

OAKEN PALACE RECORDS

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity Number 1154786

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

# Charity Information and Organisation

**Charity name:** Oaken Palace Records

**Address:** 174 Old Bedford Road  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
LU2 7HW

**Trustees:** Dr Sven Lohrey (chair)  
Dr Owen Coggins  
Dr Jakob Stollberger  
Dr Kristin Hildenbrand

Oaken Palace Records is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1154786, governed according to the CIO Foundation Constitution, last amended on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013.

The Members of the CIO are natural persons, who undertake to act in good faith to further the purposes of the CIO.

The affairs of the CIO are managed by the Charity Trustees. There must be at least three and no more than 10 Trustees. These Trustees may appoint new Trustees at any time, provided that a resolution is passed at a properly convened meeting of the current Charity Trustees.

Decisions are made by simple majority of votes at a meeting of the Trustees or by resolution made in writing or in electronic form and agreed by all Trustees.

Day to day management of the CIO's affairs throughout 2019 was carried out by the chair, Sven Lohrey, who was responsible for accounting, the online presence, and continuing the relationships with suppliers and distributors, and Owen Coggins, who was responsible for packing and shipping the sold goods, as well as contacting and building working relationships with new artists. As in previous years, all Trustees decide together on new albums to be released, and, together with the participating artists/bands, on suitable animal protection organisations to receive grants.

## Introduction

The trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. This report is presented in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities" (FRSSE), effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

## Objectives and activities

As per its Foundation Constitution, the objectives of the CIO are:

- (1) The advancement of the art of Drone Metal music by the production and distribution on recordings in this genre;
- (2) The conservation of endangered species of animals by the provision of grants.

In exercising their duty, the Charity Trustees have reviewed that all their activities have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The main activities of the CIO in order to achieve these objectives, as mentioned in point (1), are the release of Drone Metal music on different media (physical and digital), distributing these releases to a wide audience through the CIO's own websites as well as distributor partners in Europe (Sonic Rendezvous) and the United States (The Business at Anacortes), and promoting the releases through reviews in high-profile music outlets as well as free streaming.

Each released album is dedicated to a specific endangered animal. Animals are chosen by the contributing artists and bands, but always in discussion with the Trustees, and based on the animals' conservation status as listed on the IUCN redlist.

Once the production costs of each release have been covered, all profits are donated to an environmental organisation that works towards the protection of the respective endangered animal. To ensure that the given grants benefit those animals as directly as possible, donations are primarily given to specific on-going or planned projects run by small, specialised environmental organisations, which must be registered as a charity in their country.

## Achievements and performance

### **(1) With regards to the advancement of the art of Drone Metal music:**

Compared to previous years, 2019 was a relatively quiet year for Oaken Palace Records. On the basis of the big success of OAK-013: Ikiru by Louise Landes Levi, which almost sold out on pre-orders alone, we decided to order the first repress in the label's history, with the 300 additional copies being split equally between the label and the artists. This repress is well on its way to break even, and we expect to be making donations in the course of 2020.

The only new album to be released in 2019 was OAK-016: Squeeze The Lids Through Coming Window, consisting of two tracks of collective drone improvisations by UK drone pioneers Vibracathedral Orchestra. The band has released over 40 albums since 1998 and is still shaping the UK drone and psychedelic scene. The band dedicated their album to the critically endangered pangolin, which is the most poached animal on this planet. At the end of 2019, this release had covered 2/3 of its production costs.

Prior to the release, we were contacted by a person organising an event called Animal Sounds at Café OTO in London as part of their series Music and Other Living Creatures. Music and Other Living Creatures is dedicated to music about, with, or by other living creatures. Birds, tigers, chickens, insects and many other living creatures are explored through sound-walks, listening sessions, commissioned

performances, live responses and discussions. At this event, two members of Vibracathedral Orchestra presented the new album, and Owen Coggins was interviewed about Oaken Palace Records.

In 2019, we also released a new label shirt, produced as eco-friendly as possible in a factory using wind energy and made from 100% organic cotton. In addition, the only release that had not covered its production costs, Phurpa's double LP Sacred Sounds, did so in 2019 and is now returning a profit.

As in previous years, we continue to make all releases available to stream for free via the Oaken Palace Records homepage and Bandcamp page, in order to allow everyone to access Drone music irrespective of their financial situation.

In detail, the following two albums were released in 2019:

(a) OAK-013: Louise Landes Levi – Ikiru (repress, released on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019)

This vinyl album is a musical journey through the life and fate of the Monarch butterfly, to which the release is dedicated. IKIRU, which is Japanese for "to grow", starts with "Butterfly Graveyard", a musical assessment of the current state of the Monarch butterfly, whose population has declined by over 80% over the past 20 years. On "Butterfly Brain", this worrying development is contrasted with the bravery and wonder of the species, its transformation from a caterpillar to a butterfly, which then travels thousands of miles on its journeys from the US to Mexico. The repress of this album is limited to 300 copies on 140g black vinyl, housed in sleeves made from 100% sustainable materials.

(b) OAK-016: Vibracathedral Orchestra – Squeeze The Lids Through Coming Window (released on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019)

A piercing hum awakens alien skreeks and insect antennae and fluttering seedpod drifts and curled leaf wails... reedy twirlings dance above organic-machine wheeling thuds... hopping whistles accompany descending klangs, producing a rushing stasis, a clattering bliss, a reverential noise. Vibracathedral Orchestra's trademark levitation drone returns to earth to offer two sidelong utopias, a revolving array of instruments selected in turn by the musicians, each inventing utterly distinctive lines of their own which nevertheless weave together rafts of joyous collective racket. New elements sometimes emerge discordantly but are folded into a diverse whole, each new plateau constructing itself from scraps then dissolving into raw sonic material for new configurations. Radical collective drone improvisation. This release is dedicated to the pangolin, the world's most poached animal, with all profits being donated to the Pangolin Conservation Fund of the Zoological Society of London. The album is limited to 300 copies on 140g red transparent vinyl in sustainable sleeves. Additionally, 20 test pressing copies with alternative artwork were available.

Oaken Palace Records continues to benefit the public in four ways: Firstly, by promoting new and innovative approaches to Drone Metal music of less well-known artists and bands as well as giving more established artists and bands a platform to express their concern for the environment. Secondly, by making all releases freely available via streaming services on Oaken Palace Records websites. Thirdly, several reviews of the releases were published in high-profile music outlets in different countries and languages, including music sites like Pitchfork, Terrorizer, The Wire, and Decibel, further contributing to the advancement of Drone Metal music. Finally, Oaken Palace releases are not only sold via the Charity's websites, but distributed widely in Europe and the US.

**(2) With regards to the conservation of endangered species of animals by the provision of grants:**

Apart from the repress of OAK-013 and the newly released OAK-016, all other releases are returning a profit, and therefore qualify for donations being made to environmental organisations working towards the conservation and protection of the respective species to which the albums were dedicated.

In detail, the following donations were made throughout 2019:

(a) On 31<sup>st</sup> July:

GBP 300 for the Amur tiger to the Wildcats Conservation Alliance, from profits of OAK-012: Phurpa – Sacred Sounds 22.1.17 (released in 2017).

(b) On 31<sup>st</sup> July:

NZD 500 (GBP 285.15) for the kakapo to Kakapo Recovery, from profits of OAK-010: Merzbow – Kakapo (released in 2016).

(c) On 1<sup>st</sup> August:

USD 340 (GBP 290.29) for polar bears to Polar Bears International, from profits of OAK-001: Parallel Lines – White Fur /// Black Cathedral (released in 2013).

(d) On 2<sup>nd</sup> August:

GBP 300 for Asian vultures to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), from profits of OAK-014: GOLD – Faces I Don't Recall (released in 2018).

(e) On 26<sup>th</sup> December:

GBP 150 for bumblebees to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, from profits of OAK-004: Plurals – Bugenes Melissae (released in 2014).

(f) On 26<sup>th</sup> December:

GBP 400 for the Aye aye to the Durrell Wildlife Trust, from profits of OAK-007: Blown Out – Planetary Engineering (released in 2015).

In total, Oaken Palace Records donated GBP 1725.44 in 2019. The total donation amount since 2014 is now GBP 15,165.61. Donation certificates and/or Thank You letters for each of the listed donations can be found in the appendix of this report.

## Financial review

The results for the year and financial position are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet on pages 7 and 8.

Total incoming resources were £2,524 (2018: £4,764), and resources expended were £2,672 (2018: £2,840), resulting in a slight deficit of £148 (2018: surplus of £1,924).

## Reserves policy

The Trustees review the policy on reserves and set targets at least once per annum with reference to the guidance and terminology published by the Charity Commission. The policy is also reviewed, when warranted by changes in risk assessment or business plans. The review includes unrestricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets. Transfers to and from funds are authorised by at least two of the three current Trustees. Currently, there are no funds materially in deficit.

## Plans for future periods

With the now imminent leaving of the EU, the future of Oaken Palace Records is uncertain. We are already noticing increases in production costs, and further increases in shipping costs to non-UK destinations might make buying our releases less attractive for overseas customers. That being said, we have not noticed a significant decrease in our overall sales, which might be due to recent currency fluctuations in favour of the Euro and Dollar.

While the originally planned drone LP by Bong member David Terry did not materialise, two new releases are already finished or in production. The first is the debut release by Canadian drone artist Cigue, who Oaken Palace Records Trustee Owen Coggins met on a music conference. This EP, entitled *What Makes Them Burn*, will be released in an edition of 100 tapes, housed in Maltese cross boxes made from recycled card. It is dedicated to the Blue-eyed Ground-dove, with a suitable recipient of donations still to be decided.

The second release is part of our Black Series and comes by Dutch one-man Black Metal outfit Golden Ashes. Combining synthesizers with blast beats to create harsh walls of sound, Golden Ashes further extends the musical scope of the label with his album *In The Lugubrious Silence Of Eternal Night*, which will be released in May on 300 vinyl LPs in sustainable sleeves. This release is dedicated to the Hooded vulture, and we are currently searching for an organisation to receive the future donations.

Finally, a third release is planned – a new project by Louise Landes Levi together with Bart De Paepe and Koen Vandenhoude, called *Bombay Lunatic Asylum*, has already recorded their second album after a very limited debut release on *Des Astres d'Or*. The release is currently being mastered, and will likely be donated to the giraffe.

Sven Lohrey, Chair of Trustees  
February 2020

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		2019 Restricted £	2019 Designated £	2019 Unrestricted £	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Grants and Donations	2	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trading	3	0	0	2,524	2,524	4,764
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		0	0	2,524	2,524	4,764
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Postage and Carriage	4	0	0	874	874	0
Charitable Donations	5	0	0	1,725	1,725	2,497
Bank Charges and Professional Fees	6	0	0	73	73	(27)
Suspense and Mispostings	7	0	0	0	0	370
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		0	0	2,672	2,672	2,840
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		0	0	(148)	(148)	1,924
<b>BROUGHT FORWARD 1<sup>st</sup> JAN 2019</b>		0	0	5,617	5,617	3,712
<b>CARRIED FORWARD 31<sup>st</sup> DEC 2019</b>		0	0	5,469	5,469	5,636

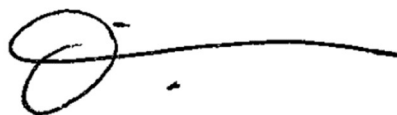
## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		0		0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Amounts Due	1,678		1,262	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	3,791		4,374	
	<u>5,469</u>		<u>5,636</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts due	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>5,469</u>		<u>5,636</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<u>5,469</u>		<u>5,636</u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>				
Restricted		0		0
Designated		0		0
Unrestricted		<u>5,469</u>		<u>5,636</u>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<u>5,469</u>		<u>5,636</u>

### Accounts approved by Trustees



Dr Sven Lohrey  
February 2020



Dr Owen Coggins  
February 2020



# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2019

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with (1) Accounting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005), (2) with Financial reporting standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE), and (3) with the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources are recognised on a receivable basis, and liabilities are recognised on an accruals basis.

## 2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVABLE

2019	2019	2018	2018
Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
0	0	0	0

## 3. CHARITABLE TRADING GROSS PROFIT (UNRESTRICTED)

	2019	2018
	Unrestricted £	Unrestricted £
Physical Music Media (Vinyl Records and Tapes)	4,834	6,487
Digital Downloads	352	217
	5,186	6,704

## 4. CHARITABLE DONATIONS

	2019	2019	2018	2018
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
Kakapo Recovery	0	285	0	0
Polar Bears International	0	290	0	0
EDGE of Existence	0	0	0	350
Durrell Wildlife Conservation	0	400	0	0
Whale & Dolphin Conservation	0	0	0	250
Naturschutzbund NÖ	0	0	0	527
RSPB	0	300	0	0
Wildcats Conservation Alliance	0	300	0	0
US NFWF	0	0	0	1220
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	0	150	0	150
	0	1,725	0	2,497

## 5. BANK CHARGES AND PROFESSIONAL FEES (UNRESTRICTED)

	2019	2018
	Unrestricted £	Unrestricted £
Bank Account Fees	60	60
Foreign Transaction Charges	7	0
Currency Conversion Charges	0	0
Exchange Rate Variances	6	(245)
PayPal Fees	105	158
Discogs Fees	10	-
SumUp Fees	1	-
Suspense and Mispostings	0	370
	<hr/> 189	<hr/> 343



Photo: Stephen Jaquier

# CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

This certificate acknowledges the symbolic  
adoption of

*KUIA by DAKEN PALACE RECORDS & MERZBOW*

who have made a generous contribution to Kākāpō Recovery  
towards the protection and management of this critically  
endangered species.

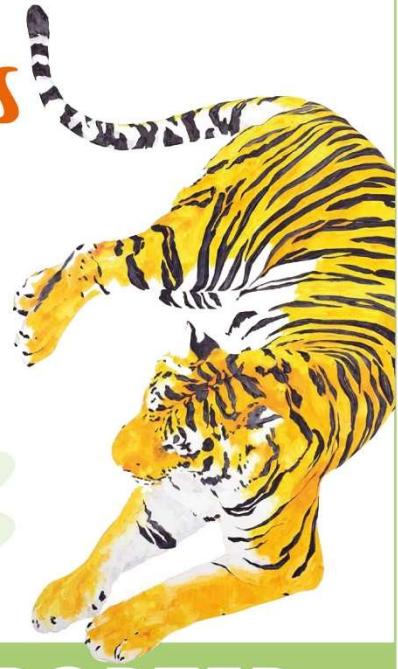
Date: *1<sup>st</sup> August 2019*



# Oaken Palace Records

Thank you for becoming a WildCats supporter.  
A donation of £300 has been made to wild  
tiger conservation. Find out about the vital work  
you are supporting by visiting;  
[conservewildcats.org](http://conservewildcats.org)

**WILDCATS**  
CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE



## WILD TIGER SUPPORTER

WildCats Conservation Alliance is a unique wild tiger & Amur leopard conservation initiative between  
Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the Zoological Society of London (UK charity # 208728)



Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Donation Certificate

*Oaken Palace Records*

are supporting Durrell's work with aye-ayes for a third successive year



Issue Date: December 2019

Durrell Reference: 1096837

# **Thank you for your kind donation**

**Oaken Palace  
Records & Gold**  
who donated £300 to the  
RSPB for the Asian  
Vultures Appeal

[www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/donate/appeals/asian-vultures](http://www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/donate/appeals/asian-vultures)

August 2019

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Registered charity no 207076



# Polar Bear Adoption



Polar Bears International thanks  
Oaken Palace Records  
for helping build a brighter future for polar bears  
through their generous support.

*This act of generosity will keep polar bears in the Arctic always.*



*PBI's mission is to conserve polar bears and the sea ice they depend on.  
Through media, science, and advocacy, we work to inspire people to care about the Arctic,  
the threats to its future, and the connection between this remote region and our global climate.*



## Certificate of Thanks

This certificate is proudly presented to

**Oaken Palace Records and Plurals**

on behalf of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, for raising the following amount  
in support of the bumblebees!

**£150**

Gill Perkins  
CEO

Claire Wales  
Fundraising Manager

Company Limited by Guarantee No: 05618710. Registered Charity No: 1115634. Scottish Charity No: SC042830. Registered address: Parkway House Business Centre, Eastleigh Works, Campbell Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 5AD. September 2016. © All rights reserved. BBCT043. [www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org)