



London Gypsy Orchestra

**Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st March 2012**

LONDON GYPSY ORCHESTRA

Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012

London Gypsy Orchestra was established by a constitution.

The main address for contact is:

86 Durrington Road

London E5 0HS

During April 2011 – March 2012, the committee members were:

- Anne Malcolm Chair
- Catherine Taylor Secretary
- Rose Chacko Treasurer
- Antonio Riva
- Joanne Murray
- Tom Smith Co-Treasurer until 31.12.11
- Nina Muller Co-Treasurer until 31.12.11
- Clare Southworth Co-Treasurer until 31.12.11
- Katherine Henderson
- Joseph Pogadl
- Ursula Donnelly

Staff:

Gundula Gruen is employed as the LGO's Musical Director. Much work is carried out voluntarily by trustees, members and interns, but some of the essential tasks in the ongoing running of the orchestra are now carried out by part-time staff, e.g. book-keeping.

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Objects:

1. To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education and appreciation in music, arts and culture, particularly, but not exclusively, in relation to Gypsy and folk music from Eastern Europe and the Balkans.
2. To advance public education in music and musical skills and to inspire participation in and appreciation of the art of music.
3. To advance public education in the arts and musical traditions of different cultures.
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit, in particular by:
 - a) Providing or supporting music and creative arts projects which foster integration and skill sharing between people from diverse backgrounds.
 - b) Educating the public about different peoples and cultures, especially through music and arts, to increase awareness and understanding.

The LGO meets its objectives through:

- Running the orchestra and its weekly rehearsals
- Organising participatory and educational events and performances for the public
- Giving public performances at external events, venues and festivals.

Our activities and achievements this year to meet these objectives, are detailed as follows:

Orchestra and weekly rehearsals:

Rehearsals are held every week in term-time, so throughout the year members have been learning repertoire, developing their instrumental and group-playing skills and musicality, and learning Gypsy and Eastern European musical and playing styles, and their cultural context.

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Expressiveness and communication in playing, which is very important in Gypsy music, continues to be emphasised, as well as the discipline of playing cohesively and sensitively in a large group while conveying the music's energy.

This year, as well as revising and improving the existing repertoire, we have added several new pieces, including two challenging new compositions, based on Gypsy tunes but written and arranged specially for the orchestra by the musical director, which we successfully completed and performed. One of these, *The Young People's Guide to the London Gypsy Orchestra*, is a fun educational piece, which highlights all the individual instruments of the orchestra in turn, with their characteristics and roles within the orchestra.

We have increased the frequency of section rehearsals, and are now spending the first part of most rehearsals on special sessions for specific instrument groups to work on details like phrasing, learning new lines and arrangements etc, to help facilitate the need for both individual/section learning and whole group practice.

Organising participatory and educational events and performances:

The LGO organises a number of events and activities each year, which are designed to educate, involve and inspire the public in appreciation of and participation in music making. At the same time, the LGO promotes Gypsy music and culture in a positive way. Children are especially encouraged, with special family events tailored to them.

These are the events organised and presented by the LGO between April 2011 and March 2012: April 17, 2011: Final event of the Gypsy Exchange project, held at the Notting Hill Arts Club.

This was a celebratory and showcasing event at the end of our Gypsy Exchange project, a project funded by Awards for All, which had been running over the previous months and involved Gypsy music and dance learning sessions, taught directly by Gypsy tutors, as well as Gypsy dance costume making. At this particular event, we demonstrated the dances and tunes taught to us by the Romany Diamonds, and displayed the spectacular Gypsy costumes made. The public, including members of the Gypsy/Roma community, attended this event. Some of those who came were also inspired to join the orchestra and since then have become committed members. Through the Gypsy Exchange project, strong inter-cultural connections were made, with increased confidence and understanding achieved between Gypsy and non-Gypsy participants.

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

October 8, 2011:

Children's Concert, Trinity Centre, Dalston, East London

This was a special concert for children and their families, featuring also a puppet show by

The Marionette are accompanied by music from orchestra members. Young people -babies, toddlers and school age children - had the opportunity to see inspiring live music in an entertaining, informal and friendly setting, which they could freely respond to and engage with.

November 6, 2011:

Gypsy Extravaganza, Union Chapel, Islington, London

This was our big showcase concert of the autumn, giving the public the opportunity to see a performance in an accessible and inspiring setting. The event featured our Gypsy Dance Group performing the dances originally taught to us in the Gypsy Exchange project, and successfully premiered our new self-devised composition based on the tune 'Time'. There

was a good audience of several hundred, allowing us to cover costs and make a surplus.

March 25, 2012:

Music Discovery Day at Cecil Sharp House, Camden

Our annual all-day event at Cecil Sharp House was focused this year on inspiring people to make music. To encourage this, the day featured fun hands-on activities such as:

- workshops making instruments out of easily-available and unorthodox materials such as recyclables and root vegetables
- a musical instrument try-out market, which gave both adults and children the rare opportunity to freely handle and play a wide range of instruments, from the orchestral to the obscure and exotic
- informal jam sessions for anyone to join in, both traditional and experimental
- an Open Mic event which gave many individuals and groups the free opportunity to perform or try out new pieces in front of a generous and supportive audience. There were also two concert performances by the LGO, with children catered for by a special family concert which involved participation and allowed them to move about, dance, respond, and even conduct! We also premiered our fun educational composition, The Young People's Guide to the London Gypsy Orchestra.

We continue to involve other art forms wherever possible - for example, our new compositions *Time* and *The Young People's Guide to the London Gypsy Orchestra* both incorporate spoken word/poetry as an integral part of the compositions. For the children's concert in October, we worked with the puppeteers to create a show that combined their puppetry with our live music. We work with the Gypsy Dance Group and individual dancers as often as possible, showing the original context and purpose of many of the musical pieces.

Events and activities such as those described earlier, which are accessible and low cost, educational and participatory, are an important part of the LGO's provision. As these events tend not to cover their costs, they are dependent on external funding. Therefore an important focus for LGO staff and interns is working on funding applications, so that we can deliver more of these projects. This has successfully been achieved for autumn 2012 with Awards for All projects funding application that was prepared in 2011/2012.

Performances at external events, venues and festivals:

The LGO also gets invited to perform at various venues, events and festivals - as well as being an opportunity to bring the music and culture to a wider audience; this is also a source of revenue for the orchestra.

The LGO's Gypsy Dance Group continues to be popular with both audiences and LGO members, and provides new avenues and audiences for the LGO, opening up opportunities not only at musical events but also dance events. This year the Gypsy Dance Group was invited to perform at *Dance Around the World* at Cecil Sharp House in October 2011 (at which they also presented a workshop which was very well attended), and the Harrow Dance Festival in March 2012. At both events they performed to live music from members of the LGO.

The LGO also performed at the Bedford Corn Exchange in February 2012 where they presented the *Gypsy Extravaganza* show, featuring the Gypsy Dance Group. This was very well received and events like this help to spread positive images of Gypsy culture outside London and in the Home Counties, where it is often most needed.

In general however, bookings from festivals and venues are down, due to the recession affecting promoters' budgets and audiences. We try to obtain bookings by actively approaching venues, and having the *Gypsy Extravaganza* show to promote increases our potential appeal.

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

2. How our Activities Have Delivered Public Benefit

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular when recommending levels for membership subscriptions, considering admission prices and accessibility to activities and performances, and ensuring provision of educational and participatory activities.

Who has benefited from our activities this year:

Members of the orchestra: Membership of the orchestra is open to all, of any cultural or musical background, the only requirement being an adequate level of skill on their instrument (or an active effort to reach that standard) and the only restriction being on space available in the orchestra. An average of 45 members are actively involved in the orchestra at any time, and over a year, 55+ people are active as a member during that time. Current members include a wide variety of people - from students to retirees, working people and unemployed. Membership fees have been kept at a very affordable level (£55 employed, £40 concessions, £30 SOAS students/staff, per term), with alternative arrangements available for those with limited means; several members have arranged to pay in instalments or opted to do work for the LGO in lieu of fees.

The general public: Our events and activities, as described earlier, are designed to be as accessible as possible to the public - in pricing, location etc - and include participatory learning aspects such as workshops and joining-in opportunities, in order to actively involve the public and inspire them to make music. Many events have been low cost or free to attend, and all prices kept at accessible levels, with concessions always available, including low prices for children. Those who attended our events this year included many family groups, members of the Gypsy/Roma/Traveller community, Eastern European nationals and recent immigrants, individuals with an interest in world music, and general members of the public who might not otherwise have known about the LGO or Gypsy/Eastern European music and culture who came to free public events, e.g. the Harrow Dance Festival. Other informal events - e.g. occasional 'busking' and the fundraising day at Whole Foods Market in Stoke Newington - have reached further people and made new connections.

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

How the public has benefited:

Education in music and musical skills, and inspiring appreciation and participation:

The LGO performs accessible music that is skilfully played and arranged, and presented with energy and engagement, which increases the appreciation of music, not only to existing enthusiasts but also to those who are new to orchestral ensembles or music from different cultures. We have continued to receive extensive positive feedback from our concerts and events this year, which confirms the impact of our performances. Both orchestra members and audiences have given feedback not only on their enjoyment and appreciation of the music, but also the positive benefits to themselves, in terms of encouragement, inspiration, stress release and contributing to a positive outlook in life.

As well as orchestra members benefiting from learning and practising music year-round, the public has been able to benefit from events such as the Music Discovery Day and its opportunities to directly try out music making and instruments. Many people who attend our events become interested in joining, or have reported that they have been inspired to take up or return to playing a musical instrument. Several who attended our events over the year have joined the orchestra or are on the waiting list to join in the near future.

Education in the arts and musical traditions of different cultures, and promoting equality and diversity:

Audiences and the public have learnt about Gypsy and Eastern European music and arts through our performances and activities, which have contributed to their interest in and awareness of these cultures. The Gypsy Exchange project, as previously mentioned, was very successful in making connections between Gypsy and non-Gypsy groups. With Gypsy tutors teaching their own culture to non-Gypsies, it increased understanding and trust between the cultures.

Many of the songs we perform are in different dialects of the Roma language, giving this little-understood language more exposure and accessibility, and our Gypsy Dance Group continue to perform the dances taught by the Gypsy tutors -

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

these colourful and exciting dances make a positive and memorable impression on audiences. We have also started working regularly with a dancer of Czech Roma origin who has an ongoing interest in involvement with the LGO, and we hope will continue to contribute to our interpretation and communication of Gypsy culture.

The LGO, in its performances and activities, aims to present Gypsy culture in a positive and respectful way, to help create positive associations in the way Gypsies are perceived, and contribute to awareness, which is necessary for good inter-cultural relations.

3. Structure, governance and management

The LGO is an unincorporated association, governed by our constitution adopted on the 22nd of July 2010 and amended on the 10th of March 2011.

The LGO is managed by a Board of Trustees, who are recruited from LGO members (whether active members or associate members) and are elected by a members' vote at our Annual General Meeting, or any other General Meeting of the orchestra in the case of there being resignations or changes in the interim. As trustees are members of the orchestra, they are fully involved and aware of the week-to-week workings of the orchestra and the implications of decisions.

Trustees have a formal meeting before each term to approve the budget and discuss and agree future plans. Interim matters will be discussed and agreed by e-mail and additional meetings.

Orchestra members are also actively encouraged to offer their ideas and preferences for how rehearsals are run, what they would like the LGO to be doing, and what it should be working towards or focussing on. An important aspect of the LGO's Annual General Meeting is the space for members to give their opinions, feedback and suggestions. Members can also bring up their suggestions at any time in weekly rehearsal meetings or directly with the Musical Director.

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its results for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Charities SORP and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Review and Results

The Trustees report a small loss of £(598) on operations for the year under review.

Balance Sheet

Details of the major items on the balance sheet can be found in the notes to the accounts.

The fluctuations in debtors and creditors year on year are purely the result of the timing of receipts and payment around the year-end.

Reserve Policy

The trustees review their reserve policy periodically and aim to retain an adequate sum to ensure the continuity of its activities. This is to ensure that in the event of a

significant drop in funding, the charity will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

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Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2012 (continued)

Risk Management

The trustees have drawn up a risk register which provides dates and details of action to be taken to reduce the risks faced by the charity. The charity also purchases a range of insurances.

Independent Examiner

The Management Committee will appoint a new Independent examiner / or re-appoint Community Accountancy Project at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 2012 and signed on their behalf by

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Committee Members

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Committee Member of London Gypsy Orchestral

I have examined the attached account and statement, which have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Committee members of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; they consider that the audit requirement of section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. I have been appointed under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. It is my responsible to examine the accounts, without performing an audit, and to report to the committee members.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

This report is in respect of an examination carried out under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and in accordance with the directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity trustees and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a review of the accounts and making such enquiries as are necessary for the purpose of this report. The procedures undertaken do not constitute an audit.

Independent Examiner's Statements

Based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention, which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Charities Act 1993, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records or comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 1993. No matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Cyndi Smart
Senior Community Accountant

Date:

Community Accountancy Project
The Print House
18 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL

LONDON GYPSY ORCHESTRA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

	Unrestricted Notes Funds	Restricted Funds	2012 Total Funds	2011 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Awards for All	0	0	0	9,835
LB Hackney	0	0	0	3,000
FJF	40	0	0	4,010
Concert Fees	1,767	0	1,767	7,740
Memberships / Subscriptions	4,973	0	4,973	4,342
Tickets Sales	2,470	0	2,470	1,899
Sales of CDs	186	0	186	399
Music Packs	27	0	27	64
Other Receipts	4,872	0	4,872	140
Bank Interest	2	0	2	6
Total Incoming Resources:	14,297	0	14,297	31,434
Resources Expended:				
Concerts	1,470	0	1,470	7,548
Rehearsals	3,635	0	3,635	4,811
Artists / Dancers / Technical support	0	0	0	0
Admin	6,744	0	6,744	4,654
Volunteers	0	0	0	120
Other Fees	0	0	0	4,754
Travel	0	0	0	65
Advertising	0	0	0	158
Professional Insurance	0	0	0	126
Memberships	240	0	240	40
Admin Expenses	2,656	0	2,656	4,135
Workshops	0	0	0	1,750
Space Hire	0	0	0	1,722
Costume	0	0	0	1,224
Website	0	0	0	179
Accountancy Fee	150	0	150	150
Total Resources Expended:	14,895	0	14,895	31,436
Net incoming (outgoing) resources For the year	(598)	0	(598)	(2)
Balance B/fwd April 2011	1,256	0	1,256	1,258
Balance C/ fwd 31 March 2012	(658)	0	(658)	1,256

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2012

	Notes	2012 £	2011 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	7	0	0
		—	—
Current assets			
Debtors	10	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand		1,925	8,220
		—	—
		1,925	8,220
Liabilities:			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(2,583)	(6,964)
		—	—
Net Current Assets / (Loss)		(658)	1,256
		—	—
Net Assets		(658)	1,256
		=====	=====
Funds			
Unrestricted income funds:			
General		(658)	1,256
Restricted funds:	3	0	0
		—	—
		(658)	1,256
		—	—

Approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by

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Committee Members

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LONDON GYPSY ORCHESTRA

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historic cost convention and include the result of the charity's operation which is described in the Trustees' Report and all of which are continuing.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption of Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small charity.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES:

Revenue grants are credited on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specific future period, in which case they are included on the Balance sheet as deferred income to be recognised in the future accounting period.

Grants received for specific purposes are accounted for as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 RESTRICTED FUNDS:

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as lay down by the donors. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

4 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incomes received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available for general funds.

5 DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees / Management Committee for particular purposes.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME:

Credit is taken for interest when the interest falls due for payment.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012 (CONTINUED)

7 FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION:

Fixed assets are only capitalised if their value is above £100 and have a life of more than one year.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off of the cost of fixed asset over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office Equipment & furniture	25% straight line
Computers / Printers	25% straight line

8 ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE:

Administration expenditure comprises costs incurred in running the charity. Where applicable, some of these costs have been treated as direct charitable expenditure.

9 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2012	2011
	£	£
Accruals - Professional fees	300	150
- Other Creditors	2,283	6,814
	—	—
	2,583	6,964
	====	===

10 DEBTORS:

2012	2011
£	£

11 REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES:

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration in the year.

