

THE ENGLISH OPERA GROUP LIMITED.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

PRESIDENT: The Earl of Harewood.

DIRECTORS: Mr J. H. Lawrie (Chairman).  
Mr Isador Caplan.  
Mr Anthony Gishford.  
The Hon. Mervyn Horder.  
Sir Arthur Jarratt.  
Mr Denis Rickett.  
Mr Nicholas Sekers (see below).  
Mr Erwin Stein.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS: Mr Derek Young.  
Mr Benjamin Britten.  
Mr Basil Coleman.  
Mr John Piper.

GENERAL MANAGER: Miss Anne Wood.  
Mr Basil Douglas.

SECRETARY: Mr Isador Caplan.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 115, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

1. DIRECTORS:

- (a). The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., because of his appointment as Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain. Sir Kenneth was one of the original Directors of the Group, and was indeed the first Chairman of the Board. His services to the Group were of the greatest value.
- (b). Mr Nicholas Sekers was invited to join the Board, though his formal appointment did not take place until April, 1953.
- (c). Sir Arthur Jarratt and Mr Derek Young who were appointed during the year, together with Mr Sekers, retire from the Board, and Mr Isador Caplan, Mr Anthony Gishford and The Hon. Mervyn Horder retire by rotation. All of them being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

2. MEMBERSHIP:

The number of members of the Company remained at 21 during the year.

3. REPERTORY:

There was one new production during the year - "LOVE IN A VILLAGE", a new musical version by Arthur Oldham of the Ballad Opera by Bickerstaffe - which was given three performances at the Aldeburgh Festival.

Of the Group's other operas, only "LET'S MAKE AN OPERA!" was performed during the year. It was given for a third season at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, from December 26th 1951 to January 26th 1952, and, although this season resulted in a loss, a high standard of performance was achieved.

4. CONCERTS:

The Group presented six concerts in the Victoria and Albert Museum during the season 1951/52, and a further series of five concerts was in course of presentation at the end of the year. These were generally regarded as a distinguished artistic contribution to London's musical life.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the year ended 31st December 1953.

The Group also presented eight concerts in the provinces, which were most successful artistic occasions, and good propoganda was done on behalf of the Group and the English Opera Group Association.

The concerts produced a satisfactory profit, mainly owing to the generosity of the advertisers who had supported the Group by taking space in the programme.

5. BROADCASTS:

The Group gave studio broadcasts of "LOVE IN A VILLAGE" and "THE BEGGAR'S OPERA" and Holst's "SAVITRI"; three of the concerts were also repeated in the studio.

6. THE ENGLISH OPERA GROUP ASSOCIATION:

There were numerous activities of the Association during the year, including a most successful Opera Ball at the Royal Festival Hall on October 28th. These activities showed a profit of £638., and at the end of the year the Association held an accumulated fund of £966., towards a new production by the Group. The Directors and Artistic Directors note with pleasure and appreciation the spirited co-operation of the Committee and members of the Association.

7. ACCOUNTS:

- (a). The Arts Council grant remained at £3,000., subscriptions under covenant amounted to £266. 16s. 7d., and the earnings for the year were £11,016. 16s. 1d. The total income of £14,283. 12s. 8d. exceeded the year's expenditure by £155. 4s. 11d.
- (b). The total excess of income over expenditure since the incorporation of the Company is now £820. 4s. 2d.
- (c). The total amount of the guarantees of the members of the company is now £6,910. 0s. 0d.

+ + + + +

10th December, 1953.

|   |             | <u>1951</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| I. <u>LOANS.</u>                              | 1,800. 0. 0 | 2,050       |
| II. <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES.</u>               |             |             |
| Sundry Creditors & Accrued Charges            | 861. 1. 9   | 834         |
| III. <u>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.</u> |             |             |
| Excess to date of Income over Expenditure     | 820. 4. 2   | 361         |

ANTHONY GISHFORD )  
 ERWIN STEIN ) Directors.

Note: A Grant of £3,000 was made by the Arts Council of Great Britain in respect of their year 1952/53 and the whole of this sum has been included in these accounts.

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <u>£3,481. 5. 11</u> | <u>£3,245</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the

|   |                     |                |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| To Balance brought forward as at 1st January 1951.                        | -                   | 3,756          |
| " Depreciation and Amounts written off.                                   | 1,141. 11. 1        | 5,839          |
| " Interest on Loans.  | 60. 12. 11          | 84             |
| " Auditors' Remuneration.   | 26. 5. 0            | 105            |
| " Income Tax deducted from Subscriptions received under Deed of Covenant. | 122. 14. 7          | 110            |
| " Balance, carried to Balance Sheet                                       | 820. 4. 2           | 361            |
|   | <u>£2,171. 7. 9</u> | <u>£10,255</u> |

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our knowledge the information required by the Companies' Act 1948 in the manner so required, and the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1952, and the Income & Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1952.

I. FIXED ASSETS.

|   |                    |           |           |     |     |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|
| Scenery & Properties, at cost.                      | 5,801.12. 0        |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation & amounts<br>written off to date. | <u>5,701.12. 0</u> | 100. 0. 0 |           | 100 |     |
| Costumes, at cost.                                  | 3,832. 0. 9        |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation & amounts<br>written off to date  | <u>3,732. 0. 9</u> | 100. 0. 0 |           | 100 |     |
| Musical Instruments, at cost.                       | 125. 0. 0          |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation to date.                          | <u>25. 0. 0</u>    | 100. 0. 0 |           | 125 |     |
| Office Furniture, at cost                           | 135. 1. 0          |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation to date.                          | <u>40. 3. 0</u>    | 94.18. 0  |           | 102 |     |
| Touring Packages, at cost.                          | 104.16. 0          |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation to date.                          | <u>66.13. 0</u>    | 38. 3. 0  |           | 51  |     |
| Music Material - Vocal Scores,<br>etc. at cost.     | 84. 8. 0           |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation to date.                          | <u>30. 8. 0</u>    | 54. 0. 0  |           | 68  |     |
| Sundry Equipment, at cost                           | 83. 2. 5           |           |           |     |     |
| Less Depreciation to date.                          | <u>35.12.11</u>    | 47. 9. 6  | 534.10. 6 | 59  | 605 |

II. CURRENT ASSETS.

|                                       |                  |             |  |                     |               |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|---------------|
| Sundry Debtors.                       | 1,638.14. 0      |             |  | 1,497               |               |
| Payments in Advance.                  | 74.14. 0         |             |  | 241                 |               |
| Cash in Hand.                         | 5. 0. 0          |             |  | 70                  |               |
| Cash in Bank - Subscriptions Account. | 390. 5. 6        |             |  | -                   |               |
| Cash in Bank.                         | <u>838. 1.11</u> | 2,946.15. 5 |  | 832                 | 2,640         |
|                                       |                  |             |  |                     |               |
|                                       |                  |             |  | <u>£3,481. 5.11</u> | <u>£3,245</u> |

the year ended 31st DECEMBER 1952.

|   |                     |  |                |
|---|---------------------|--|----------------|
| By Balance brought forward as at 1st January 1952.  | 361. 2. 6           |  | -              |
| " Net Income after charging all Production Expenses<br>(except Scenery & Costumes), Running Expenses and<br>Management and Overhead Expenses. | 1,383.13.11         |  | 10,255         |
| " Income Tax recoverable on Covenanted Subscriptions<br>up to 31st December, 1952.  | <u>426.11. 4</u>    |  | -              |
|   | <u>£2,171. 7. 9</u> |  | <u>£10,255</u> |

knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion  
of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure  
of our information, and according to the explanations given us, the said Accounts give  
Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31st  
of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date.

THE ENGLISH OPERA GROUP LIMITED

A. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1955:-

1. NEW OPERAS: (a) Benjamin Britten's new opera, "The Tower and the Lake", based on the short story by Henry James, "The Turn of the Screw", is scheduled for the Venice Festival in mid-September and for four performances at Sadler's Wells during the Group's season October 4th - 16th. We have also begun negotiations for a visit with this opera to the Berlin Festival before the Sadler's Wells season.

(b). Lennox Berkeley's one-act opera, "A Dinner Engagement", will have its première at the Aldeburgh Festival, and will also be heard at the York Festival, the Taw and Torridge Festival, and at Sadler's Wells in October.

2. REVIVALS: (a) "The Rape of Lucretia" (Britten). This will be given in the Schloss Schwetzingen in May, in Aldeburgh, York and Sadler's Wells.

(b). "Love in a Village" (Bickerstaffe - Oldham), will be given in Aldeburgh, York, Barnstaple (Taw & Torridge), and at Sadler's Wells.

(c). "The Beggar's Opera" (Gay - Britton), will be given at Sadler's Wells in its new production by Michael Langham.

3. CONCERTS: Another series of concerts is being planned for next winter.

4. THE ENGLISH OPERA GROUP ASSOCIATION: The Association, which now numbers just over 500 members has promised to give £2,000 towards the production costs of our two new operas, and is planning a further series of talks and entertainments for next winter.

On June 22nd, they are organising another Opera Ball in the Royal Festival Hall. These Balls have proved an excellent source of publicity and propaganda for the Group, and make a substantial contribution to the Group's revenue.

In February it is planned to give a Concert Reading of another new opera.

5. PROGRAMME For 1955: (a) A new opera is being commissioned for performance during 1955.

(b) Discussions are proceeding for a tour of Italy and Germany in the spring, a visit to the Holland Festival, and we have again been invited to Aldeburgh and to Taw and Torridge.

B. The FINANCIAL ASPECTS of the programme during the year ending 31st March, 1955, are as follows :-

|    |  | <u>Profit.</u> | <u>Loss.</u> |
|----|--|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | <u>SCHEWETZINGEN</u> Profit on Running Costs.    | £700           | -            |
|    | <u>FESTIVAL:</u><br>(May 8th & 9th)              |                |              |
| 2. | <u>ALDEBURGH</u> Loss on Running Costs.          | -              | £100.        |
|    | <u>FESTIVAL:</u><br>(June 12th-20th)             |                |              |
| 3. | <u>YORK FESTIVAL:</u> Running Costs covered      | -              | -            |
|    | (June 28th - July 3rd).                          |                |              |
| 4. | <u>TAW &amp; TORRIDGE</u> Loss on Running Costs. | -              | £100.        |
|    | <u>FESTIVAL:</u><br>(August 1st - 8th).          |                |              |
| 5. | <u>VENICE FESTIVAL:</u> Profit on Running Costs  | £5,000.        | -            |
|    | (September 13th - 15th).                         |                |              |
| 6. | <u>SADLER'S WELLS:</u> Loss on Running Costs.    | -              | £1,300.      |
|    | (October 4th - 16th)                             |                |              |
|    | N.B. Running Costs approx. £4,500.               |                |              |
|    | Takings, on 50% capacity approx.                 | £3,200.        |              |
| 7. | <u>CONCERTS:</u> Small profit.                   | £50.           | -            |
|    |  | <hr/>          |              |
|    |  | £5,750.        | £1,500       |
|    |  | <hr/>          |              |
|    |  | 1,500          |              |
|    |  | <hr/>          |              |
|    | Net profit on Running Costs                      | £4,250.        |              |

SUMMARY:-

|                     |                                  |         |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Reproduction Costs: | "The Rape of Lucretia".          | 700.    |
| "                   | "Love in a Village".             | 750.    |
| "                   | "The Boggar's Opera".            | 1,000.  |
| Production Costs:   | "A Dinner Engagement".           | 1,500.  |
| "                   | "The Tower and the Lake".        | 4,500.  |
|                     |                                  | <hr/>   |
|                     |                                  | 8,450.  |
| <u>Add :-</u>       | Overhead Costs.                  | 3,000.  |
|                     | Proposed Commission of New Opera | 250.    |
|                     |                                  | <hr/>   |
|                     |                                  | 11,700. |

|                  |   |        |
|------------------|---|--------|
| <u>Deduct :-</u> | Net profit (as above).  | 4,250  |
|                  | Contribution expected from the English Opera Group Association. | 2,000  |
|                  |   | <hr/>  |
|                  |   | 6,250. |

6,250.

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5,450.

GRANT required from the Arts Council in order to make this programme effective - say :-

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£5,500.

4th March, 1954  
The English Opera Group,  
25, Wigmore Place, W.1.

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Mr Isador Caplan.  
Mr Anthony Gishford.  
The Hon. Mervyn Horder.  
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Mr Nicholas Sekers.  
Mr Erwin Stein.  
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ARTISTIC DIRECTORS: Mr Benjamin Britten.  
Mr Basil Coleman.  
Mr John Piper.  
Miss Anne Wood.

GENERAL MANAGER: Mr Basil Douglas.

SECRETARY: Mr Isador Caplan.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 115, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. 2.

1. DIRECTORS:

Mr J. H. Lawrie, Mr Denis Rickett and Mr Erwin Stein retire from the Board by rotation. All of them being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

2. MEMBERSHIP:

The number of members of the Company has increased to twenty-four.

3. REPERTORY:

"ALBERT HERRING" (Britten) was revived for performances at the Wiesbaden and Aldeburgh Festivals.

"THE BEGGAR'S OPERA" (Gay-Britten) was revived for the Taw and Torridge Festival in a new production by Michael Langham.

4. THE TAW AND TORRIDGE FESTIVAL:

Under the Artistic Direction of the Group, although it was not their financial responsibility, this new Festival based on the North Devon towns of Bideford, Barnstaple and Ilfracombe, was considered an artistic success despite a financial loss. As a result the Taw and Torridge Festival Society Limited has been formed and arrangements are being made for a second Festival in August 1954. For this Festival the Group will not act officially as Artistic Directors, but will provide most of the musical items, including two performances of opera.

5. CONCERTS:

The Group presented five concerts in the Victoria and Albert Museum during the Season 1952/53, and a further series was in course of presentation at the end of the year. A concert was also given at the Royal Festival Hall on November 17th, the

programme consisting of William Walton's "Façade" and a new Cantata by Stravinsky.

Operatic concerts were also given in Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle, and Nottingham in April, with the principals of the English Opera Group introduced by Lord Harewood.

6. BROADCASTS:

At the end of the year the B.B.C. engaged the Group to give two performances of the Ballad Opera "POLLY" and commissioned John Addison to realise the music from the original airs.

7. THE ENGLISH OPERA GROUP ASSOCIATION:

Numerous activities were again organised by the Association, including a concert reading of Lennox Berkeley's "NELSON". The Directors and Artistic Directors are pleased to note that this opera is to be produced at Sadler's Wells in September 1954. The number of members was approximately 500 at the end of the year, when an accumulated fund of £2,000 (including covenanted subscriptions), was held towards a new production by the Group.

8. ACCOUNTS:

(a). The Arts Council grant was increased from £3,000 to £4,000; subscriptions under covenant amounted to £ 271 and the earnings for the year were £ 10,526. The total income of £ 15,025 exceeded the year's expenditure by £ 27.

(b). The total excess of income over expenditure since the incorporation of the Company is now £

(c). The total amount of the guarantees of the members of the company is now £6910.

26th March, 1954.

|  |             | <u>1952</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| I. <u>LOANS</u>                              | 2,050. --   | 1,800       |
|  |             |             |
| II. <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>               |             |             |
| Sundry Creditors & Accrued Charges           | 1,021. 8.10 | 861         |
|  |             |             |
| III. <u>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u> |             |             |
| Excess to date of Income over Expenditure    | 846.17. 1   | 820         |

I. CAPLAN                    )  
                                  ) Directors  
ANTHONY GISHFORD )

NOTE: A grant of £4,000 was made by the Arts Council of Great Britain in respect of their year 1953/54 and the whole of this sum has been included in these Accounts.

|  |                     |               |
|--|---------------------|---------------|
|  | <u>£3,918. 5.11</u> | <u>£3,481</u> |
|--|---------------------|---------------|

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the

|  |                     |               |
|--|---------------------|---------------|
| To Depreciation & Amounts written off                                    | 970.19. -           | 1,142         |
| " Interest on Loan   | 51.19. 9            | 60            |
| " Auditors Remuneration  | 78.15. -            | 26            |
| " Income Tax deducted from Subscriptions received under Deed of Covenant | 121.15. 7           | 123           |
| " Balance carried to Balance Sheet                                       | 846.17. 1           | 820           |
|  | <u>£2,070. 6. 5</u> | <u>£2,171</u> |

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of opinion proper books of Account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from Income & Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the Books of Account. In our given us, the said Accounts give the information required by the Companies' Act 1948 in state of the Company's affairs as at 31st December, 1953, and the Income & Expenditure the year ended on that date.

