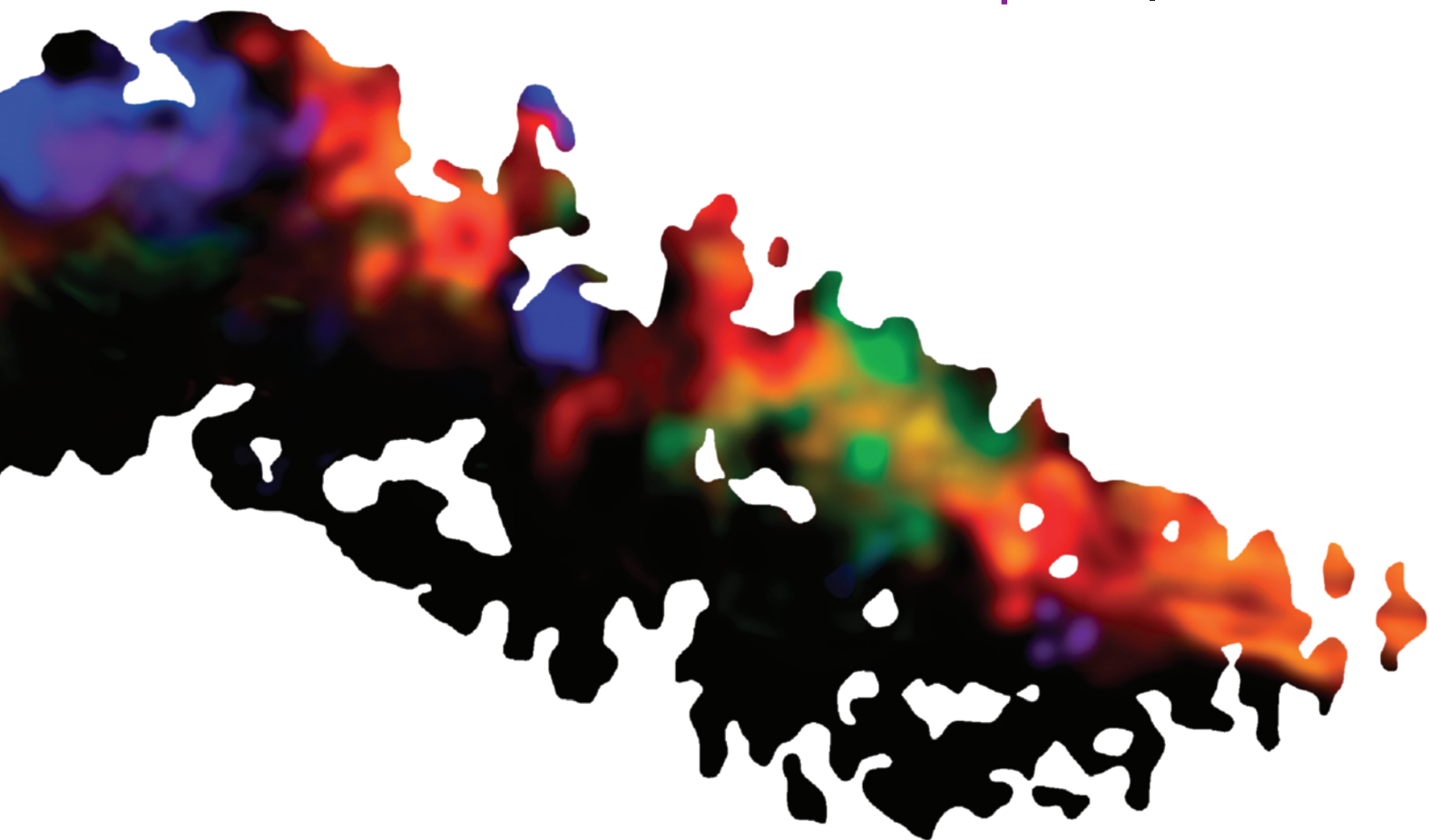




Annual Report | 2024



Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC,
Governor of South Australia

Council

Mark de Raad – President
Julie Quimby – Vice President
Sam Pontifex – Treasurer
Kym Clayton – Secretary
Helen Ayres
Tully Brookes
Shawn Hui
Monika Laczofy OAM
Konstantin Shamray

Monica Wegner – Strategy and Governance

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President's Report



2024 was an excellent year for Recitals Australia and I feel privileged to be the President of an organisation that provides performance opportunities, support, and educational incentives for so many talented young and emerging South Australian musicians.

We continued our relationship in 2024 with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, as our patron and worked closely with Government House to deliver several significant performance opportunities, including performances at two key State Dinners. We express our gratitude to the Governor for her ongoing interest and attention to detail in Recitals Australia's many activities.

Recitals Australia delivered a year of broad activities, continuing the strategic focus on our emerging and pre-professional programs. Recitals Australia hosted our first ever Recitals on the Fringe festival, took part as a key performer organisation in CMA's On The Terrace event and was a co-producing partner of PianoLab 2024.

We sincerely thank the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation for their support in 2024 and into 2025. Our corporate partnerships with key sponsors, including 5MBS Radio, National Trust, Thompson and Cooper and I-Nex continue and are immensely valued.

I express our deep thanks for all donations from the general public.

Recitals Australia continues to be majorly self-funded through revenue from activities and donations to our public fund. A concerning decrease in overall donation monetary value from the public was noted in 2024. Additionally, it is noted that all of our Arts SA and Government funding requests were once again unsuccessful, an ongoing issue.

I thank the Council for their friendship and ongoing support, and especially Secretary Kym Clayton, Treasurer Sam Pontifex and Vice President Julie Quimby. I also extend thanks to the various council members who have formed an active part of new committees including Tully Brookes, Julie Quimby and Monika Laczofy OAM.

Thanks to our staff – administrator Ruth Conry for her contributions in the first half of 2024, and Maria Tynan in her role from October 2024 onwards, and stage manager Antony Coppens. And thanks to our book-keeping team at Being Accountable for their ongoing interest and consulting help.

And finally, a big note of thanks to our many volunteers who help make our visions and programs a reality – we would not be able to do it without your wonderful help.

Mark de Raad
President



Alex Byrne

By the Numbers

69

concerts and events

3

Festivals, including Adelaide Fringe, PianoLab and On The Terrace

2,500+

individual ticket sales

3,000+

virtual audience members watching 8,435 concerts via our website, from 65 countries (data as at 1 Jan 2025)

2,843

hours of music watched through our website and Vimeo channel

2,843

views on Facebook and related social media (data as at 1 Jan 2025).



Lucy Marcourt

Our Purpose and Vision



Haowei Yang

Recitals Australia's purpose is to create pathways for talented, emerging musicians to grow into confident artists.

Our vision is to be the most recognised supporters of emerging musical talent in South Australia, providing performance opportunities, inspiration through connections with accomplished artists and professional development opportunities to realise their ambitions.

Recognising the constraints in South Australia of needing to ensure a rich pipeline of musical talent, limited performance opportunities for emerging artists, strong sector chamber music competition and limited funding sources, we aim to achieve our vision through:

1. Providing quality recital opportunities for emerging artists
2. Providing development and experience programs for emerging artists
3. Ensuring a strong donor development program
4. Holding Virtuosi concerts and special events to attract sponsors, and build brand

These efforts will support the following outcomes for the organisation, and the pre-professional artist sector:

- Growing numbers of and quality of emerging artists supported
- Growing audiences
- Ensuring artist satisfaction with our programs and support
- Growing donations and grants
- Ensuring a strong sustainable cash balance
- Ensuring an engaged board, member and volunteer base of support

Our artists say:

- Recitals Australia is a true partner in my development as an artist
- Recitals Australia has provided a pathway for me to develop into an accomplished and confident artist

Our audiences say:

- I keep returning to Recitals Australia performances because they are high quality, innovative and exciting given their purpose in supporting emerging artists
- It is exciting and fulfilling to see emerging artists develop into accomplished, confident artists

Our donors and supporters say:

- Recitals Australia is clearly differentiated in its purpose and vision in supporting emerging artists and is unique in South Australia and even Australia
- We want to continue supporting RA as we can see clear progress in the number and quality of artists supported; and the quality of performance opportunities provided

The broader music community says:

- Recitals Australia has really advanced the development of our emerging musicians
- We have a richer musical culture in our communities as a result

Recitals Australia Conservatorium Fellowship Program



Angus McBride

In 2024 Recitals Australia continued to collaborate with the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide to deliver the Recitals Australia Fellowship Program, a package of career development opportunities to support the professional and artistic skill growth of a selected group of senior students (known as Fellows) from the Conservatorium. The program will run well into 2025, at which point the intake of the next Fellows will take place.

Each Fellow participates in a 6-9 month program of activities, which include:

- Performance opportunities and connections with venues and producers
- Bespoke mentoring and professional development that is specific to their goals and ambitions
- Artistic development (mentors, masterclasses, performance skills, content production)
- Crucial business skills (sales, marketing, legal, contract development, financial structure).

The Fellowship Program differs from other programs and fellowships in the following ways:

- Supplements and incorporates other programs, such as Helpmann sessions
- Focussed on art music performance and skills
- Brings together multiple (paid) performance opportunities with professional skills development and networking
- Provides a bespoke structured program and dedicated time to cultivate a sustainable career as employed musicians.
- Creates valuable opportunities in South Australia's limited landscape for emerging and pre-professional art music performers
- Cultivates new producers and music opportunities in South Australia, including new venues, collaborations, and regional areas.

The 2024 operational year saw 2 groups of Fellows go through the program:

2023/2024 Fellows were: Esmond Choi (piano), Katelyn Crawford (voice), Gemma Vice (flute) and Haowei Yang (piano).

2024/25 Fellows are: Alex Byrne (flute), Adam Draper (trombone), Lucy Macourt (violin), Bridget McCullough (viola), Angus McBride (bassoon) and Jenny Su (piano).

The 2024/25 Fellows have to date enjoyed performance opportunities at Government House, Southern Cross Care, On the Terrace (with Chamber Music Adelaide), and are scheduled to perform thirteen concerts at the 2025 Recitals on Fringe series as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



Bridget McCullough

Lunch Hour Series



Henry Say

In 2024, Recitals Australia again successfully ran an Autumn and a Spring Series of Lunch Hour Concerts in front of live audiences. The concerts were also live-streamed to online audiences and recorded by 5MBS.

Sadly, we mourned the passing of Philippa McAuliffe, a fine harpist with a long association with Recitals Australia. She performed in many lunch hour series concerts and in several finals concerts. Philippa was only 24 years old and had a vibrant future in music before her; we will forever esteem her contribution to our music making.

Throughout the year, highly respected musicians Leonie Hempton OAM and Keith Hempton assessed the performances of artists in both concert series and recommended a list of finalists to the Chair of the Lunch Hour Series Advisory Panel (Monika Laczofy OAM). We sincerely thank them for giving freely of their time and expertise to this important task .

The finalists for each series went on to compete for awards in a Finals Concert for each Series.

For each series, the prize pool was \$3000, which was distributed as follows:

- 1st prize: \$1000
- 2nd prize: \$750
- 3rd prize: \$500
- The runners up received \$250 each.

The Autumn Series comprised eleven concerts, and the Finals Concert was held on 8 July 2024.

ARTIST	DATE
Philippa McAuliffe, harp	3 Apr
Genpei Zhang, piano	10 Apr
James Skelton, clarinet, with Jamie Cock, piano, (accomp.) and Ryan Grunwald, snare drum (accomp).	17 Apr
Shawn Hui, piano	24 Apr
Bridget McCullough, voice, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	1 May
James Yip, piano	8 May
Michaela Eaton, voice, with Sachiko Hidaka, piano (accomp.)	15 May
Tim Tran, viola, with Stephen van der Hoek, piano (accomp.)	22 May
Paula Custodio, flute, and Haowei Yang, piano	29 May
Megan Robson, guitar	5 Jun
Haowei Yang, organ	12 Jun

The Judging Panel for the Finals Concert comprised Dr Luke Dollman and Jessica Dean. The Panel was chaired by Council member Julie Quimby.

Lunch Hour Series



The winners of the Autumn Series final were:
1st James Skelton, clarinet
2nd Paula Custodio, flute, and Haowei Yang, piano
3rd Megan Robson, guitar

The participants in the **2024 Spring Series** were:

ARTIST	DATE
Jennifer Chen, piano	28 Aug
Adam Draper, trombone, with Stephen van der Hoek, piano (accomp.)	4 Sept
Arjun Singh, cello, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	11 Sept
Esmond Choi, piano	18 Sept
Joshua Rossetto, piano, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	25 Sept
Callum Logan, voice, with Sachiko Hidaka, piano (accomp.), & James Logan, lute	2 Oct
Chiara Kelle, cello, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	9 Oct
Isabelle Watson, violin, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	16 Oct
Stephen van der Hoek, piano	23 Oct
James Logan, lute	30 Oct

The Judging Panel for the finals concert comprised Carl Crossin OAM, Dr Graham Strahle, and Michael Ierace. The Panel was chaired by Council member Julie Quimby.

Simón Pazos Quintana

Simon is a familiar face at Recitals Australia Lunch Hour concerts, for which he frequently provides accompaniment at the piano. In 2018, Simón was the recipient of the Peter Schodde Memorial Piano Scholarship, and was recently awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Recitals Australia is grateful to Simón for his expert accompaniment and for the mentoring he provides to lunch hour series artists.



Junior Series



The Junior Series was established in 2023 and showcased exceptionally talented younger musicians (under the age of 14 years) in concerts. The concerts were usually in two halves of 30 minutes each, held in front of a live audience and streamed to the internet. The concerts took place during the few weeks pause that takes place at the end of performances in a Lunch Hour Series and the Finals Concert of that series. Throughout 2024, Recitals Australia held seven such concerts.

The participants in the **2024 Junior Series** were:

ARTIST	DATE
Ada Wang, piano and viola, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	27 Nov
Ryan Nie, piano	20 Nov
Lucas Truong, piano	20 Nov
Ania Choi, cello, with Michael Ierace, piano (accomp.)	13 Nov
Felix Suo, piano	13 Nov
Tiger Wu, saxophone, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	6 Nov
Emily Wu, piano	6 Nov
Jonathon Wong, piano	19 Jun
Yíng Yíng Shu, violin, with Jamie Cock, piano (accomp.)	19 Jun
Max Junge, voice, with Sachiko Hidaka, piano (accomp.)	10 Jun
Sean Zhang, piano	10 Jun
Nicole Guan, flute & cello, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.)	3 Jun
Andrew Miao, piano	3 Jun





Special Events



Jack Daws

Recitals Australia is proud to present special concert events to feature particular composers or performers.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Charles Ives' birth, on 26 October 2024 pianist Esmond Choi performed Ives' First Piano Sonata. Esmond gave an informative introduction to his concert, and participated in a post-performance interview. The event was produced by Recitals Australia. Esmond Choi is an Australian pianist/composer. He is currently studying a Master of Philosophy in Performance under the supervision of Stephen Whittington and Dr Konstantin Shamray. Esmond is researching Charles Ives's artistic approach on being a musician which took him to the New England Conservatory in Boston, USA, where he intensively studied with Stephen Drury on Charles Ives.

Guest Performances

On occasions, particularly in between the end of a lunch hour series and the corresponding finals performance, Recitals Australia presents concerts by special guests.

On 26 June 2024, Jennifer Bird, flute, with Won Jung Lee, piano (accomp.), presented a program of works by Fauré, Debussy, Bloch, and Poulenc. Jennifer is an Australian flautist (and mezzo-soprano) who is currently based in Adelaide. She completed her undergraduate studies in flute performance at the University of Melbourne and Malmo Academy of Music Sweden, before finishing her Master of Performance at the University of Adelaide. She currently plays with the Adelaide Wind Orchestra and Coruscalia Collective, both of which performed in the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles conference 2024 held in Seoul, South Korea. In 2018, Jennifer performed the world premiere of the Concerto for Flute and Orchestra by Australian composer Peter Webb OAM with the Unley Symphony Orchestra. Between 2018 to 2021, while based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Jennifer collaborated with celebrated Indonesian jazz composer and pianist Metta Legita and with the Metta Legita Ensemble as part of the Joint Cultural Performance between Indonesia and Cambodia for His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni in 2019.

On 24 July 2024, Alexander Joe Byrne, flute, with Simón Pazos Quintana, piano (accomp.), presented a program of works by Mozart, Debussy, Enescu, Varèse, Schulhoff, and Martin. Alex Byrne is currently a third-year flute student at the Elder Conservatorium of Music studying the Classical Performance (Advanced) course under the tutelage of Dr Julia Grenfell, and previously Elizabeth Koch AM. Alex recently passed his casual audition with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra on both the flute and piccolo. He has received numerous awards and scholarships including the Victor Edgeloe Scholarship for Woodwind, the Cowan Family Grant, Robert Brown Grant, and the David Cubbin Medallion. He has experienced successes in the Adelaide Eisteddfods, and was selected as a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra Camp 2024. He has been a member of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra from 2021 – 2023, as well as the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra.

On 31 July 2024, the Open Music Academy String Quartet & AdYO Mahogany Quartet presented a program of works by Haydn, Beethoven, Bridge, Rachmaninov, and Schubert. The Open Music Academy String Quartet comprises Alannah Kennedy, Aiya Ishino, Annika Ganesh, and Sherry Cheng. The AdYO Mahogany Quartet comprises Jude Owens-Fleetwood, Victoria Phan, Oliver Brown, and Jasmin Baker.

Grants and Prizes



Recitals Australia accepts applications for small grants from emerging musicians to assist them to achieve special projects that go beyond the ordinary. Up to \$5,000 in total is available annually for the purposes of making grants.

Council implements a policy on grants and prizes that outlines Council's definitions of "grant", "prize" and related terms, and outlines Council's processes to manage the disbursement of prizes and grants in ways that are transparent and respected by the general public.

In 2024 there was one application for a grant from Ella Beard which was successful. Ella was granted \$5,000 – our total allocation for the year – to assist her to travel to the USA and participate in the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival, which is described as "...a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today's pioneers of experimental music".

In her application Ella stated "I expect that this festival will offer me a lot to bring back to Australia: global perspectives, a broader knowledge of repertoire, greater technical refinement, and international artistic connections. For me personally, this festival also presents an important opportunity to further establish myself as a champion of new music and a specialised performer."

The festival takes place at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, Massachusetts, USA. Bang on a Can alumni include many successful musicians and composers of contemporary art music, including Grammy Award winner Missy Mazzoli, as well as special guest performers such as Australia's own Lisa Moore.

One other application was received but was not successful because the annual allocation was exhausted. It was suggested to the applicant they reapply in the next year.



Sponsorships

Recitals Australia currently supports the Adelaide Eisteddfod Society by providing cash sponsorship for several Eisteddfod sections:

- Section P227 (11 to 16 years Piano Recitals)
- Section S939 (25 years and under Any String Player Solo)
- Section CN901 (27 years and under Instrument Solo)

In 2024, the results from these sections were:

SECTION: P227 11 16 years Piano Recital Solo

1st Mia Huangi

2nd Alex Yuheng He

3rd Amy Yizhen Song

Honourable Mention: Anthony Xie Cernaz, Genpei Zhang, Jeffery Leung, Yilin Ella Gu

SECTION: S939 25 years and under Any String Player Solo

1st Tim Tran

2nd Natasha Paran

3rd Jude Owens Fleetwood

Honourable Mention: Ruby Lee

SECTION: CN901 27 years and under Instrument Solo

1st Jude Owens Fleetwood

2nd Natasha Paran

3rd Vincenzo Panetta

Honourable Mention: Daniel Chieng, Haowei Yang

The winners of these Eisteddfod competitions are encouraged to perform a Lunch Hour Series Concert for Recitals Australia. A number of them do so, especially prior to the Eisteddfod competitions.

5 MBS Access Programs

In 2024 Recitals Australia presented eight radio programs (each of one hour duration) through the 5MBS Access Groups Broadcasts program. Programs were prepared by Kym Clayton, Julie Quimby and Yundi Yuan, and were used to promote Recitals Australia activities including LHS concerts.

Radio 5MBS is a valued presentation partner of Recitals Australia. 5MBS sound engineers attend and record nearly all concerts presented by Recitals Australia. The sound recordings are high quality and are made available to the emerging artists at no cost for their own use (e.g., for auditions). Where possible, recordings of emerging artists who perform in Recitals Australia concerts are used as musical items in 5MBS Access Groups Broadcasts presented by Recitals Australia.

Recitals Australia Inc – Treasurer’s Report

In most respects the 2024 financial year (ending 31 December 2024) was similar in outcome to our 2023 operations.

The primary revenue stream was again donations from the public and the capacity building grant from the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation, at \$52,000, an increase of \$5,000 on FY 2023 due to a one-off sponsorship of an extra Fellowship activity. The two other main revenue streams of the Lunch Hour Series and event ticket sales were quite comparable to 2023.

In 2024, 49 motivated individuals donated \$22,940, predominantly from smaller donations. Recitals Australia has an enduring relationship with a number of key donors, who donate in excess of \$5,000 each.

All in all, total revenue increased by around \$800 from 2023, however the overall improvement in financial operations of almost \$24,00 can be attributed to a reduction in outgoings due to increased efficiency and volunteer engagement. Outgoings for awards for Lunch Hour Series and for related accounting & bookkeeping were on a par with 2023, but there were material reductions in the following administrative expenses:

- Employment expenses (wages and superannuation) fell by over \$25,000
- Advertising and marketing fell by almost \$8,000

The reductions can predominantly be attributed to a change in employment of key administrative staff, and the delay in finding a suitable replacement. There was also a material reduction in performance fees paid to artists from \$10,740 in 2023, to just on \$3,000 in 2024, which was predominantly related to a return to focusing on pre-professional activity and our inability (due to denied funding) to run several festivals (such as the composer festival ReClassified, and an enlarged PianoLab collaboration).

That said, the following outgoings increased quite materially from 2023. Both are reflected by increased demand for experiential grants and increased fees for venue hire:

- Grants increased by \$9,000 to \$10,500
- Rent increased by around \$7,000, from \$1,270 to \$8,285

There was some modest expenditure incurred to acquire new equipment of just over \$3,000. This comprised a laptop and accessories for around \$1,400 and improved recording equipment of around \$1,700.

Our three pianos, which comprise the balance of plant and equipment, are shown at cost, and have carried forward year on year and Council is satisfied that their written-down value is commercially realistic.

There was an outgoing this year of \$1,375 for piano tuning which, as it did not appear last year, can be seen as more than a single year’s worth and not recurrent as to 100%.

The organisation is well governed and well administered and depending on its ambitions is very well situated to maintain its high community profile in the arts industry in South Australia. On balance the financial operations of the organisation continue to depend materially on donations received and the grant from the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation.

The organisation does however have very health cash reserves of some \$168,000 with Bendigo Bank that will enable it to continue to fund projects compatible with its mission statement for some years to come.

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the year ended
31 December 2024

Extract of the audited Financial
Report, a complete copy of
which is available on request

	2024	2023
REVENUE	\$	\$
Grants	52,000	47,000
Sundry Donations	22,660	25,954
Memberships	550	550
Lunch Hour Series	10,760	11,115
Recording Fees	5,250	7,950
Concerts and Performances	9,082	3,095
Piano Hire	100	3,950
Other Income	10	13
TOTAL REVENUE	100,413	99,627
EXPENDITURE		
Accompanist	798	-
Accounting, bookkeeping and audit fee	6,128	7,016
Administration	1,818	1,143
Advertising and Marketing	3,191	10,951
Artists Fees & Other	2,976	10,740
Awards – LHS	7,950	7,800
Catering	415	489
Concert Expenses	640	2,066
Depreciation	5,117	4,499
Finance Expenses	488	668
Grants Made	10,500	1,500
Insurance	3,619	3,595
Piano Tuning	1,375	-
Rent	8,285	1,270
Sponsorship	2,150	2,150
Subscriptions	1,804	1,785
Venue Hire	966	-
Wages	31,765	57,001
Workcover	637	780
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	90,621	113,453
NET INCOME/LOSS	9,792	13,826

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
ASSET	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	168,290	163,449
Receivables	100	500
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	168,390	163,949
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	59,389	61,412
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	59,807	61,412
TOTAL ASSETS	227,779	225,360
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	960	110
PAYG Payable	1,126	3,882
Annual Leave Payable	1,635	6,403
Superannuation Payable	968	1,667
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,689	12,062
NET ASSETS	223,090	213,298
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Current Year Earnings. / (Loss)	9,792	(13,826)
Retained Earnings	213,298	227,124
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	223,090	213,298



Recitals Australia invites you to contact us to discuss tickets, sponsorship and support or general inquiries

Phone: 08 8236 7488

All enquiries: info@recitalsaustralia.org.au

Or you may contact the President directly:
president@recitalsaustralia.org.au

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