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Mission, Vision and Values

MISSION

To bring inspirational orchestral music to the Northern Territory.

VISION

Bringing people together through music that celebrates the unique cultural life of the Northern Territory

VALUES

Connecting with our communities and partnering with **COLLABORATION**

other arts organisations.

Celebrating the Territory's multicultural and First **DIVERSITY**

Nations communities, and honouring our rich history.

Striving for individual and collective excellence in **EXCELLENCE**

everything we do.

Communicating and leading with care, transparency RESPECT

and integrity.





Musicians

CONDUCTOR

Jonathan Tooby

CONCERTMASTER

Tara Murphy

FIRST VIOLINS

Tahli Elsner Wan-Ling Chang Lachlan Spargo-Peattie Jacob Botha Fia Walsh **Jasmine Banner** Zeke Llewellyn Erin McCann Jeremy Chin Alison Grootendorst Celina Hodge Anna Ingram Liz Latimer Merran Neilsen Matheus Oliveira Dominic Pillai Anna Ralph Angela Xu

SECOND VIOLINS

Lucy Vallentine Mia Hughes Ricky Delaney-Bindahnee Helen Humphreys Nakita Nia Sabine Gonelli Aruna Shivam Anna Ralph Noella Goveas Sonya Bree Aine Buckley Indira Fernandes Noella Goveas Hannah Johnston **Toby Koefoed** Netanela Mizrahi

VIOLA

Greyson Butler Mary Wheaton Cathy Shilton **Annette Anderson** Sara Clarke Mary Frost Clare Gorton David Yap

CELLO

Michael Bardon Amelia Noble Denise Phelps Cathy Applegate Kate Stephens Jonathan Tooby Liz Clarkson Tonia Griffiths Stephanie Arnold Harshini Bartlett Ioanna Kuswadi **Maddison Sims**

DOUBLE BASS

Rhiannon Oakhill-Steel John Collins Sally Cutter Kathy Campbell Adele Mammone

FLUTE

Clare Patterson Alex Roberts Alice Cotton Monica Leung Mathilda Lipscombe

OBOE

Sarena Wegener

CLARINET

Laura Llewellyn Stephen Pevely Natalie Jacobs **David Chin** Jenny Young Natalie Chin Nicholas Yates Susi Bertei

BASSOON

Alana Bryett Rob Llewellyn Rosemary Antonini

FRENCH HORN

Noah Cass **Bruce Cartwright** Joel Hoare Helen List Jethro Llewellyn Jessie Spargo

TRUMPET

David Pve **Bruce Cartwright** Barbara Eather Sarah Lynar Craig McGiffen Angela Titmuss

TROMBONE

Kabir Khera **Archer Bryett** Marcus Dhu Oliver Locos **Matthew Sutton**

EUPHONIUM

Carol Atkinson

TUBA

David Parkin Ron Roberts

HARP

Erna Jarvis

PERCUSSION

Ingrid Purich Kathryn Ezzy Jared Gibson Rick Knight Isabella Penna **David Smith** Mark Smith Amy Zhao

PIANO

Benjamin Bradtke Hui-Min Leastman

CHAIR'S REPORT

2024 has been a year of remarkable progress and resilience for the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.



A key milestone was securing additional funding through Creative Australia - an extraordinary achievement that recognises the artistic excellence and cultural significance of DSO on a national scale. This support has been truly transformative, strengthening our long-term sustainability and enabling us to deliver outstanding performances and meaningful community engagement across the Territory. For the first time in our 35-year history, this funding will provide paid roles for all our Principal players from 2025. It will also allow us to expand DSO's touring and education programs throughout the Northern Territory, deepening our reach and amplifying our impact across the region.

2024 has already seen impressive artistic growth, with the establishment of DSO's first-ever Composer in Residence role. We are proud to have NT-based composer Netanela Mizrahi as the inaugural recipient. In August 2025, audiences experienced the world premiere of Gurrulwa Guligi (Big Wind) by Netanela and Larrakia elder Dr Aunty Bilawara Lee - commissioned by the Darwin Symphony Orchestra to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy in 2024.

We also mark the end of an era with the departure of our esteemed Artistic Director/Chief Conductor, Jonathan Tooby. Over his seven years of visionary leadership, Jonathan has transformed DSO, elevating the orchestra's artistic quality, broadening our repertoire, and strengthening our engagement with community and country. His passion and commitment have left an indelible mark on the orchestra, and his legacy will continue to inspire both players and audiences for years to come. We are deeply grateful for his extraordinary contribution to music in the Territory.

Of course, the year has not been without its challenges. Like many arts organisations, we have navigated rising operational costs and the ongoing demands of delivering high-quality programming with finite resources. Yet, through collaboration and dedication, DSO continues to thrive. We are grateful for the support and relationship with the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, whose support is vital to our success. To our incredible players and artistic team - your talent and passion inspire us all. To our hardworking board members and staff - thank you for your commitment behind the scenes. And finally, to the Darwin audience, your unwavering support and enthusiasm keep the spirit of the DSO alive.

We now look ahead to 2025 with excitement, as we embark on our first tour in over a decade, sharing music with new audiences, featuring collaborations with artists and musicians from across the NT, and celebrating the next chapter of DSO's remarkable journey.

Claire Kilgariff | **DSO Chairperson**



GENERAL MANAGER'S

REPORT

For Darwin Symphony Orchestra,
2024 was a year of new
collaborations, innovative
performances, and exploration of
new pathways for the growth of our
orchestra.



With 17 distinctive performances, including 5 free shows, DSO brought inspiring music to audiences across the Northern Territory – whether this was performing beautiful symphonies and sharing the stage with guest artists at Darwin Entertainment Centre where we are proudly a Resident Company, celebrating iconic hits under the stars for thousands of local and visiting audience members at the Botanic Gardens, or banging on pots, pans, and watering cans to present Symphony of Stuff as part of 'Junkfest' in Katherine – the season was full of engaging experiences for our diverse communities.

While there are many highlights to mention, I want to celebrate the following key achievements across the year:

The commissioning and premiere of a significant Territory work

In 2024, DSO commissioned a new work to commemorate the 50th anniversary Tracy - *Gurrulwa Guligi (Big Wind)* by senior Larrakia elder Bilawara Lee and DSO Composer in Residence Netanela Mizrahi. This is a significant work for the NT, reflecting on Aunty Bilawara Lee's story of surviving Cyclone Tracy, written with DSO Composer in Residence Netanela Mizrahi. It has since gone on to tour the NT, giving it a long life and centering Territory stories.

Growth of the Education and Outreach Program

A new partnership with City of Palmerston saw the full orchestra perform for the first time in Palmerston Recreation Centre for a morning of joy and music in *Family Proms*. DSO is committed to engaging with audiences and community members across the NT, and was delighted to bring these two performances, alongside a series of education workshops to schools in Palmerston. This partnership is expanding in 2025 with a weekend of performances, including an evening concert in *Palmerston Classics*.

Across the year, DSO delivered 55 Education workshops and performances across the NT, including Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Yirrkala and Nhulunbuy.

The Young Artists Program continued to be an important pathway for developing musicians, with participants notably featuring in key education programs

Symphony of Stuff, and joining the whole orchestra for Family Proms in Palmerston.

Development of Commercial Opportunities

In May the orchestra featured in an incredible sold out show with contemporary outfit Electric Fields, which was the first fully paid commercial performance for the whole orchestra. This collaboration also brought DSO to a new audience, broadening our reach to new eyes and ears in the NT.

Collaboration

In 2024 DSO also continued its strong commitment to collaboration, working with eight other NT organisations Katherine Regional Arts, Darwin Festival, City of Palmerston, Charles Darwin University, Tracks Dance Company, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin Entertainment Centre, and Garrmalang Festival.

First Nations Engagement

DSO also built on our commitment to collaboration and performance with NT First Nations artists, through Garrmalang Festival, the new commission with Aunty Bilawara Lee, and the development of a new work between DSO Composer in Residence Netanela Mizrahi and Rirratjingu Loreman Banula Marika, which will see its premiere in August 2025.

Our Federal Funding Doubled

In 2024, it was announced that DSO would have its funding doubled from the Federal Government, receiving an additional \$1 million in funding over the next four years.

This significant funding increase will be transformative for Darwin Symphony Orchestra and the community. It will enable our orchestra to reach more Territorians, and allow us to provide more of our musicians with secure employment into the future.

2024 also saw DSO review its strategic goals and redevelop a strategic plan for 2025 – 2028, in line with the increased opportunities offered by the funding increase.

Through new core funding and other funding initiatives to increase funding sources from 2025, DSO is strengthening its financial position to ensure it has sustainable business operations for the future.

In 2024, DSO's esteemed Artistic Director/Chief Conductor Jonathan Tooby announced that 2025 would be his final year with us. I want to take opportunity to thank Jon for his incredible work and dedication to DSO for 7 years – his energy, passion and relentless optimism has brought this orchestra to new heights, and it has been a delight to work with him over this time.

His approach has been one of generosity, openness and inclusion, all while encouraging us to tackle ambitious repertoire, and shape new cultural narratives that will have an impact for many years to come. Thank you Jon and enjoy your final year with DSO in 2025.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of our musicians, supporters, audience members, partners, and patrons, for your support and belief in this incredible institution. It is an honour to work with you to continue growing the orchestra and its contribution to the cultural life of the Northern Territory.

Kate Stephens | DSO General Manager



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CHIEF CONDUCTOR'S REPORT



2024 was another tremendous year for DSO presenting six major concerts and two innovative children's concerts.

One Thousand and One Nights was DSO's first major concert for the season. The concert started with 'Cantus', a mesmerizing and moving work by Arvo Pärt for strings and one bell, in memory of Benjamin Britten. This was followed by Mozart's 41st symphony which was performed with great energy and excitement. For this performance guest Concertmaster, Peter Clark, lead the orchestra. He brought great enthusiasm to the platform, really enabling all on stage to give generously. He also featured heavily in the final work on the program, Scheherazade by Rimsky–Korsakov where his violin solos shone with special magnificence. The orchestra gave so passionately in this difficult work.

In May DSO performed for the first time at the Palmerston Recreation Centre in it's annual *Family Proms*. This concert was aimed at building a new relationship with the City of Palmerston to enable more engagement with the community, indeed such was its success that DSO will be presenting two concerts there in 2025. *Family Proms* has become one of DSO's signature events, performing and interacting with all our young people in Darwin. Long may this continue to grow.

In June DSO presented *Iconic* in the Botanic Gardens, reaching capacity of 5000 people. Once again DSO with local band electrified the Amphitheatre, filling the air with bangers by Britney Spears, Led Zepplin, Tina Turner, INXS and many more.

Vital Forces was DSO's offering in Darwin Festival 2024. To a nearly sold-out playhouse DSO preformed four incredible works, three by Australian Composers

including the world premiere of *Gurrulwa Guiligi (Big Wind)* a collaboration between Larrakia senior elder Dr Aunty Bilawara Lee and NT Composer Netanela Mizrahi. This work commemorated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the devastating Cyclone Tracey. James Ledger's *Signal Lost* and Alice Chance's *Through Changing Landscape* were the other two Australian works presented. The major work in this concert was Prokofiev's fifth Symphony, a stirring and powerful piece bringing the evening to a close.

In October DSO presented *Heroes*. There was music from Gladiator, Babe, Harry Potter and of course Star Wars which really made for a spellbinding evening. It is important to note that DSO played magnificently in these very challenging works, particularly in the Star Wars Suite. Liz Travaskis once again presented the show beautifully. Rapturous applause filled the auditorium at the conclusion of the show.

In December we welcomed two incredible guest artists to the stage for our final concert, *Voyage*. Richard Mills conducted the orchestra for what was a stunning performance of three wonderful works, the first of which was 'Snugglepot and Cuddlepie' written by Richard himself. Richard also gave great insight into his own work and the other works on the program throughout the evening in a wonderfully interactive experience. Britten's 'Sea Interludes' were performed, followed by Rachmaninov's famous Piano Concerto No 2. Here we heard the extraordinary talents of Stefan Cassomenos on the piano bringing the audience to its feet at its conclusion.

In 2024 DSO also presented two wonderful and interactive Kids Concerts, *Symphony of Stuff* presented by Tara Murphy and *Museum of Mysteries* by Stephanie Arnold. Both were well attended and infused joy and wonder into many curious young minds.

A big thank you to all involved in making DSO's 2024 Season such a huge success. Thank you to our board, our unstoppable management team, volunteers, donors, sponsors and friends and of course our wonderfully talented musicians that make DSO so utterly fabulous.

Jonathan Tooby | DSO Artistic Director/Chief Conductor

2024 at a Glance



80.55%

NET PROMOTER SCORE



15,006

AUDIENCE MEMBERS



17

PERFORMANCES



FREE CONCERTS



4,018

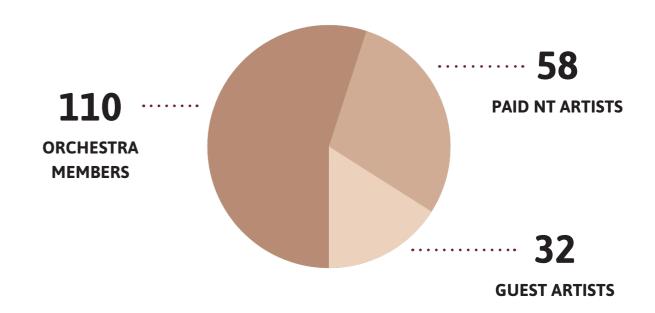
TICKETED ATTENDEES



55

EDUCATION WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES ACROSS THE NT

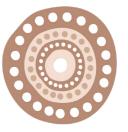
ARTISTS



CONCERTS AND COLLABORATIONS



COLLABORATIONS WITH NT ARTS ORGANISATIONS



3

COLLABORATIONS WITH FIRST NATIONS ORGANISATIONS AND ARTIST

One Thousand and One Nights

DSO's 2024 Season Opening performance, One Thousand and One Nights, captivated audiences with mysterious beauty and radiant music.

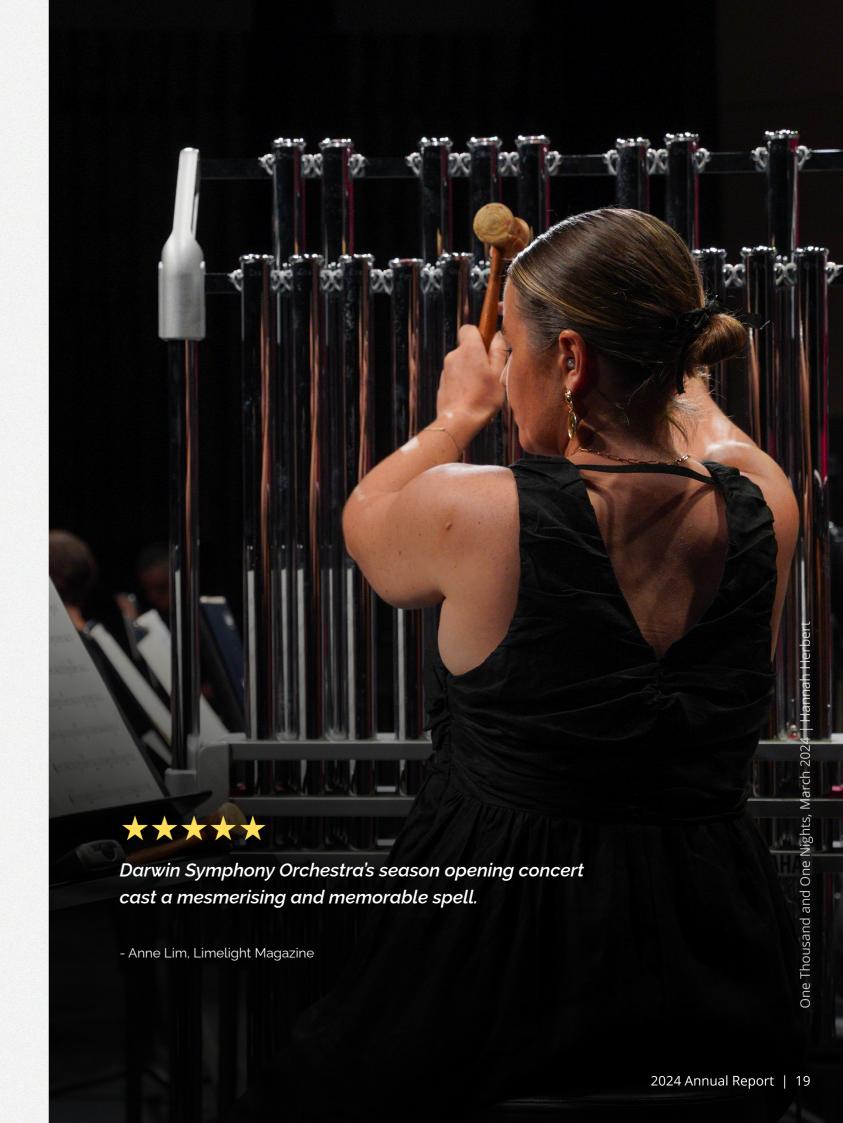
PROGRAM

Arvo Pärt - Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten Mozart - Symphony No. 41 Rimsky-Korsakov - Scheherazade

The evening opened with Arvo Pärt's Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten mesmerising the audience with string orchestra and bell, in a moving tribute evoking the admiration Pärt felt for the "rare purity" of Britten's music.

Following this transcendent piece, Mozart's Symphony No. 41 showcases his playful and brilliant 'Jupiter' that is recognised as one of the greatest symphonies of all time. Blending emotional depth with inventiveness, this stunning display of his brilliant craft evoked a dazzling manifestation of a realm beyond imagination.

The concert concluded with an epic and exotic experience of Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. Through lush orchestration and vivid storytelling, this piece transported audiences to legendary cities and mythical lands filled with adventure, romance, and mystery.





Garrmalang Festival Electric Fields

In May, Darwin Symphony Orchestra joined the awardwinning electronic music duo Electric Fields on stage at Garrmalang Festival in a debut collaboration.

For the first time, audiences heard the original music of Electric Fields' Zaachariaha Fielding and Michael Ross amplified through the full might of an orchestra.

Under the baton of Resident Conductor Stephen Pevely, DSO performed moving song cycles of Electric Fields' work arranged for the orchestra by Alex Turley, with supporting vocals from Belle Bangard, Alyson Joyce, and the Antara Singers.

It was an unforgettable evening full of energy, with the duo returning to Darwin right on the heels of their appearance at Eurovision.

I love going back to Larrakia Country, all our shows have been wonderful, and the energy is always new. Darwin has real sexy rock and roll vibe, like Tina Turner.

- Zaachariaha Fielding, Electric Fields

lconic

In a show-stopping performance, Darwin Symphony Orchestra brought audiences to their feet to dance under a starry dry season sky.

Darwin Symphony Orchestra brought the house down with an electrifying anthology of hits from the most iconic artists of all time at the beloved Darwin Botanic Gardens Amphitheatre. This concert, now a staple dry season event, featured the full symphony orchestra and a front band of amazing local musicians, in a celebration of great music and incredible Territory talent.

From Elvis to Aretha, Tina Turner to Adele, AC/DC to Beyonce, this was a tribute that brought together the music of legends from across the musical universe.

This amphitheatre spectacular was an unmissable night under the Darwin's starry dry season sky that had everyone singing and dancing the whole night!

"This was and is a great event! I had friends in from Sydney who's never been to Darwin before and they loved it!! One went so far as to say she could see herself living in a place like Darwin. The orchestra was amazing! Nat Pellegrino and the other singers were outstanding! I love how in theme the orchestra was with their outfits particularly the DSO conductor. Great job all around! Kudos!"

- 2024 DSO Audience Survey Respondant



*** The clattering music gave goosebumps as it evoked Aunty Bilawara's powerful images - the howls and roars of the big wind and the thuds of the wind-borne missiles that devastated Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974. - Anne Lim, Limelight Magazine 24 | Darwin Symphony Orchestra

- Vital Forces

In August, DSO proudly presented the world premiere of the stunning work by Larrakia senior elder Dr Aunty Bilawara Lee and NT Composer Netanela Mizrahi.

PROGRAM

Lee/Mizarhi - Gurrulwa Guligi (Big Wind)

Ledger - Signal Lost

Chance - Through Changing Landscapes

Prokofiev - Symphony No. 5

CONDUCTOR | Jon Tooby

The new work, Gurrulwa Guligi (Big Wind), commemorated the 50th anniversary of the devastating Cyclone Tracy that forever changed Darwin.

Two other incredible Australian works by James Ledger and Alice Chance made their NT debut. Ledger's Signal Lost took the audience through a musical meditation on the moments when communication breaks down, while Chance's piece offered an irresistibly playful tribute to life's journeys.

The night concluded with Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony. Though written in the shadow of war in 1944, this incredible work is in turn joyous, reflective, ominous and urgent. In an expression of hope in tumultuous and sombre time, this vital work culminated in a brilliant and charged finale.

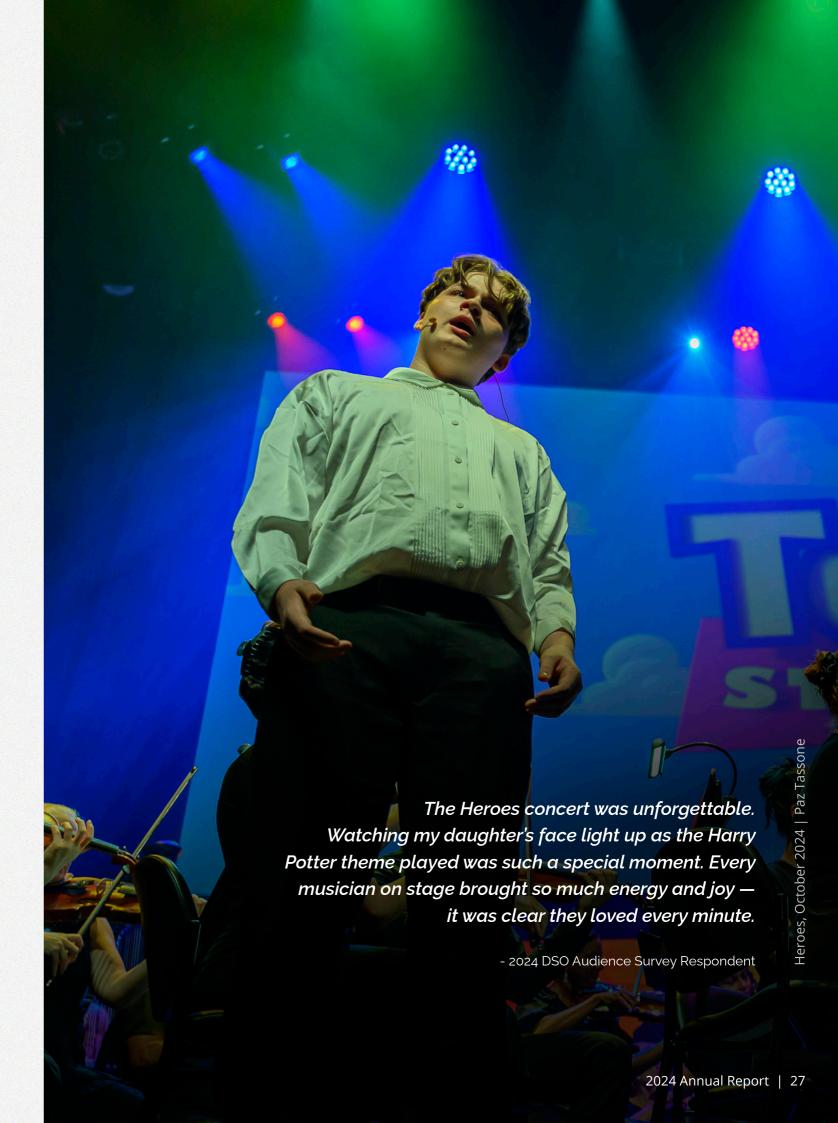
leroes

In a night of blockbuster excitement, Heroes transported audience members of all ages across the cinematic landscape from Valhalla to Middle Earth in this epic musical odyssey.

The program featured iconic themes from Hans Zimmer's Gladiator, John Williams' Star Wars and Harry Potter, Wagner's fearsome Ride of the Valkyries, and the tiny but mighty hero Babe by Australian Composer Nigel Westlake. This performance showcased majestic musical masterpieces celebrating heroes of all shapes and sizes.

This action-packed homage to cinematic and legendary heroes was an audio-visual spectacular show for all ages.

This diverse and dynamic concert was designed to captivate fans of all ages, blending the thrill of blockbuster movies with the nostalgia and excitement of video game adventures!





Voyage

In our final concert of the year, DSO took the audience on a journey through enchanting Australian landscapes, concluding with an stunning solo by world renown violinist, Stefan Cassomenos.

PROGRAM

Mills - Snugglepot and Cuddlepie
Britten - Four Sea Interludes
Rachmaninov - Second Concerto

Conductor | Richard Mills AO & Jon Tooby

Guest Conductor Richard Mills AO took the helm for a performance sharing highlights from his cherished ballet Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. This work took the audience on an adventure filled with whimsical, Australian characters, inspired by May Gibbs original stories and illustrations.

In the second half of this concert, Britten's Four Sea Interludes from his opera Peter Grimes, swept the audience between different scenic locations and the changing moods of the voyage of his main character in this stormy and dramatic work.

To bring an epic finale, leading Australian pianist Stefan Cassomenos gave a stunning performance of Rachmaninov's sparkling and exuberant second concerto, one of the greatest works in the piano repertoire.

Other Events

Italian Feast

Wednesday 14 August

As part of Darwin Festival, DSO musicians Jon Tooby and Erna Jarvis serenaded guests in a dreamy supper experience at the intimate surrounds of Parap Fine Foods. This was an exclusive fine dining event which transported guests in flavour and stunning music to a warm Italian summer night.

CDU City Campus Opening String Quartet Saturday 5 October

In October, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra String Quartet helped celebrate the opening of the CDU City Campus, Danala Education and Community Precinct, which marks a significant milestone for higher education in the Northern Territory.

Welcoming the Amerigo Vespucci Monday 7 October

Darwin Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble performed with Queensland Symphony Orchestra Chief Conductor and renowned cellist Umberto Clerici, and Concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto, in honour of the iconic Italian naval ship Amerigo Vespucci visit to Darwin for its only Australian stop on a worldwide tour.

This performance was held before the beautiful ship departed in a beautiful program of Italian classical music.



Education & Outreach

In 2024, DSO's Education and Outreach initiatives continued to enrich and inspire young musicians and community members through diverse collaborations and educational programs.

This year we began an exciting partnership with City of Palmerston, presenting two Family Proms shows in the morning. This was a much-loved event, with lots of laughter and close-up learning with orchestral instruments and sounds, where Young Artists featured in instrument demonstrations. It was a fruitful new partnership, with plans to continue this project in 2025.

Strengthening ties with academia, DSO partnered with Charles Darwin University to present Symphony of Stuff, in an educational and fun-filled concert for primary school aged children. DSO's Young Artists showcased their professionalism in presenting this show under the guidance of DSO musicians.

DSO demonstrated their dedication to community outreach by taking Symphony of Stuff to JunkFest in Katherine. Local school-aged children were able to participate in a workshop and performance alongside DSO musicians.

DSO's Young Artists brought musical play to Geekfest, leading instrument-making workshops to the theme of Super Mario Brothers. Children of all ages were welcome to participate, with many fun and interesting make-shift instruments and Super Mario instruments for Power Up Parade.

In October DSO's second education program Museum of Mysteries involved a unique collaboration with NT dance company Track's Dance, the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and primary schools across Darwin and Howard Springs. Students were invited to the museum to explore curiosities of NT history, art, and culture, and through a series of workshops created a new performance under the guidance of Tracks Dance Animateur Spillett and DSO musicians. The outdoor twilight performance held at the museum projected the featured objects and artworks onto the museum walls as the students and musicians performed below.

DSO finished off their 2024 education outreach program with a series of Palmerston Primary School Workshops made possible by the City of Palmerston and Airport Development Group.. These two-hour workshops involved Woodroffe School's special education Pandanus Unit, Zuccolli Primary School and Good Shepherd Primary School Palmerston. Musicians from different sections of the orchestra were featured in each school, performing short chamber music pieces and giving instrument demonstrations allowing the students a chance to see and hear these instruments up close. With a focus on participation the students were also lead in a range of musical games and activities involving listening, movement, and instrument building allowing them to play an active part in music making.

These efforts highlight DSO's commitment to making orchestral music accessible and relevant to our community, fostering musical talent and providing exposure to the arts to people of all ages in a variety of engaging ways.



Symphony of Stuff

DSO's first children's concert of 2024 unleashed a morning of music and play, as our musicians transformed everyday music items into extraordinary instruments.

Designed specifically for primary-aged children, this event ignited imaginations by showcasing how music can be found in the most unexpected places. The audience experienced a wondrous world of music created from ordinary objects found in their homes, such as pots, pans, buckets, and brooms, producing household beats.

It was a fun and interactive show of sounds and rhythms that engaged kids to play and discover the magic of music wherever they are!



Family Proms

In partnership with the City of Palmerston, DSO were pleased to bring a morning of music and mayhem with DSO's popular Family Proms.

It was a fun-filled and interactive performance with the whole orchestra and our junior young musicians introducing orchestral music to young eyes and ears.

DSO's Young Artists performed instrument demonstrations by giving children and their families a rare opportunity to learn about the different sounds of an orchestra.

Audience members also learned how a conductor leads the orchestra, and a few lucky children had the opportunity to conduct the entire Orchestra, live!

The morning concluded with children and their families approaching the musicians allowing them to get up close and personal with a wonderful array of instruments.



GeekFest

In July, as part of the City of Palmerston's GeekFest, musicians and DSO Young Artists hit the streets in a musical entourage.

DSO members and Young Artist Program students led an interactive build-yourown instrument workshop, where participants were invited to channel their inner Mario, Luigi or Princess to create an instrument influenced by the characters of Super Mario Brothers.

The highlight of the event was the parade through Palmerston's Goyer Square. After a brief rehearsal, the children, alongside DSO musicians, proudly performed the Super Mario Brothers theme.

With craft-making, dress-ups and creative instruments, the parade was a loud and lively spectacle for kids of all ages!



JunkFest

In June, DSO musicians Jon, Tara, Greyson, and our Orchestra and Operations Manager, Jerome, headed down to Katherine to present *Symphony of Stuff* at JunkFest!

Our DSO performers led a workshop in the afternoon where children and community members had the opportunity to make some tunes using buckets, brooms, balls, and everything in between. In the evening, they performed Symphony of Stuff on the main stage, along with some beautiful classical numbers.

It was a wonderful partnership with Katherine Regional Arts to bring Symphony of Stuff to the Katherine community.



Museum of Mysteries

Museum of Mysteries took primary school children on an exploration of history, music, and movement.

This program featured a unique collaboration between the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and Tracks Dance Company.

Primary school children brought the MAGNT collection to life through music and dance in a playful exploration. Young learners were guided through curiosities of history, culture and nature by experts at the Museum, before joining with DSO musicians and Tracks Dance Animateur Spillett to create an exciting new performance inspired by their newfound knowledge.





Young Artists — Program

In 2024, DSO's Young Artists Program (YAP) continued to inspire, nurture and showcase emerging musical talent through a series of enriching and diverse activities.

The Young Artists had several notable performances and engagements throughout the year, including the privilege of attending selected rehearsals with Darwin Symphony Orchestra. These sessions immersed students in the formal rehearsal process, honing their skills in sight-reading and ensemble playing, and giving them a taste of professional musicianship.

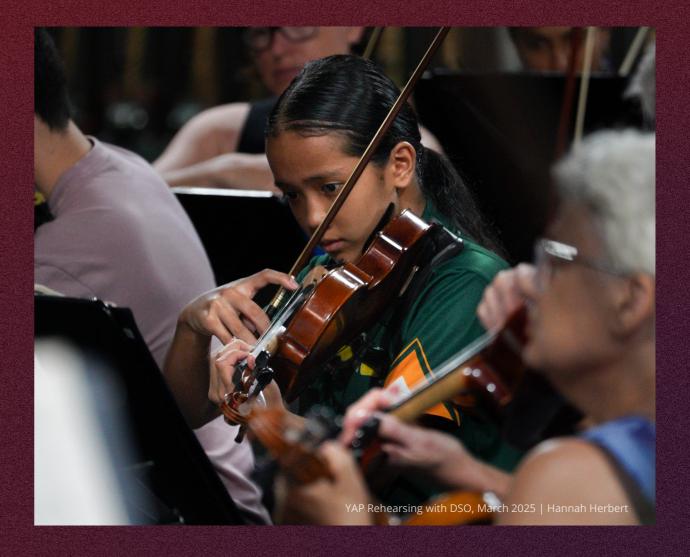
The year began with the Young Artists performing alongside DSO musicians Tara Murphy, Nick Yates and Greyson Butler at Symphony of Stuff at Darwin Entertainment Centre, in a concerto of kitchen and bathroom beats. This opportunity allowed them to experience the thrill and discipline of performing on a major stage, unleashing their imaginations in the sounds you can make with everyday stuff.

In May, our YAP students joined forces with the orchestra for morning of music and mayhem in Palmerston, in the Family Proms performance. Students experienced to be in the stage in an engaging and interactive performance, with the opportunity to also be led by young children learning what it means to conduct the orchestra!

In July, our Young Artists toured to Palmerston for the City of Palmerston's GeekFest to put on the Power Up Parade alongside DSO musicians. Students

took on a mentorship role, leading a creative workshop helping local children build their own instruments and make costumes from everyday materials. This experience gave YAP students the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership and teaching skills, as well as their ability to engage and inspire the next generation of musicians.

Through the performances and activities of the year, DSO Young Artists encountered unique experiences to grow in commitment, professional settings and mentorship, which contributed significantly to their artistic development.



Our People

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His Honour Professor The Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM,Administrator of the Northern Territory

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DSO MANAGEMENT

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Jonathan Tooby, Artistic Director/ Chief Conductor
Jerome Chapman, Orchestra and Operations Manager
Tara Murphy, Concertmaster and Outreach/Education Officer
Stephanie Arnold, Education and Outreach Officer
Diana Jarvis, Finance Officer
Hannah Herbert, Communications and Administration Officer

Netanela Mizrahi, Composer in Residence Stephen Pevely, Resident Conductor Prof. Martin Jarvis OAM, Conductor Emeritus

DSO LIFE MEMBERS

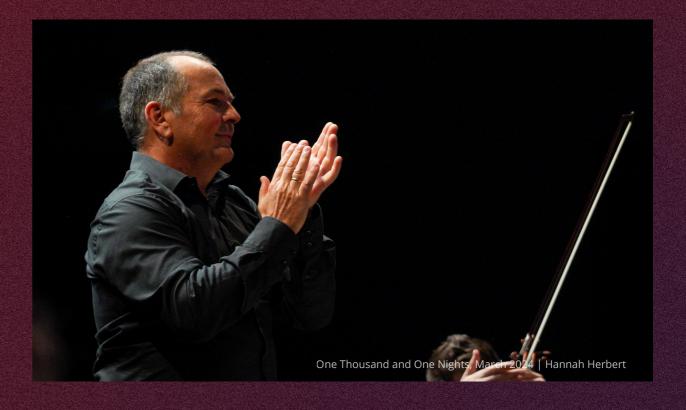
Dr & Mrs Graham Davidson
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Celina Hodge Adina Poole Neil Williamson Martin Jarvis OAM

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Vida Goodvach



Our Patrons

Conductor's Circle (\$10,000+)

Anonymous (1)

Diamond Patrons (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Kirsty Howey Prof. Louise Maple-Brown and Simon Niblock Geoff Stearn Michael & Ingrid Stephens Sylvia & Ken Suter Richard Ryan in memory of Ken Suter Anonymous (3)

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Gold Patrons (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mary Frost Vida Goodvach John & Marie Hardy Megan & Paul Lawton Fiona & Michael Loughlin Marie-Louise Pearson

Bryan Pritchard **David Shilton** Christine Tarbett-Buckley & Tim Buckley Pauline Tauschke The Hon Sally Thomas AC Peter Waggitt Anonymous (3)

Silver Patrons (\$500 - \$999)

Cathy & Rod Applegate Lauren Arnold & Alan Cass Heather Brown & Peter McMillan Kate Carter & Paul Carter OAM **Prof Gregory Crawford AM** Rick & Lynda Davies Greg and Janis Lampard Anna & Isabella Penna Richard Purnell Anna Ralph Dianne Stephens Kate Stephens Paz Tassone Annie Whybourne

Anonymous (2)

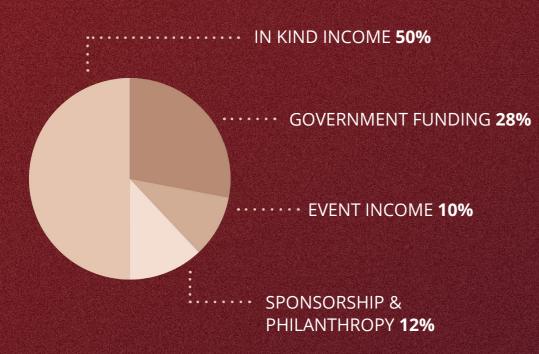
Bronze Patrons (\$250 - \$499)

Lucy Crawford Kevin Davis AM Glen Ewers Diana Jarvis The Joy Family Kate Fell The Greenwood Family Claire Kilgariff Sarah Lynar Heather Malcolm Dr Sarah McGuinness lan Moore Maxina Parkes Thora Reid Lance Schmidt Andrew & Sue Stone Helen Summers Jonathan & Penelope Tooby Anonymous (2)

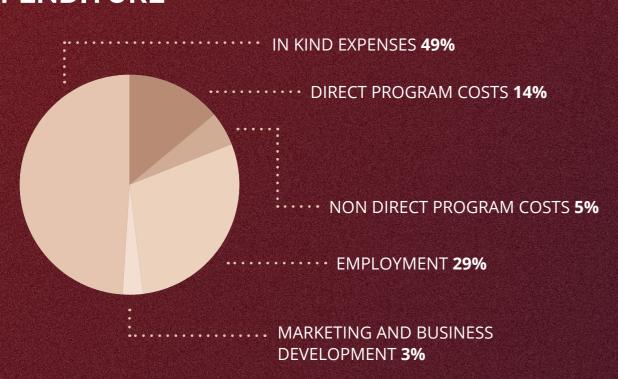


Accounts

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE



Our Supporters

MAJOR PARTNERS











PARTNERS

PRODUCTION PARTNER





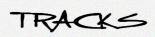




PERFORMANCE PARTNERS









MEDIA PARTNERS







COMMUNITY PARTNERS













Patricia H Reid Endowment



DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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@darwin_symphony_orchestra

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SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

for

DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INCORPORATED

69 963 149 378

for the year ended 31 December 2024

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<u>Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated</u> <u>Statement by Members of the Management Board</u>

As at 31 December 2024

Your Board members submit the financial report of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated (non-reporting) for the year ended 31 December 2024

Board Members

The Board members throughout the year 2024 were:

Claire Kilgariff	Chairperson	From 1 January	To 31 December
Heather Brown	Vice Chair	From 1 January	To 31 December
John Oakman	Secretary	From 1 January	To 31 December
Pauline Tauschke	Treasurer & Public Officer	From 1 January	To 31 December
Rodolphe Deus	Director	From 1 January	To 31 December
Sarah Lynar	Director	From 1 January	To 31 December
Lachlan Spargo-	Director	From 1 January	To 31 December
Peattie			
Ross Springolo	Director	From 1 January	To 31 December
Aaron Wyatt	Director	From 18 June	To 31 December

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association are:

- 1. To offer quality orchestral musical experiences to musicians through performance, thereby creating an environment in which they can achieve their fullest potential.
- 2. To foster and promote the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of orchestral music in the cultural life of the Northern Territory.
- 3. To provide an opportunity for training and skills development in all aspects of musicianship.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during this year.

Operating Result

The deficit for the year was \$45,941 (2023 surplus \$44,003)

Statement by the Board

The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this Special Purpose Report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report as set out on pages 7 to 16:

- (1) Presents fairly the financial position of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated as at 31 December 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
- (2) The Accounts of the Association have been prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (3) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.

Signed Date 21

Chair

Claire Kilgarill

Treasurer

Pauline Tauschke

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by the members of the management board.

Board's responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of the association is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information it contains and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Act (NT)* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagement & plan & perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessments of the risks of material misstatements of the financial

report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence that I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical requirements.

Basis for Qualified Auditor's Opinion

It is not practicable for Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated to maintain an effective system of internal control over income, other than grant income, until their initial entry in the accounting records and bank account. My audit in relation to income other than grant income was limited to amounts recorded in the accounting records. Accordingly, I am unable to express an opinion on the completeness of income, other than grant income. The detailed income and expenditure statement set out on pages 8-10 has been subject to my audit procedures on a sample testing basis. It will be appreciated therefore that no assurance can be given that transactions have been classified correctly in all instances.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualified Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitations referred to in the qualification paragraphs above not existed, the financial report of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated as of 31 December 2024, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Act (NT).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Darwin Symphony Orchestra Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations' Acts (NT) and the Association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Jyoti Vemuri, FCPA

Auditor

A member of CPA Australia

J.S. Venuse

Date: 21 4/25

Jyoti Vemuri is a CPA Practice





DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INCORPORATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Year ended 31/12/2024	Year ended 31/12/2023
		31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	Notes		
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	(3)	\$1,188,551	\$1,134,412
Debtors and prepayment	(4)	\$22,426	\$24,831
Total Current Assets		\$1,210,977	\$1,159,243
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant & equipment	(5)	\$79,874	\$100,444
Total Non-Current Assets		\$79,874	\$100,444
Total Assets		\$1,290,851	\$1,259,687
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	(6)	\$314,060	\$235,957
Provision	(7)	\$16,571	\$18,633
Total Current Liabilities		\$330,631	\$254,590
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision	(7)	\$8,994	\$7,931
Total Non Current Liabilities		\$8,994	\$7,931
Total Liabilities		\$339,625	\$262,521
NET ASSETS		\$951,225	\$997,166
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	(8)	\$951,225	\$997,166

DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INCORPORATED DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Notes	~	•
Government Income		
Grant: Creative Australia Territory Orchestra Funding	236,622	234,280
Grant: Arts NT Multiyear Funding (9)	205,397	205,772
Grant: Other NT Project Funding	81,557	86,000
Grant: Local Government Project Funding	5,000	-
Total Government Income	528,576	526,052
Contributed Income		
Sponsorship - Cash	100,909	165,000
Philanthropy	125,869	115,971
Bequests	123,003	2,500
Total Contributed Income	226,778	2,300 283,471
Total Contributed Income	220,778	
Earned Income		
Program Income	177,236	141,105
Non Program Income	5,174	5,468
Total Earned Income	182,410	146,573
In-Kind Income		
In-Kind Volunteer Services Income	710,410	801,068
In-Kind Sponsorship Income	214,965	244,965
Total In-Kind Income	925,375	1,046,033
Total Income	1,863,139	2,002,130

DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INCORPORATED DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
	\$	\$
Operating Expenses		
Direct Program Costs		
Production Costs	97,249	83,287
Venue Costs	74,531	70,283
Travel and Accommodation	33,187	19,110
Contracted Artists and Creative Consultants	63,865	54,450
Royalty Payments		500
Total Direct Program Costs	268,832	227,630
Non-direct Program Costs		
Marketing and Business Development	55,221	43,423
Sundry Expenses	9,807	15,971
Depreciation	20,570	20,570
Infrastructure	69,420	53,543
Total Non-direct Program Costs	155,018	133,507
Salaries and Wages		
Artists and Creatives	195,877	209,019
Production and Technical: fees	8,232	10,936
Marketing	17,260	21,490
Management and Administrative	260,061	240,774
Allowances and On-Costs	78,425	68,738
Total Salaries and Wages	559,855	550,957

DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INCORPORATED DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
In-Kind Expenses In-Kind Volunteer Services	710.410	004.000
	710,410	801,068
In-Kind Infrastructure Expenses In-Kind Program, Production, Exhibition and Touring	147,631 33,314	147,631 23,314
In-Kind Marketing, Promotions and Business Developm_	34,020	74,020
Total In-Kind Expenses	925,375	1,046,033
Total Expenses	1,909,080	1,958,128
Surplus/Deficit	-\$45,941	\$44,003

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies adopted by the association are stated in order to assist in a general understanding of the financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied except as otherwise indicated.

Reporting Entity

The association is not a reporting entity because in the Board's opinion there are unlikely to exist users, who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored, so as to satisfy all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore "special purpose accounts" that have been prepared solely to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the Associations Act (NT).

Accounting Policies

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost conventions and on accrual basis and does not take into account changing money values except to the extent that they are reflected in the revaluation of certain assets.

In order for the financial report to present fairly the state of affairs of the association and the results of the association for the year, Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted to the extent disclosed in this note.

(a) Accounting for Donations and Grants

Donations and grants are recognised as income when the association obtains control over the assets comprising the contribution. Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon receipt or upon prior notification that a grant has been received.

Where grants or bequests are conditional, they are brought to account as income when the association obtains control over the assets and the condition attached to the grant or bequests is met.

Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) acquired Deductible Gift Recipient status in June 2015.

(b) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation has been charged at rates so as to write off assets on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

For the purpose of accountability, the Association maintains a fixed asset register.

(c) Sheet Music

Sheet Music is now expensed at the time of purchase.

(d) Economic Dependency

The association is largely dependent upon sponsorship from corporations and other third parties, including funds received from the Northern Territory and Australian Government.

(e) Income Tax

The Association is of the opinion that it is not subject to income tax under the existing tax structure. Accordingly, no tax provision has been made in this financial report. In 2008, the Association obtained Charity tax concession status.

(f) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when the Association gains control over it.

Revenue arising from the contribution of assets is recognised when the Association gains control over the contribution or the right to receive the contribution.

Funding Revenue is received from the Creative Australia for the Arts and Arts NT. Funding is received based on payment schedules contained in a funding agreement between the funding bodies and Darwin Symphony Orchestra and is recognised in the calendar year for which it is intended under the terms of the agreement due to the conditional nature of the funding. Any funding not spent on the planned activities agreed between the parties at the start of each calendar year is required to be repaid.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Association has an ABN and a GST return is lodged in its name with the Australian Taxation Office.

(h) In-kind Income and Expenses

In accordance with AASB 1058, in-kind sponsorships & services have been brought to account as In-kind Income and Expenses. The total of in-kind support for the year amounted to \$925,375 for the year 2024 as follows:

In-kind Sponsorship \$ 214,965.00
These Sponsors contribute goods
and services at greatly reduced rates.
In-kind Services \$ 710,410.00
Valuation for the time the musicians,
the production volunteers and the Board
members contribute.

Total \$ 925,375.00

(i) Land

The association does not own any land.

	Year ended	Year ended
	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	\$	\$
Note 3: Cash		
Cash on hand	-	-
Cash at Bank	\$1,188,551	\$1,134,412
	\$1,188,551	\$1,134,412
Note: 4 Debtors & Prepayments		
Sponsorship/Grants/Bonds/Prepayments	\$22,426	\$24,831
	\$22,426	\$24,831
Note 5: Plant & Equipment		
Music Equipment at Cost	\$317,476	\$317,476
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$238,383	-\$218,594
Office Equipment at Cost	\$14,884	\$14,884
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$14,103	-\$13,321
Works of art at Valuation	\$15,000	\$15,000
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-\$15,000	-\$15,000
	\$79,874	\$100,444

Any music purchased is being expensed at the time of purchase. This both reflects the actual re-use of the music and current practise as per other orchestras in Australia.

Note: 6 Payable		
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	\$37,429	\$33,564
Creditor GST	\$14,631	\$9,889
Income Received in Advance	\$262,000	\$192,504
	\$314,060	\$235,957

	Year ended 31/12/2024 \$	Year ended 31/12/2023 \$
Note 7: Provisions		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	\$16,571	\$18,633
Non Current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	\$8,994	\$7,931
Note 8: Accumulated Funds		
Balance Brought Forward	\$982,332	\$938,329
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$45,941	\$44,003
	\$936,391	\$982,332
Asset Revaluation Reserve	<u></u> \$14,834	\$14,834
Balance Carried Forward	\$951,225	\$997,166

Note 9: Arts NT Funding

Arts NT Leading Arts Organisations funding of \$205,397 was expended on eligible core costs across the following expense areas:

Salaries, Wages and Fees

Performers and Artists Wages and Fees	\$70,000
Program, Production Exhibition and Touring	
Production and Staging Costs	\$52,397
Venue Costs - Performances	\$45,000
Marketing, Promotion and Business Development	
Marketing and Promotion	\$38,000

TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURE \$205,397