

**TL  
SU**

**TRINITY LABAN  
STUDENTS' UNION**

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025



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# TLSU TEAM

## 2024-2025

# TL SU



RHYS MAYCOCK  
**TLSU PRESIDENT**



GEORGE LEWIS  
**SU SUPPORT  
ADMINISTRATOR**

## VOLUNTARY OFFICERS



MABEL HAWTHORNE  
**WELFARE OFFICER**



AMADEA TOPALLI  
**SECRETARY**

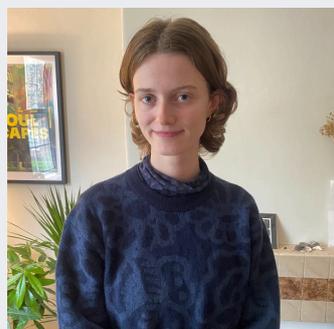


HARRY CHARLES  
**QUARTER MASTER**  
2024 AUG - 2025 FEB

## VOLUNTARY SUB-TEAM



LIANA-ROSA DELLAPINA  
**UG DANCE SUB-TEAM**



POPPY HELMER  
**MUSIC SUB-TEAM**



ELLA SHAUL  
**MUSICAL THEATRE  
SUB-TEAM**



BRONWYN HUDSON  
**MUSICAL THEATRE  
SUB-TEAM**  
2024 AUG - OCT

# ABOUT TLSU

TRINITY LABAN STUDENTS' UNION

## **CORE AIMS**

*AS WRITTEN IN THE CONSTITUTION UNDER "AIMS"*

- To promote the welfare and represent the interests of students of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance hereinafter referred to as "Trinity Laban".
- To facilitate the social, recreational, and educational interests of the members, through the provision of services and support.
- To act as a recognised channel of communication between the members, the Governors, committees, senior managers of the Institution and other external bodies.
- Foster and encourage freedom of speech and take measures to encourage and build a student community which celebrates the diversity of members.
- To act as a neutral apolitical organisation that will not engage with political activity to allow for inclusivity for all. As per the UK legal requirements.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**This academic year has marked one of the most ambitious, transformative, and student-focused periods in recent TLSU history. From physical upgrades to cultural milestones and renewed trust in our events, TLSU has worked hard to create spaces and experiences where students feel empowered, connected, and creatively enriched.**

## **TLSU Team Clean-Up**

At the start of the academic year, the TLSU team came together for a full clean-up and refresh of all union-run spaces. This hands-on effort not only improved the aesthetic and functionality of our venues but also set the tone for a culture of care, pride, and ownership across the Union. By creating welcoming, tidy, and organised environments, we laid the groundwork for successful events and meaningful student interactions throughout the year.

## **Freshers Week**

Freshers Week was a major success, attracting students from across all art forms at Trinity Laban. The week was designed to be inclusive, vibrant, and interdisciplinary, drawing both new and returning students into a shared celebration of creativity and community.

In collaboration with Trinity Laban, the Freshers Tent at the KCC Courtyard was built, we hosted a wide variety of events that balanced fun with function. The tent served as a central hub for, performances, and social interaction. The week not only drew engagement but also generated a £5,000 profit, reflecting strong financial planning and community support.

## **TLSU Bar Upgrade**

This year saw a major milestone for TLSU facilities, the installation of the first ever beer taps in the TLSU bar. This upgrade marked a significant step in improving our hospitality offering and enhancing the student social experience. The bar has become a more inviting and professional space, encouraging greater footfall and engagement at evening events.

## **The Biggest Winter Ball in TLSU History**

In collaboration with ALCOPA (All London Conservatoires of Performing Arts), we hosted what became the largest Winter Ball in TLSU's history. The event sold over 400 tickets and featured standout performances from Trinity Laban students, showcasing the exceptional talent within our own community. Held at a Blackheath halls, the Winter Ball raised TLSU's profile and progressed cross-conservatoire connections while celebrating our students.

## **Refurbished TLSU Venue Space**

Recognising the importance of student spaces, TLSU invested in upgrading our main venue with the help of Trinity Laban. A fresh coat of paint and the installation of high-end sound equipment, the space has become a more functional and inspiring environment. Whether for performances, socials, or rehearsals, the venue now reflects the high standards and creative energy of our student body.

## **Musical Theatre Playthrough**

A student-led musical theatre playthrough became one of the most heartwarming and engaging events of the year. It offered a relaxed, supportive platform for performance and creativity, while also serving as a celebration of the strong sense of community within the student body. This event highlighted TLSU's commitment to student experience.

## **A Vision for a better TLSU**

This year also marked the beginning of a long-term conversation about the future of TLSU, including possibilities for expansion. These early discussions have focused on increasing our reach, improving infrastructure, and building the long-term capacity of the Union to meet the growing and changing needs of our student body. We're excited to continue shaping this vision collaboratively with students, staff, and key stakeholders.

# REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

This year's journey in representation began with significant challenges. From the very start, TLSU was faced with the responsibility of advocating for students amidst difficult circumstances, including serious concerns raised by members of the Jazz faculty community following the impact of Martin Speak's involvement at the institution.

As a representative, I was thrown in at the deep end, but remained grounded in my own core values of (whilst learning TLSU's core values) honesty, transparency, and student empowerment. I used personal connections and open communication to ensure that student voices, particularly those expressing anger, hurt, and frustration, were heard by Trinity Laban executives.

The unity and strength of the Jazz student community in responding to this situation were powerful and deeply moving.

Despite our efforts, I want to acknowledge that TLSU could and should have done more to support students and help the wider institution better understand the gravity of the harm caused. It is a matter of deep regret that some students did not feel fully seen or supported during this time. This should never have happened, and as a Union, we must take responsibility for the role we play in advocating not just in moments of celebration, but in times of institutional reckoning. We are committed to learning from this and ensuring we are better equipped to respond with care, action, and solidarity in future.

TLSU continued to represent and advocate for students in a number of formal and informal settings. We maintained a presence at committee meetings throughout the year, bringing student concerns and perspectives into key decision-making spaces. Through programme forums, we worked to empower students to speak on their own behalf.

TLSU also actively engaged in Trinity Laban's Longtable Talks, participating in open, inclusive dialogues around institutional culture, student experience, and issues of equity. In addition, we represented student voices at Student Town Halls, helping to bridge the gap between the student body and the executives.

Representation is not always easy, and this year proved that more than most, but it is at the heart of what TLSU exists to do. We are proud of the students who raised their voices, asked difficult questions, and held all of us to account. Your voices have power, and our job is to ensure that power is felt, heard, and respected.

# EVENTS & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, Trinity Laban Students' Union delivered its most ambitious and wide-ranging events programme to date. From freshers festivities and live music showcases to professional development masterclasses and cross-faculty collaborations, our aim was to create spaces where students could celebrate, perform, socialise, and grow.

## Freshers Week 2024

This year's Freshers Week set a new benchmark for what TLSU can deliver, thanks in large part to the incredible branding and visual identity created by the team & executed by Bronwyn Hudson, which gave the week a bold, unified look across all events and promotions.

Freshers Week featured the new Freshers Tent, created in partnership with Trinity Laban and set up in the KCC Courtyard. A central, accessible space that served as the social heart of the week. The tent was intentionally designed to reach across disciplines, with cross-collaboration between music, dance, and musical theatre students. Current students were given space to showcase their work and welcome incoming cohorts, establishing a warm and inclusive environment.

While engagement from incoming students was moderate overall, certain key events, including the Freshers Fair, saw exceptionally high turnout and enthusiasm. TLSU societies and external businesses engaged positively with students, providing valuable networking opportunities and community connection. The debut of new Trinity Laban merchandise also led to a massive wave of sales, helping students feel more connected to their institution.

Financially, this was the most profitable Freshers Week in TLSU's history, with a surplus of £5,000, money that was reinvested into events and equipment for students throughout the year.

## Boat Parties

Historically, TLSU boat parties have faced reputational challenges. This year, we made a conscious effort to reimagine these events and successfully delivered two well-run, safe, and widely praised parties: the Freshers Boat Party and the Spring Boat Party.

Both events were fully sold out, with a vibrant atmosphere and strong cross-programme attendance. By putting safety, inclusivity, and production value at the forefront, these events have helped rebuild trust around social experiences at TLSU and demonstrated how traditional student events can evolve into meaningful, positive moments in the calendar.

## Winter Ball

The 2025 Winter Ball was the largest mid-term event in TLSU history, selling over 400 tickets and drawing in students from across London thanks to our collaboration with ALCOPA (All London Conservatoires of Performing Arts). The night featured live performances by our own Jazz students, showcasing the talent within Trinity Laban and allowing our community to shine on a bigger stage. With the relationship of blackheath halls this was a very profitable event for the union.

Beyond just a social gathering, the event symbolised what's possible when conservatoires work together, and marked an exciting new chapter of inter-institutional collaboration.

## Rock Night

With the installation of new high-end sound equipment, we launched a reinvigorated vision for our venue space, the Undercroft. Our TLSU Rock Night was one of the first events to test this potential, providing a professional platform for BAMPI (BA Music Performance and Industry) students to showcase their work.

The night was a clear success, not just as a high-energy gig, but as proof that the Undercroft can serve as a credible live venue for student performances and future collaborations.

# CONTINUED...

## **Undercroft Live Sessions: A COLAB project**

One of the most innovative events this year was the first-ever Undercroft Live Sessions, a COLAB project led by myself (TLSU President) and Korben Lay, a third-year BAMPI student. These sessions were fully filmed, recorded, and produced, creating professional-grade promotional content for both TLSU and the student performers.

Performers participated at no cost and walked away with high-quality video and audio recordings of their work, a valuable asset for portfolios, applications, and public releases. The project demonstrated how TLSU can be a facilitator of creative infrastructure, not just a promoter of events.

## **Mock Finals**

To support students in their final year, TLSU introduced Mock Final Performances, a unique opportunity for students to trial their end-of-year recitals and projects in front of a live audience. These events were recorded using our new equipment and made available to performers for free, providing a crucial layer of rehearsal, reflection, and professional material ahead of assessment.

This initiative helped reduce performance anxiety, increased student confidence, and gave a sense of structure and support to the challenging final term.

## **Musical Theatre Playthrough:**

The Musical Theatre Playthrough was a highlight of the year, featuring cross-collaboration between the Musical Theatre and music BMus programme. The event generated high engagement and vibrant energy, allowing students to explore professional material of musical theatre in a relaxed, supportive environment. It was a joyful reminder of the interdisciplinary spirit that defines Trinity Laban.

## **Workshops, Dance Classes & TLSU Masterclasses**

Throughout the year, TLSU expanded its offering of workshops and extracurricular learning, with a focus on dance and interdisciplinary engagement. A special thanks goes to Mabel Hawthorne and Liana-Rosa Dellapina, who executed a range of dance classes and workshops that were open to all students, regardless of discipline.

In parallel, we launched the first-ever TLSU Masterclasses, a new initiative designed to encourage creative and professional development outside of core coursework. These classes attracted students from across all art forms, giving them space to explore new skills, techniques, and collaborations.

## **Summer Ball 2025**

The 2025 Summer Ball was not only a celebration to close out the year, but also one of the most ambitious and strategically planned events on the TLSU calendar. Traditionally held at the Painted Hall in Greenwich, a beautiful but financially unsustainable venue, the Summer Ball in previous years had come with a price tag BETWEEN £25,000 - £30,000 FACTORING IN A £10,000 DISCOUNT FOR A FREE HIRE, resulting in high ticket prices and limited accessibility for many students.

This year, TLSU made the conscious decision to break with that model.

We opted for a completely new direction, one that prioritised student inclusion, financial responsibility, and a vibrant social atmosphere. Our new venue, Tempo Lounge @ All Bar One at The O2 in North Greenwich, was chosen for its professional setting, flexibility, and far greater affordability. This change allowed us to cut ticket prices by 50%, making the Summer Ball more accessible to a wider portion of the student body than ever before.

The venue hosted both a formal dinner and an afterparty, providing a full, high-quality experience without compromising on atmosphere or professionalism. Despite the lower budget, the event felt celebratory and polished, thanks to careful planning, creative use of resources, and strong coordination with the venue's team.

Organising the event came with its challenges, navigating logistics, managing expectations, and reimagining what a "traditional" ball could be. But in the end, the Summer Ball stood as a symbol of what TLSU aims to achieve: events that bring students together in joyful, meaningful ways without excluding anyone on the basis of cost.

This year's Summer Ball didn't just succeed, it proved that TLSU can evolve our most established traditions into something more sustainable, inclusive, and student-focused.

# SOCIETIES & STUDENT LED-GROUPS

**At the heart of TLSU lies a thriving community of student-led societies that reflect the spirit, diversity, and passion of Trinity Laban. This year saw a flourishing of new groups and continued momentum from established ones. From movement to music, faith to football, TLSU societies provided countless opportunities for students to connect, collaborate, and express themselves.**

## **New Societies Launched in 2024-25**

### **TL Shakespeare Society**

A new creative home for lovers of classical theatre, this society brought Shakespeare to life through readings, workshops, and student-led performances, with their final show "The Comedy of errors" directed by Juno Summer, being performed at Laban building.

### **Groovin' Society**

Founded by Dance students, Groovin' brought freestyle and social dance styles like hip-hop, funk, and contemporary into the spotlight. With regular sessions, workshops, and collaborative events, the society created a dynamic space for movement expression and physical artistry.

### **Runners Society**

Supporting wellbeing through regular group runs around Greenwich, the Runners Society welcomed all levels of ability. It promoted a healthy outlet for stress relief, routine, and connection away from the studio or practice room.

## **Established Societies**

### **Open Mic Society**

A popular performance platform by Musical Theatre students, Open Mic Society continued to host joyful, high-energy events where students could share their voice and artistry in an informal setting. It remained a highlight of TLSU's regular programming.

### **Trinity Laban Time Keepers (Football)**

Our football society continued to thrive, offering weekly training and competitive matches. As a consistent outlet for sport, camaraderie, and fun, the Time Keepers brought structure and spirit to the student experience.

### **Trinity Laban Tigers (Netball)**

The Tigers offered inclusive netball sessions throughout the year, fostering both friendly play and competitive energy. Their social and athletic presence continues to make them a valuable part of TLSU's recreational life.

### **TL Christian Union (Society)**

With gatherings and moments of reflection, the Christian Union provided a supportive space for students to explore faith, community, and spirituality within a welcoming and respectful environment.

### **Pulsar**

A powerful percussion collective, Pulsar gained major visibility this year through high-profile performances, including an upcoming appearance at London Pride, proudly sponsored by both Trinity Laban and TLSU. The group champions rhythm, visibility, and social impact through music and movement.

### **TL Radio (Trinity Laban Radio Society)**

TL Radio continued to grow as a student media outlet, producing a new show "memories of sound" with Hughie Hunter. It served as a platform for student voices, musical taste, and cultural conversation.

### **Trinity Laban Folk Society**

Bringing traditional music into modern contexts, the Folk Society united students around acoustic sounds, storytelling, and cultural exchange. Sessions throughout the year created a nurturing space for collaboration and musical appreciation.

# FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

## Financial Overview

The 2024–25 academic year was a defining period for TLSU’s financial management. We focused on improving financial resilience, increasing income through creative programming, and ensuring students saw direct value from every pound spent.

TLSU entered the year with a cautious approach, taking into account historical losses on large-scale events and the ongoing challenge of providing high-quality services on a limited budget. Through strategic planning and hands-on leadership, we turned financial uncertainty into a year of growth and surplus generation.

## Key Financial Achievements

### Surpassed £110,000 in Annual Income

For the first time in TLSU history, we exceeded £110,000 in Gross income. This milestone reflects a combination of strong event performance, new revenue streams, smarter budgeting, and growing student engagement. It demonstrates the Union’s increasing financial maturity and its potential for sustainable growth in years to come.

### Generated a Freshers Week Profit approximately £6689.52

This marks the most profitable Freshers Week in TLSU history. We achieved this through smart budgeting, increased collaboration with Trinity Laban, and by introducing a Freshers Tent in KCC Courtyard that encouraged higher on-site engagement and merchandise sales.

### Delivered Large-Scale Events with Reduced Risk

Instead of spending over £20,000 on traditional high-cost venues like the Painted Hall for the Summer Ball, we pivoted to a more financially accessible and inclusive format. Choosing All Bar One at the O2 allowed us to reduce ticket prices by 50%, resulting in increased participation while significantly lowering financial exposure.

### Improved Venue Infrastructure to Support Future Revenue

TLSU reinvested profits into long-term improvements including:

The installation of beer taps in the TLSU Bar (a first for the institution)

A full venue repaint and sound system upgrade in the Undercroft

Increased production capacity for student events and performances (e.g. Undercroft Live Sessions)

### Reduced Overhead and Enhanced Sustainability

Through thoughtful negotiation and supplier reviews, TLSU reduced recurring costs while preserving quality across services and events. We also built more sustainable event models with shared responsibilities and funding from external partners like Trinity Laban.

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## **The Need for Increased Capitation Support**

While this year has seen record-breaking income and efficient use of resources, it's important to recognise that TLSU's financial success has largely been driven by self-generated income, through events, partnerships, and student-led initiatives. This reflects the creativity, resilience, and dedication of the TLSU team and student community. However, it also highlights a structural limitation: the core capitation funding received from Trinity Laban remains relatively modest, especially when compared with the expanding demands and expectations placed on the Union.

TLSU has consistently demonstrated its ability to deliver high-impact events, student-led societies, that add and benefit student experience, on a limited budget. But as Trinity Laban's offerings expand and the scope of the Union's work increases, so too does the need for greater institutional backing.

This support would not only allow TLSU to stabilise and plan long-term, but also enable:

- **Greater investment in societies, cultural and equity-based events**
- **Expanded welfare and representation initiatives**
- **Professionalisation of TLSU spaces and services**
- **Additional 0hr contract staff/part-time student employment opportunities**
- **A stronger, more collaborative student experience across faculties**

Trinity Laban's continued support has been vital, but the next step must involve deepening that partnership with increased financial commitment. This will allow TLSU to not just survive, but to thrive, ensuring every student has access to a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive student life.

# THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The success of TLSU throughout the 2024-25 academic year would not have been possible without the incredible dedication, support, and collaboration of many individuals and teams.**

First and foremost, thank you to the **TLSU Team** and our **SU Support Administrator**. Your tireless work, creative thinking, and unwavering commitment to student life have shaped everything we've achieved this year—from landmark events to lasting infrastructure upgrades.

To our **Advisory Board**, thank you for your guidance, oversight, and support in steering TLSU's vision and governance with integrity and purpose.

Special thanks to:

**LJ Cook**, Head of Customer Services and Events – for being a consistent source of support, advice, and strategic alignment throughout the year.

**Dan Hill**, Facilities Manager – whose logistical insight and hands-on assistance helped us deliver smoother, safer, and more dynamic events.

Our amazing **SU Bar Staff**, who have not only served but created an environment that feels like home for many students.

The **Facilities Team** at Trinity Laban, for their constant collaboration, flexibility, and commitment to making our shared spaces accessible, clean, and functional for all TLSU activities.

Every success we've had this year is a reflection of this extended community. TLSU thrives not in isolation, but through the ongoing collaboration between students, staff, and our institution.

Thank you.

From your SU President of 24-25 Rhys Maycock