community choir, and participants from our dementia Music Cafés. Working together, they wrote and performed their own songs to an at-capacity audience, accompanied by our world-class orchestra in The Great Nave in Gorton's Monastery.

This work demonstrates the very real difference that music can make to the lives of people and the prospects of places. We also know that the quality and craft of our musicians is enhanced through forming close connections with audiences in diverse settings. Those are qualities that then enable them to excel on the stages of famous concert halls.



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Looking forward ☺

As we move into next year, we are expanding our team with the appointment of a new Senior Project Manager to work alongside our Head of Communities. This will enable us to expand our reach and continue to deliver social impact through actively engaging with and listening to our communities. Leading to new collaborations and unlocking new creativity. We know that not everything we do will succeed, but that is the nature of an organisation that takes risks and pushes itself to operate in ways that others do not. With humanity, originality, excellence, and fearlessness, we will continue to use music to connect with people and places beyond the concert hall.

Fundraising

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Our fundraising work has been instrumental in helping the organisation achieve a secure financial position that will provide a base for delivering impact.



Manchester Camerata can only deliver the impact that it achieves through a combination of commercial income and philanthropic contributions.

In 2022-23, we began to see positive results from our work in the previous year to develop and implement a more strategic approach to our fundraising to support the board's aspiration to consolidate our strong position and achieve long-term sustainability.

The operating environment in 2022-23 was challenging, as the cost of living crisis impacted donors and meant that there were competing demands on major philanthropic trusts and funders. We are honoured that our donors have remained so committed – and in fact that some have chosen to increase their giving.

In line with our wider strategic and charitable objectives, one major area of focus has been securing sustainable funding for our plans to develop a sustainable pipeline of future talent. Advanced discussions have taken place with donors to support our Manchester Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowships which will provide structured pathways to support young musicians as they develop their craft. More established musicians will be supported too, for instance in 2022 we secured multi-year chair sponsorship for our principal cellist from Ron and Jill Robinson.

All of our fundraising activity is underpinned by collaboration, with staff working closely alongside our donors to fully understand their motivations

and requirements. In Autumn 2022 we undertook an in-depth philanthropic consultation with our donors locally and internationally, in support of this aim.

The learning generated by this consultation will ultimately lead to the production and implementation of an endowment fundraising strategy. We are in the process of consulting internally and externally on the content of that strategy and exploring the potential for a future campaign.

Looking forward »»

With a strategy in place and a pipeline of major donations, our fundraising work has been instrumental in helping the organisation achieve a secure financial position that will provide a base for delivering impact. In 2022-23, combined with commercial income, our revenue topped £2 million for the first time.

We have also started the process of registering with the Fundraising Regulator to demonstrate our commitment to operating in a legal, open, honest, and respectful way that gives our donors the reassurance that they deserve. Thanks to the skills of our team, the close relationships we have with funders, and the clarity of our vision and purpose we go into 2023-24 with confidence that the strategy we have implemented will come to fruition in the coming year.

Communications



To have the biggest impact, and to change the most lives, Manchester Camerata must tell its story to the world. We believe music is for everyone. That means we need to connect not just with existing audiences, but also take our message wider to reach those beyond traditional classical music fans.

In 2022, we successfully achieved this, with stories that cut across to a mainstream audience. This not only builds the profile and reputation of Manchester Camerata itself but also helps to provoke and lead a wider debate about the positive power that music has to change lives.

Earlier in the year, a BBC One documentary charted the experiences of people affected by dementia who are supported by our Music in Mind programme. This highlighted

the way that our community work is connecting with groups beyond the concert hall and having a measurable impact on their lives.

Dementia was also the theme of our short film *'Untold – Keith'*, which this year was the winner in the Storytelling category at the prestigious annual Royal Philharmonic Society Awards.

This, the second short film in our *Untold* series, tells the story of Keith, who lives with young-onset dementia. It provides a very personal account of how dementia affects the everyday lives of him and his wife Joan, and how music provides light in difficult times.

In print media too, the Manchester Camerata story was heard, with *The Times* turning the spotlight on Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy. The interview covers Gábor's career as well as his transition from playing the violin to conducting.

Each of these stories is very different. However, the common thread is that they all provide tangible examples of the way that music can enhance and elevate lives.

Looking forward »

As we move into next year, Manchester Camerata will continue to find new ways to shape and share the stories of what we do and the people that we do it for. With a clear and comprehensive communications strategy in place that has digital connection at its heart and expanding our team to build our capacity in digital storytelling, we will continue to inform, challenge, and provoke debate.

We will uncover and share stories that are not always heard and use our platform to lead the sector in challenging preconceptions of what an orchestra can do and the difference that world-class music can make in people's lives.



Governance



All of Manchester Camerata's work starts with a strong foundation of strong corporate governance. In the reporting period, we continued to strengthen our governance and internal systems to ensure that our Board of Directors can maintain a clear strategic overview of Manchester Camerata's work.

This included a comprehensive review of our five-year strategic plan and work to revise our vision and values as well as a Statutory Review and the subsequent revision of our Memorandum and Articles of Association. We also strengthened a number of our internal processes, improving our data management systems to capture better information about our audiences and the impact we are achieving and implementing new financial systems for the organisation.

We undertook a strategic review of the Board's skillset and diversity, identifying gaps and recruiting to fill them. This process resulted in welcoming four new members to our board, bringing new experiences, skills, and perspectives that will support our work enhancing and elevating lives through world-class music. Kate Green will take a board lead on supporting our Social Impact Plan, Simon Pedley will bring legal knowledge, and other new members bring extensive networks and fundraising expertise.

2022 also witnessed the birth of a new spin-out company, Music in Mind Remote. Founded in partnership with The University of Manchester, the

new business will develop digital tools to broaden the impact of our work focused on people living with dementia and their carers. In the longer term, this new venture will generate revenues that will help support the wider impact of Manchester Camerata.

One of the board's core responsibilities is ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation. Many of our discussions and actions throughout the previous 12 months have been focused on supporting this aspiration. These have included uplifting the pay of our freelance musicians to support a pipeline of talent and making key strategic decisions that drive commercial revenue whilst respecting the organisation's core purpose. It is by taking this long-term view that the board is building a foundation that will support the next 50 years of impact.

Looking forward »

As we move into 2023-24, the board will maintain its focus on driving Manchester Camerata's strategy forward. It is the board that is responsible for maintaining a clear vision and purpose for the organisation and ensuring that we operate in a way that reflects our core values.

It will continue to challenge the organisation to be bold and ambitious for its audiences, its musicians, and the communities where it works.

Looking back

2022-23 was a year where Manchester Camerata looked back and looked forward. As we celebrated 50 years of working in the city, we also sought out and embraced new opportunities, forming new collaborations, and taking our music into the lives of more people than ever before.

This is who we are and what we do. As an orchestra, seeking out the new is what defines us and what maintains our relevance to the audiences and communities that we perform with and for. It is a journey that will never stop – as we constantly redefine what an orchestra is and explore the very edges of the change it can deliver.

To support us on that journey we need solid foundations – of governance, funding, and impact. The changes we have made this year are building that base that will allow us to move on from celebrating our past to creating a new legacy.



to move forward

Support our work

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