

EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1004086

Details

Other names	EX CATHEDRA
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02396173
Registered	1991-09-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	C B S O Berkley Street Birmingham B1 2LF
Phone	01216163410
Email	info@excathedra.co.uk
Website	www.excathedra.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC.

Activities: Ex Cathedra is a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble. It exists to enrich lives by means of historically-informed and contemporary performance excellence, research, education and training.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WEST MIDLANDS AND ELSEWHERE
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£905,757	£834,692	£180,045	7
2024-03-31	£854,624	£864,965	£108,980	12
2023-03-31	£552,568	£569,717	£119,321	11
2022-07-31	£958,851	£966,151	£136,470	14
2021-07-31	£723,190	£694,321	£143,770	13

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Peter Phillips	Chair	2021-01-18
Alok Nayak		2023-01-23
Dr JOHN MICHAEL PYMM		2017-03-13
JOHN CLEMSON MBE		2018-05-01
Joy Krishnamoorthy		2019-01-01
Paul Keene		2023-01-23
Paula Whitehouse		2018-03-19
Prof Judith Anne Smith		2023-01-23
Sophie Kerntaler		2018-05-01

EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1004086

Accounts

Ex Cathedra Limited

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

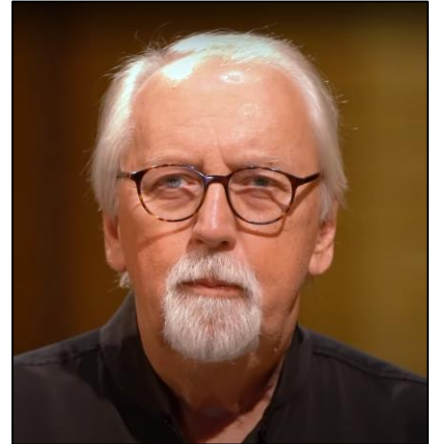
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Ex Cathedra Limited

Artistic Director's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Ex Cathedra's unique ecosystem of musicians goes a long way to explaining its success and longevity and, like any beautiful and flourishing garden, encourages a satisfying blend of young and old, new and established, all carefully nurtured by love. Seasonal colour schemes are nourished by refreshing annuals and comforting perennials; herbaceous borders, lawns and pathways create pleasing perspectives; trees of all shapes and sizes create structure and depth.

Ex Cathedra is looking for a new gardener! It's no secret, and many of you already know, that I've announced my retirement as Artistic Director of Ex Cathedra's garden of earthly and heavenly delights for the end of 2027. I will have been in action for 58 years! 2027 is a very special year: Bach's *St Matthew Passion* is 300, Beethoven 200 and Joubert 100.



The important search for my successor has been wide-ranging and our 2025-26 season involves three guest conductors – Steven Grahl, James Burton and Eamonn Dougan. They bring vast experience and inspiration with typically eclectic and skilfully crafted programmes.

Our participation and education work adds a crucial dimension. I am delighted that our *ChoirMaker* programme for secondary schools won Outstanding Music Education Resource at the Music and Drama Awards 2024. We also congratulate Sally Spencer, a soprano with Ex Cathedra for over 25 years, on receiving the inaugural Sky Arts Hero Award for her work on our *Singing Medicine* project at Birmingham Children's Hospital, and were thrilled to receive a Lord Mayor's Award earlier this year.

All these elements allow the group to explore an extraordinary range of diverse repertoire which addresses the important issues of our age including climate change, immigration, racism, the fight against torture, world peace, health and equality.

We perform at the highest possible level traditional repertoire and newly commissioned music from every continent in our aim to make great music accessible to everybody.

We are ambitious to engage more people - from all backgrounds - in singing. Singing is for everyone, and singing together is a powerful, shared creative experience. It transforms individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. It builds confidence, shared understanding and empathy. It teaches us to listen with care and express ourselves with confidence.

Everyone should have opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together, and to be inspired by world-class choral music.

However, we continue to face a challenging climate. We urgently need more support if we are to secure the legacy created over the last 56 years, and create the conditions for the group to flourish over the next 50 years.

With your help Ex Cathedra can continue to grow and inspire. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Skidmore".

Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
Artistic Director

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ex Cathedra is established to further the education of the public of the West Midlands and elsewhere in the art and science of music. We seek to engage as many people as possible with outstanding vocal experiences by exploring, commissioning and performing the finest choral music, and by producing inspirational projects with participants of all ages in schools, hospitals and community groups; we reach 75,000 people each year. Ex Cathedra has set out the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2022-26:

- a) Excellence, reach and relevance - promoting inspirational, inclusive concerts and participatory projects, developing the repertoire and artform, and widening reach and relevance for audiences and participants
- b) Talent & diversity - nurturing talent and fostering an increasingly diverse pool of musicians
- c) Securing our future - financial sustainability, completing an organisational review and ensuring we retain and cultivate a dynamic approach as we address capacity challenges and work towards a smooth succession for our founding Artistic Director
- d) Embedding environmental responsibility - as an exemplar within the choral sector we will continue to reduce our environmental impact and use our voices to promote awareness and provoke debate



Performing "On Before" with Carlos Acosta and Laura Rodriguez at Birmingham Hippodrome, April 2024

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Hailed by the New York Times as "one of Britain's very best choirs", Ex Cathedra is a world-class vocal ensemble which leads the choral sector in the fields of performance, education and wellbeing. A charity about singing, for over 55 years we have been delighting audiences with our concerts, have pioneered education projects that inspire and train future generations, and have delivered projects that enable people of all ages to access the remarkable wellbeing benefits of singing from concert venues to hospitals.

Ex Cathedra is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, with funding confirmed until March 2027. The organisation is also extremely grateful for the support it receives from charitable trusts and foundations, from individual donations and from sponsorship and advertising.

In setting objectives, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on widening access and setting fees. The company offers a wide range of ticket prices for all its concerts, starting at £15 for all concerts during the 2024-25 year, alongside discounts starting at £5 for those in receipt of benefits, u16s and students, 18-30s, and disabled patrons. The charity targets ticket offers to community partners with whom it is working.

To meet our objectives, Ex Cathedra:

- Performs
 - in a range of venues in our home city of Birmingham (incl. as an Associate Artist at the B:Music venues Symphony Hall & Town Hall)
 - a regular pattern of concerts regionally: at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton, Hereford Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral, Lichfield Cathedral and St James the Greater in Leicester
 - a London series at St Martin-in-the-Fields
 - across the UK and abroad by invitation
- Undertakes audio and audio-visual broadcasts, gives online concerts, and releases recordings of repertoire associated with the group
- Develops the choral repertoire through
 - research into little-known or newly rediscovered works from across the world
 - an extensive programme of commissions and premieres from leading composers, including music by Sally Beamish, Liz Dilot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Alec Roth, Penelope Thwaites and Stevie Wishart, with new work forthcoming from Bobbie-Jane Gardner and Roderick Williams
 - inclusive, co-creative programming to widen the communities who engage with choral music
 - composing and commissioning new choral development repertoire for babies and toddlers through Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stages 1-3 age groups
 - creating new repertoire for participatory and community projects, including for children in hospital
- Nurtures musicians through our
 - children's and youth training choirs for 2-18 year olds
 - Student Scholar partnerships with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and University of Birmingham
 - year-long choral Scholar programme for graduate singers
 - performance and solo opportunities for the UK's finest emerging professional singers
 - performance opportunities through our Baroque Orchestra
 - training pathways for the development of our Education & Participation team of singing leaders, instrumentalists and composers
- Provides a pathway of projects to enable schools to put singing at their heart. *Singing Playgrounds*, *SingMaker* and *ChoirMaker* engage and support thousands of pupils and teachers each year through training, workshops, performances and extensive online resources
- Undertakes an extensive programme of participation projects in the field of arts in health for babies, children, young people, families, and staff, as well as adults affected by stroke and dementia. These *Singing Medicine* activities take place in hospitals and appropriate community settings
 - bedside on the wards of Birmingham Children's Hospital for over 21 years
 - children's and adolescent mental health
 - stroke
 - dementia
 - parent & baby drop-in sessions
 - Ladywood community and wellbeing choir

Charitable activities

Our work in healthcare settings continued to attract acclaim as we celebrated 20 years of weekly visits to Birmingham Children's Hospital, with the inaugural Sky Arts Hero award being presented to *Singing Medicine* co-initiator, nurse and singer Sally Spencer in autumn 2024, and a Lord Mayor's Award in spring 2025.

We also celebrated 20 years of our *Singing Playgrounds* schools project and were delighted to secure funding to create a new, innovative *SingMaker* digital resource (forthcoming) to enable children to access singing in schools and support teachers with delivery and materials. This new resource is, in part, a response to the overall erosion and inequality of musical provision in schools, as evidenced by the 10-year trend in the number of music teachers, GCSE and A-level entries. It is encouraging to see that GCSE entries have now increased two years in a row, but financial-constraints for schools means that few have budgets for school visits and imaginative solutions, such as our *SingMaker* resource, are much needed.

In combination, we anticipate these contexts will continue to provide stress for the organisation.

We were therefore extremely grateful for the support received from a number of trusts, and to see continued growth from our regular Host of Angels donors, alongside individual donations towards specific projects. A one-off grant was secured to support investment into our fundraising capacity; this has been allocated into a designated fund to be spent down in the coming seasons, and we are delighted to have appointed a new member of staff with a focus on major donors.

Despite this, competition for trust support has never been greater, with funders frequently offering considerably less than requested, even when successful. The consequent increase in applications and reporting places considerable additional demands on capacity, and presumably impacts funders similarly.

Notable achievements during the year included:

- Concerts that ranged from Allegri and Palestrina to arrangements of the Beatles and Bacharach. This also included the Rachmaninoff Vespers; Bach's Mass in B Minor and a new programme of music from the Latin American Baroque with our Baroque orchestra; a live-to-film performance of *Amadeus* and a celebration of Bruckner at 200 with the CBSO; and we joined Carlos Acosta on stage for 3 performances of *On Before* at Birmingham Hippodrome.
- Release of composer-in-residence Liz Dilot Johnson's choral album, *When a Child is a Witness* and several works written for Ex Cathedra, and the broadcast by BBC Radio 3 of our Bruckner, Palestrina & Allegri concert from Birmingham Town Hall
- 13 performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight including sold-out performances at Coventry Cathedral, Leicester, and Lichfield Cathedral, two full audiences at St Martin-in-the-Fields, and a new venue in Moseley.
- 3 concerts at Hereford Cathedral and at St Martin-in-the-Fields as we build our offer at both venues



*The most popular words
used by audience members
responding to our surveys
during 2024-25*

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

- Growth of our Student Scholars scheme in partnership with the University of Birmingham, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and recent graduates, with 16 young people involved during the 2024-25 academic year
- Partnering with Birmingham Royal Ballet to train the schoolchildren taking part in the new production, *Luna*, at Birmingham Hippodrome and Sadlers Wells
- Our Academy of Vocal Music choirs (2-18 years) participated in 27 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Hippodrome, informal end of term concerts for parents, and the fundraising concert *A Touch of Basil* for the Bates Trust
- *Singing Medicine*, working bedside with children and adults, including
 - weekly visits to Birmingham Children's Hospital
 - workshops to train staff in working with adult stroke patients at various NHS Trusts, including Southampton and New Forest, Sandwell and West Birmingham, and several sessions at Kingston Hospital
 - Sally Spencer, co-creator of *Singing Medicine* and a leukaemia nurse at Birmingham Children's Hospital awarded inaugural Sky Arts Hero Award (2024)
 - weekly Ladywood community and wellbeing choir sessions, who gave relaxed concerts including at the Roundhouse
 - all work supported by online resources on our dedicated website (www.singingmedicine.co.uk), with films and resources stranded into categories developed for children, teenagers, adults, and to support parents with new babies
- School visits, Big Sing workshops and online resources for our *Singing Playgrounds*, *SingMaker* and *ChoirMaker* projects
 - leading the singing strategy for Birmingham Music Education Partnership (local authority schools)
 - school visits including 2 weeks for Sefton Music Hub in June 2024
 - creation of new *SingMaker* digital resource (forthcoming)
 - all work supported by online resources on our dedicated website (www.singingschools.co.uk)
- In total, these activities reached a live audience of over 65,000 people, and there were 19,500 engagements with our education and participation programme.

Ex Cathedra musician and child leukaemia nurse, Sally Spencer, was the inaugural winner of the Sky Arts Hero award, September 2024, for her work over 20 years on our Singing Medicine project.



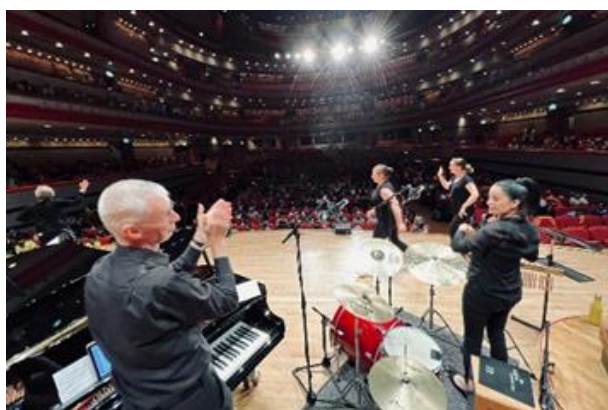
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025



A screenshot from one of our school resource films featuring Kadya Kouyate (L) and Dan Ludford Thomas (R)



Ex Cathedra Scholars Consort performing, February 2025



Ex Cathedra animators deliver a Big Sing event at Symphony Hall with 500 primary and secondary schoolchildren and teachers



Ex Cathedra's Singing Medicine team gather in a corridor at Birmingham Children's Hospital

Press acclaim included:

"Ex Cathedra's performance of Bruckner's Mass in E Minor, complete with wind and brass players from the CBSO, was quite simply glorious" (**reviewsgate.com – 5***)

"Ex Cathedra stood out for the way they combine technical excellence with humanity and warmth. They're seriously professional but also love the music into being, and I don't think any choir in Britain does that better" (**Catholic Herald**)

"simply magnificent. Never has such an intense two-and-something hours sped-by so utterly engrossingly" (**reviewsgate.com – 5* review of Bach B Minor Mass**)

"Ex Cathedra must be one of the best, if not the best, choral groups in the country... a deeply researched, deeply emotional and musically satisfying evening" (**Newbury Today review of Rachmaninoff Vespers**)

"one of Britain's very best choirs... superb" (**New York Times**)

Feedback for our Education & Participation projects has included:

"Participating in *Singing Medicine* is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run; getting them into the air and letting them be free. It's a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing, it's almost like being allowed to stretch." (**Member of staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital**)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

"It is incredible that Singing Medicine is freely given... We appreciate it so much. We want her to find the - at times gruelling - treatment as manageable as possible, emotionally as well as physically." (**Parent of a Singing Medicine patient**)

"We have really enjoyed the singing session, it really made my child smile. It was even more special as one of the ladies sang the song in our language" ((**Parent of 5-year-old Singing Medicine beneficiary in Wolverhampton**))

"@singingmed One of the greatest teams lifting spirits, changing worlds. Your work is amazing." (**Prof Grenville Hancox MBE**)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances to be satisfactory, with a net surplus of £71,065 during the period, thanks to a one-off grant to support investment in our fundraising capacity. This has increased total reserves to £180,045. Of this, restricted reserves are £6,644 and £37,613 has been designated for planned expenditure in the next 2 years, which leaves free reserves at £135,788, in line with our reserves policy stated below.

The charity received National Portfolio funding of £117,484 from Arts Council England. Birmingham City Council contributed to the cost of some of the venue hire during the season for the last time, with no support available from April 2025 onward. This remains far below than Ex Cathedra's baseline operating costs, and our financial model requires us to close the shortfall from additional fundraising and contributions to core costs from activity.

£415,120 was raised from sponsorships and advertising, individual donations, and grants from trusts and foundations for use during the period.

Earned income from ticket sales, and from fees for concert engagements and education projects was £350,687.

Fundraising Practices

Fundraised income is one of Ex Cathedra's most important income streams. Our approach is to seek funds from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, with the large majority of funds raised in the year being received from trusts and foundations.

Fundraising activities were undertaken by members of staff, including a part-time Grants & Individual Giving Manager, who drafts applications, writes reports for funders and looks after the individuals who donate to the Host of Angels scheme.

Ex Cathedra is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Regulator's Fundraising Promise, Code of Fundraising Practice and its terms and conditions. During the year Ex Cathedra received no complaints about its fundraising work.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees have established a policy on the amount of reserves that Ex Cathedra should carry. They believe that as a non-profit making organisation there is no requirement to accumulate reserves beyond its immediate needs. However, Ex Cathedra does need to maintain a minimum level of free reserves to safeguard its ongoing viability and provide adequate cashflow.

To meet the cashflow requirements, the trustees consider that the organisation should ideally maintain reserves at the equivalent level of 8 weeks expenditure; currently £135,000.

The trustees have also determined a minimum operating threshold, being the funds necessary to finance the business through an orderly shutdown of the charity in the event of an unforeseen, catastrophic disaster. This level will also vary from time to time; currently £100,000.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of Ex Cathedra, with at least a quarterly review of the cashflow forecast and projects pipeline given the high inflationary environment and ongoing audience uncertainty (see Future plans below). They consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the organisation for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that the charitable company is a going concern.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

FUTURE PLANS

As we move towards the retirement of founder and artistic director Jeffrey Skidmore in 2027, there is an increased focus on ensuring his legacy and recruiting our next artistic director. The plans for 2025-26 have been designed to support this, and include three concerts given by guest conductors. A robust recruitment and consultation process is ongoing. Once the appointment has been made, it is anticipated that the designate will be introduced to audiences and wider stakeholders during the 2026-27 season.

We also continue to evolve our activity in light of changes in our operating context. For example, we are expanding our activities at St Martin-in-the-Fields, developing the relationship with Lichfield Festival, and continue to optimise venues, ticket prices, and concert start times. We are aiming to grow the amount of activity we deliver through our *Singing Medicine* programme, where this is much needed, and are responding to the challenges faced by schools as we work towards the publication of our new *SingMaker* resource, building on the award-winning *ChoirMaker* resource published during 2023-24.

Performance highlights during 2025-26 include:

- concerts with guest conductors Steven Grahl, James Burton and Eamonn Dougan
- repertoire from the Renaissance to recent works by Kerensa Briggs and Piers Connor Kennedy, with masterworks such as the Rachmaninoff Vespers and Duruflé's Requiem, and little-known gems like Vaughan William's *A Vision of Aeroplanes*, and arrangements of songs by the Beatles and Bacharach
- a celebration of Lalande – a favourite composer of the Sun King - for the 300th anniversary
- much-loved repertoire featuring our Baroque orchestra including Bach's Christmas Oratorio, St Matthew Passion (2025) and St John Passion (2026)
- an eclectic programme of Nordic music "Northern Lights" with the CBSO
- concerts across the Midlands including Coventry Cathedral, Hagley, Hereford Cathedral, Leicester, Lichfield Cathedral, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and, of course, at various Birmingham venues - including a first visit to Kings Heath

Looking ahead to performances in 2026-27 and beyond we have ambitious plans to celebrate Jeffrey through significant new commissions that diversify the choral repertoire, and key works that have been at the heart of his research and programme over 55+ years. Some of the funding is in place, but there remains a substantial amount to secure, so we'd be grateful for your support!

During this period, our Academy of Vocal Music will continue its programme of rehearsals and performances, including 27 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet and our Good Friday Bach Passions. They will also perform a work by guest conductor James Burton in October 2025, and work towards a celebration of Britten in 2026.

Our Education & Participation team are as busy as ever. Highlights in 2025-26 are expected to include:

- finalising the new *SingMaker* resource for publication in autumn 2025
- working as lead of the vocal strategy for Birmingham Music Education Partnership
- delivering projects with schools and Music Hubs from the Highlands of Scotland to Sefton, Penkhull and Milton Keynes
- providing *Singing Medicine* for patients and families on wards at Birmingham Children's Hospital up to twice a week, alongside working with other partners including Kingston Hospital and our Ladywood wellbeing choir

Funding and finances remains challenging. The one-off grant received in 2024-25 has enabled us to invest in our fundraising capacity, and our expectation is to see benefit from a growth in major donors from 2027. In the meantime, in common with all other arts organisation in the city, our grant from Birmingham City Council ended on 31 March 2025, and this loss of funding is compounded by a directly attributable increase in unrecoverable VAT. Funding available for distribution by Arts Council England has not kept pace with inflation over the last 10 years, the financial challenges faced by schools has seen earned income drop markedly over several years as outlined above, and competition for funds from trusts and foundations has never been greater. This means that Ex Cathedra continues to wrestle with an annual structural shortfall; additional support for core costs is still much needed.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and constitution

Ex Cathedra is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 February 1989 as amended on 25 November 2004 to allow for indemnity insurance cover for directors and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Each director agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Company currently has 9 directors or trustees who can serve a term of up to 9 years, the Chairman being appointed from amongst them. Ex Cathedra also appoints one young person (under 20) each year to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction and training of new trustees

When considering co-opting new directors or trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They are required to state on their appointment that they know of no reason why they should not be appointed, to satisfactorily complete Ex Cathedra's Safer Recruitment self-declaration process and to undergo clearance procedures with the Disclosure and Barring Service (including registration to the Update Service) due to the Company's relationships with vulnerable beneficiaries.

Organisational structure

The directors meet quarterly as a Board. Between meetings there is a trustee overview of activities through several subcommittees, each chaired by a trustee. Trustees are nominated to take responsibilities for different areas of the Company's activities e.g. finance, education, marketing etc. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the General Manager with support from the Director of Education.

Key management remuneration

The board of directors (trustees), General Manager and Director of Education comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Artistic Director is not an employee, but contracted to provide services. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually.

Risk management

The trustees have carried out a detailed review to identify the major risks that the charity faces in order to implement a risk management strategy that includes the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks and their potential effect on the charity. Risks are scored for likelihood and impact after mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Board at least once a year and adjusted as necessary.

The trustees consider that the main risks to Ex Cathedra are:

- ensuring a smooth transition of artistic leadership as we approach the retirement of founder Jeffrey Skidmore
- achieving a sustainable financial and fundraising model, including growth in core costs fundraising

A focus on its Business Plan priorities, strong relationships with key funders, robust financial monitoring, and the work of subgroups ensure that these priorities are being addressed. The charity has a strong system of internal control, including:

- clear oversight at Board level
- formal limits on staff ability to authorise expenditure, with a dual bank authorisation process that always requires payment approval from at least one trustee
- robust safeguarding practices regarding its work with children and vulnerable adults, independently audited in 2022

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02396173 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1004086

Registered office

CBSO Centre
Berkley Street
Birmingham
West Midlands
B1 2LF

Trustees

J F Clemson
Ms S M Kernthaler
P J T Keene
Ms L J Krishnamoorthy
A Nayak
P S Phillips (chair)
Professor J M Pymm
Dr J Robinson
Professor J A Smith
Ms P Whitehouse

resigned 31 March 2025

Auditors

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

General Manager

Peter Trethewey

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Erdington Branch
Birmingham

Insurance brokers

Marsh Commercial
45 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2RT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Ex Cathedra Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Locke Williams Associates LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

PSeanPhillips

PSeanPhillips (Oct 15, 2025 13:21:37 GMT+1)

P S Phillips - Trustee

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ex Cathedra Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charitable company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to these risks, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries with management, trustees and enquiries of third parties, where appropriate.

As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and checking the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing, using analytical review to identify any significant or unusual transactions and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
Studio 2
50-54 St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1QS

Date: 15 October 2025

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	280,096	252,507	532,603	486,335
Charitable activities	5				
Own promotions		210,313	-	210,313	205,605
Engagements, media and other concerts		64,754	27,159	91,913	106,281
Education & participation		24,662	23,799	48,461	-
Recording		-	-	-	29,500
Sundry income	3	3,373	5,646	9,019	26,462
Investment income	4	3,611	-	3,611	441
Other income	6	1,219	8,618	9,837	-
Total		<u>588,028</u>	<u>317,729</u>	<u>905,757</u>	<u>854,624</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	7	23,559	17,993	41,552	59,219
Charitable activities	8				
Own promotions		333,874	26,185	360,059	301,054
Engagements, media and other concerts		91,090	14,181	105,271	172,271
Education & participation		68,755	259,055	327,810	298,765
Core costs - to be apportioned by income		-	-	-	-
Recording		-	-	-	33,656
Total		<u>517,278</u>	<u>317,414</u>	<u>834,692</u>	<u>864,965</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		70,750	315	71,065	(10,341)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		102,651	6,329	108,980	119,321
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>173,401</u>	<u>6,644</u>	<u>180,045</u>	<u>108,980</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet
31 March 2025**

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	2,233	2,222
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	146,024	96,542
Cash at bank		<u>344,124</u>	<u>179,140</u>
		490,148	275,682
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(312,336)	(168,924)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>177,812</u>	<u>106,758</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		180,045	108,980
NET ASSETS		<u>180,045</u>	<u>108,980</u>
FUNDS	18		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		135,788	102,309
IT Fund		-	342
Future Growth fund		<u>37,613</u>	-
		<u>173,401</u>	<u>102,651</u>
Restricted funds:			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		<u>6,644</u>	<u>6,329</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>180,045</u>	<u>108,980</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet - continued
31 March 2025**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13 October 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


PSeanPhillips (Oct 15, 2025 13:21:37 GMT+1)

P S Phillips - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	20	<u>163,183</u>	<u>(17,594)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>163,183</u>	<u>(17,594)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,810)	-
Interest received		<u>3,611</u>	<u>441</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>1,801</u>	<u>441</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>164,984</u>	<u>(17,153)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>179,140</u>	<u>196,293</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>344,124</u></u>	<u><u>179,140</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preceding period financial statements were presented for the eight month period from 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. The accounting reference date was shortened to bring the charity into line with other key organisations, such as Arts Council England. The Statement of Financial Activity is therefore not entirely comparable.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For grants and donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled

Income from charitable activities includes ticket and fee income earned from undertaking performances, engagements and recordings. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in furtherance of the charitable objectives and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs are shown net of any recoverable VAT.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Charitable activity costs include those direct costs incurred in the furtherance of the charitable activities and are analysed between the significant activities undertaken.

Support (core) costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Payroll costs have been allocated across activities on the basis of employees involvement in each activity and other overheads have been allocated in proportion to incoming resources by activity.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Concert equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Grants for core funding purposes	207,484	121,261
Project grants, sponsorships and donations	<u>325,119</u>	<u>365,074</u>
	<u>532,603</u>	<u>486,335</u>

Grants received for core funding purposes included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Arts Council England	117,484	117,484
Birmingham City Council	-	3,777
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	<u>90,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>207,484</u>	<u>121,261</u>

3. SUNDRY INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Royalties, media and recording	5,697	839
Sales of CDs etc	3,322	2,657
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>22,966</u>
	<u>9,019</u>	<u>26,462</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>3,611</u>	<u>441</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Activity		
Own promotions	210,313	205,605
Engagements, media and other concerts	91,913	106,281
Education & participation	48,461	-
Recording	<u>-</u>	<u>29,500</u>
	<u>350,687</u>	<u>341,386</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

6. OTHER INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
HMRC - Orchestra Tax relief	<u>9,837</u>	<u>-</u>

7. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Purchases	<u>21,684</u>	28,981
Staff costs	<u>19,868</u>	<u>30,238</u>
	<u>41,552</u>	<u>59,219</u>

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Own promotions	358,260	1,799	360,059
Engagements, media and other concerts	104,159	1,112	105,271
Education & participation	<u>327,721</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>327,810</u>
	<u>790,140</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>793,140</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs are the charity's Governance costs, being audit and legal fees. These costs have been allocated to the charitable activities in proportion to income arising.

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	3,000	3,000
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	159	113
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>1,799</u>	<u>2,834</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

One trustee (2024: none) was reimbursed expenses of £158 for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: £nil).

12. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	212,782	219,705
Social security costs	3,319	9,482
Other pension costs	8,714	4,005
	<u>224,815</u>	<u>233,192</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 7.08 (2024: 11) including its choral Scholars. At 31 March 2025, the Charity employed 4 full-time members of administration staff, 5 part-time administration staff and 5 part-time choral Scholars. The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of administration staff is 3 (excluding choral Scholars as numbers vary depending on funding each year).

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £86,150 (2024: £96,430). The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the board of directors, who are the Charity's trustees, and the senior management team, being the General Manager, the Director of Education and the Finance Manager.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	228,269	258,066	486,335
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	205,605	-	205,605
Engagements, media and other concerts	106,281	-	106,281
Recording	29,500	-	29,500
Sundry income	26,462	-	26,462
Investment income	<u>441</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>441</u>
Total	<u>596,558</u>	<u>258,066</u>	<u>854,624</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	30,128	29,091	59,219
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	279,426	21,628	301,054

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Engagements, media and other concerts	172,271	-	172,271
Education & participation	91,728	207,037	298,765
Recording	<u>33,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,656</u>
Total	<u>607,209</u>	<u>257,756</u>	<u>864,965</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(10,651)	310	(10,341)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>113,302</u>	<u>6,019</u>	<u>119,321</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>102,651</u>	<u>6,329</u>	<u>108,980</u>

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Concert equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2024	18,263	1,944	568	19,542	40,317
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,810</u>	<u>1,810</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,263</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>21,352</u>	<u>42,127</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2024	16,896	1,944	568	18,687	38,095
Charge for year	<u>1,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>691</u>	<u>1,799</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,004</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>19,378</u>	<u>39,894</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2025	<u>259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,974</u>	<u>2,233</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,367</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>2,222</u>

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			31.3.25	31.3.24
			£	£
Trade debtors			76,206	14,999
Prepayments and accrued income			69,818	81,543
			<u>146,024</u>	<u>96,542</u>
16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			31.3.25	31.3.24
			£	£
Trade creditors			79,108	30,331
Social security and other taxes			6,409	6,708
Other creditors			10,000	10,000
Deferred income			166,281	49,254
Accrued expenses			50,538	72,631
			<u>312,336</u>	<u>168,924</u>
17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS			31.3.25	31.3.24
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,233	-	2,233	2,222
Current assets	483,504	6,644	490,148	275,682
Current liabilities	(312,336)	-	(312,336)	(168,924)
	<u>173,401</u>	<u>6,644</u>	<u>180,045</u>	<u>108,980</u>
18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	102,309	71,092	(37,613)	135,788
IT Fund	342	(342)	-	-
Future Growth fund	-	-	37,613	37,613
	102,651	70,750	-	173,401
Restricted funds				
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	6,329	315	-	6,644
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>108,980</u>	<u>71,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,045</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	588,028	(516,936)	71,092
IT Fund	-	(342)	(342)
	588,028	(517,278)	70,750
Restricted funds			
Education fund	317,414	(317,414)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	315	-	315
	317,729	(317,414)	315
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>905,757</u>	<u>(834,692)</u>	<u>71,065</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	112,960	(10,651)	102,309
IT Fund	342	-	342
	113,302	(10,651)	102,651
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	6,019	310	6,329
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>119,321</u>	<u>(10,341)</u>	<u>108,980</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	596,558	(607,209)	(10,651)
Restricted funds			
Education fund	257,756	(257,756)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	310	-	310
	258,066	(257,756)	310
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>854,624</u>	<u>(864,965)</u>	<u>(10,341)</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Purpose of funds:

Designated Funds:

- 1) The Future Growth fund comprises funding raised to support an increase in fundraising capacity and other activities that will contribute to the financial sustainability of the organisation. It is expected to be spent down in support of newly-created staff roles over the next 2 years.

Restricted Funds:

- 1) The Restricted Income fund is income largely received from Trusts and Foundations, donations and partnership income which are restricted for specific activities. The funds are expended during the year.
- 2) Alice Corser Scholarship Fund was set up in memory of Alice Corser, a past Concerts Manager, in order to establish a postgraduate scholarship scheme to support young singers as they establish their professional careers. At least half of this fund is expected to be spent during 2025-26.

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	71,065	(10,341)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,799	2,834
Interest received	(3,611)	(441)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(49,482)	46,690
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>143,412</u>	<u>(56,336)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>163,183</u>	<u>(17,594)</u>

21. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>179,140</u>	<u>164,984</u>	<u>344,124</u>
	<u>179,140</u>	<u>164,984</u>	<u>344,124</u>
Total	<u>179,140</u>	<u>164,984</u>	<u>344,124</u>

EXC01-CHA 2025 FINAL

Final Audit Report

2025-10-15

Created:	2025-10-15
By:	DAVID WILLIAMS (davidw@lockewilliams.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA6wopzg4nR5185B1TfFiGtOhBjAuneidh

"EXC01-CHA 2025 FINAL" History

-  Document created by DAVID WILLIAMS (davidw@lockewilliams.com)
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-  Signer peterphillips@masteragency.co.uk entered name at signing as PSeanPhillips
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EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1004086

Accounts



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02396173 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1004086

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
for
Ex Cathedra Limited**

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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Report of the Trustees	2 to 12
Report of the Independent Auditors	13 to 15
Statement of Financial Activities	16
Balance Sheet	17 to 18
Cash Flow Statement	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 to 28

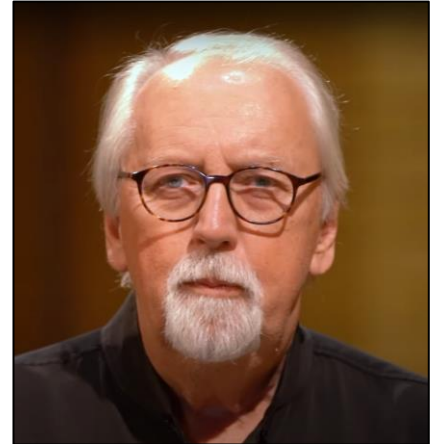
Ex Cathedra Limited

Artistic Director's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Ex Cathedra is special. A highly regarded music critic once said that the choir was probably the best in the world.

This is quite a claim and not only includes the technical virtuosity and unique chemistry of the singers but also the ethos of the ensemble, its ability and desire to communicate with audiences, its imaginative programming, its stylistic awareness and above all its humanity.

Our participation and education work adds a crucial dimension. I am delighted that our *ChoirMaker* programme for secondary schools won Outstanding Music Education Resource at the Music and Drama Awards 2024. We also congratulate Sally Spencer, a soprano with Ex Cathedra for over 25 years, on receiving the inaugural Sky Arts Hero Award for her work on our *Singing Medicine* project at Birmingham Children's Hospital.



All these elements allow the group to explore an extraordinary range of diverse repertoire which addresses the important issues of our age including climate change, immigration, racism, the fight against torture, world peace, health and equality.

We perform at the highest possible level traditional repertoire and newly commissioned music from every continent in our aim to make great music accessible to everybody.

Another leading commentator, festival director and respected musical thinker summed up our work by saying that Ex Cathedra was "the most sophisticated, three dimensional and multi-layered of all the leading groups in the country". This is high praise and something we strive to maintain.

We are extremely grateful to all our funders and supporters including Arts Council England who increased our grant for 2023-26. However, we continue to face financial challenges. We urgently need more support if we are to sustain our current activity, grow and flourish over the next 55 years.

We are ambitious to engage more people - from all backgrounds - in singing. Singing is for everyone, and singing together is a powerful, shared creative experience. It transforms individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. It builds confidence, shared understanding and empathy. It teaches us to listen with care and express ourselves with confidence.

Everyone should have opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together, and to be inspired by world-class choral music.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Skidmore".

Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
Artistic Director

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ex Cathedra is established to further the education of the public of the West Midlands and elsewhere in the art and science of music. We seek to reach and engage as many people as possible with outstanding vocal experiences by exploring, commissioning and performing the finest choral music, and by producing inspirational projects with participants of all ages in schools, hospitals and community groups. Ex Cathedra has set out the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2022-26:

- a) Excellence, reach and relevance - promoting inspirational, inclusive concerts and participatory projects, developing the repertoire and artform, and widening reach and relevance for audiences and participants
- b) Talent & diversity - nurturing talent and fostering an increasingly diverse pool of musicians
- c) Securing our future - financial sustainability, completing an organisational review and ensuring we retain and cultivate a dynamic approach as we address capacity challenges and work towards a smooth succession for our founding Artistic Director
- d) Embedding environmental responsibility - as an exemplar within the choral sector we will continue to reduce our environmental impact and use our voices to promote awareness and provoke debate



Performing "On Before" with Carlos Acosta and Laura Rodriguez at Birmingham Hippodrome, April 2024

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Hailed by the New York Times as "one of Britain's very best choirs", Ex Cathedra is a world-class vocal ensemble which leads the choral sector in the fields of performance, education and wellbeing. A charity about singing, for 55 years we have been delighting audiences with our concerts, have pioneered education projects that inspire and train future generations, and have delivered projects that enable people of all ages to access the remarkable wellbeing benefits of singing from concert venues to hospitals.

Ex Cathedra is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, with funding offered until March 2026 and an uplift secured in the latest funding round. The organisation receives a small annual grant from Birmingham City Council that ends in March 2025, support from private and commercial sources, donations from individuals, and grants from trusts and foundations.

In setting objectives, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on widening access and setting fees. The company offers a wide range of ticket prices for all its concerts, with tickets available from £15 for all concerts and discounts starting at £5 for those in receipt of benefits, u16s and students, 18-30s, and disabled patrons. The charity targets ticket offers to community partners with whom it is working.

To meet our objectives, Ex Cathedra:

- Promotes a season of concerts across the Midlands. Concerts are given in a range of venues in our home city of Birmingham (where Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist at the B:Music venues Symphony Hall & Town Hall) and the group has established a regular pattern of concerts at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton, Hereford Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral, Lichfield Cathedral and St James the Greater in Leicester
- Co-promotes concerts in London where we enjoy a burgeoning relationship with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Gives performances across the UK and abroad, by invitation, acting as a cultural ambassador for Birmingham
- Undertakes audio and audio-visual broadcasts, gives online concerts, and releases recordings of repertoire particularly associated with the group
- Develops the choral repertoire through
 - research into little-known or newly rediscovered works from across the world
 - an extensive programme of commissions and premieres from leading composers, which in recent years has included music by Sally Beamish, Liz Dillnot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Alec Roth, Penelope Thwaites and Stevie Wishart
 - inclusive, co-creative programming to widen the communities who engage with choral music
 - composing and commissioning new choral development repertoire for babies and toddlers through Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stages 1-3 age groups
 - creating new repertoire for participatory and community projects, including for children in hospital
- Nurtures musicians through our
 - children's and youth training choirs for 3-18 year olds
 - Student Scholarship schemes with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and University of Birmingham
 - year-long choral Scholarship programme for graduate singers
 - performance and solo opportunities for the UK's finest emerging professional singers
 - performance opportunities through our Baroque Orchestra
 - training pathways for the development of our Education & Participation team of singing leaders and instrumentalists
- Provides a pathway of projects to enable schools to put singing at their heart. *Singing Playgrounds*, *SingMaker* and *ChoirMaker* engage and support thousands of pupils and teachers each year through training, workshops, performances and extensive online resources
- Undertakes an extensive programme of participation projects in the field of arts in health for babies, children, young people, families, and staff, as well as adults affected by stroke and dementia. These Singing Medicine activities take place in multiple hospitals and in the community settings paediatric wards
 - children's and adolescent mental health
 - stroke
 - dementia
 - parent & baby drop-in sessions
 - Ladywood community and wellbeing choir

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Charitable activities

The fiscal year ending 31 March 2024 was a period of continued recovery and re-adjustment post-pandemic, as reflected in the overall financial outturn. Activity with schools and in healthcare settings had resumed, including a regular pattern of visits to hospitals but it remained a challenge to re-engage partners at previous financial levels. For example, school budgets and staff remained as stretched than ever. It became clear that audience patterns had become more exaggerated: the overall the box office was up thanks to our strongest ever Christmas season, but attendances for events that would always have been challenging were markedly lower than expected. A number of adjustments have been made for 2024-25 as we respond and adapt. Nevertheless, we anticipate the recovery and adjustment will provide additional stress for the organisation for another year or two.

We were therefore extremely grateful to retain and grow support from a number of trusts, our Host of Angels supporters and some individual donations towards specific projects. Even with this, the period has further eroded our reserves and diminished our resilience to future trading challenges.

We noticed continued stiff competition for trust support, with funders continuing to offer considerably less than requested, even when successful. The consequent increase in applications and reporting places considerable additional demands on our limited capacity, and presumably impacts funders similarly.

Notable achievements during the year included:

- A concert programme that ranged from Byrd (400th year) to Bacharach, via: the Rachmaninoff Vespers (150th year) with newly-created bell interludes; our first performance of Handel's *Messiah* since 2015; and Good Friday performances of both Bach Passions with contemporary liturgical reconstructions and audience hymns led by combined community choirs from across the city - including, for the first time, Choir with No Name (whose members have experienced homelessness).
- The recording of an album of choral music by composer-in-residence Liz Dilnot Johnson, including the choral movements from *When a Child is a Witness* and several works written for Ex Cathedra
- 13 performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight which included sold-out performances at Coventry Cathedral, Leicester, St Martin-in-the-Fields, and Lichfield Cathedral - a new partnership with Lichfield Festival. Our 2019 film was once again broadcast on Sky Arts.
- 6 performances of Summer Music by Candlelight in a programme created and directed by Associate Conductor Sarah Latto
- 3 concerts at Hereford Cathedral and at St Martin-in-the-Fields as we build our offer at both venues
- Extension of our Student Scholars scheme to work with the University of Birmingham, alongside our scheme with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and 4 graduate Scholars
- Our Academy of Vocal Music choirs (3-18 years) gave 28 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Hippodrome, the Good Friday Bach Passion concerts at Symphony Hall with Ex Cathedra, informal end of term concerts for parents, and our family Christmas concert "Angels, Stars & Kings".
- *Singing Medicine*, working bedside with children and adults, including
 - weekly visits to Birmingham Children's Hospital
 - children's and adolescent mental health sessions at Parkview
 - adult programme with Shropshire Partners in Care
 - plenary session at Stroke UK annual conference
 - sessions at British Transplant Games
 - Sally Spencer, co-creator of *Singing Medicine* and a leukaemia nurse at Birmingham Children's Hospital awarded inaugural Sky Arts Hero Award (2024)
 - release of single "You are Everything" created with staff and patients
 - weekly Ladywood community and wellbeing choir sessions, plus relaxed concerts
 - all work supported by online resources on our dedicated website (www.singingmedicine.co.uk), with films and resources stranded into categories developed for children, teenagers, adults, and to support parents with new babies
- School visits, Big Sing workshops and online resources for our *Singing Playgrounds*, *SingMaker* and *ChoirMaker* projects
 - leading the singing strategy for Birmingham Music Education Partnership (local authority schools)
 - welcoming 100s of children to Symphony Hall for a *SingMaker* celebration and Big Sing events

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

- delivering sessions in schools across the country from week-long visits for Sefton & Knowsley Music Hub to school visits in Enfield, Hertfordshire and Calderdale
- partnership with Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- presenting at the Association of British Choral Directors annual conference
- Winner of Outstanding Music Education Resource at Music & Drama Awards for ChoirMaker
- all work supported by innovative online resources at www.singingschools.co.uk



Recording composer-in-residence Liz Dilnot Johnson's choral album "Gentle Flame" at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with Margaret Lingas, Gabriella Liandu, the composer herself, Jeffrey Skidmore and Debipriya Sircar (L-R)



Primary schoolchildren take part in a Singing Playgrounds session with two of our Vocal Tutors, Dan Ludford Thomas and Gemma King



Ex Cathedra animators deliver a Big Sing event at Symphony Hall with 500 primary and secondary schoolchildren and teachers

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024



A screenshot from one of our school resource films featuring Kadialy Kouyate (L) and Dan Ludford Thomas (R)



Christmas Music by Candlelight,
Coventry Cathedral 2023



Summer Music by Candlelight 2023, curated and
directed by Associate Conductor Sarah Latto



Ex Cathedra's Singing Medicine team gather in a
corridor at Birmingham Children's Hospital

Feedback included:

"Concerts given by Ex Cathedra are never just concerts. One of the most compelling aspects of their performances - aside from the actual singing - is the way they apply scholarship and historical understanding to the presentation of the music..." (**Bachtrack**)

"Ex Cathedra stood out for the way they combine technical excellence with humanity and warmth. They're seriously professional but also love the music into being, and I don't think any choir in Britain does that better" (**Catholic Herald**)

"fresh and absolutely vital" (**5* Bachtrack review of Bach St Matthew Passion**)

"simply remarkable" (**5* Reviewsgate review of Handel's Messiah**)

"incredible intonation and tuning, soaring to great heights and plunging into abyssal depths yet staying true, never wavering" (**Bachtrack review of Rachmaninoff Vespers**)

"one of Britain's very best choirs... superb" (**New York Times**)

"compelling and engrossing... this magnificent musical outfit has a history ahead of it as long and distinguished as that behind" (**5* www.reviewsgate.com**)

"Ex Cathedra has been a massive part of both our lives for so many years and we will miss it very much. It was a huge influence in M's musical journey and we feel blessed and honoured to have had so many years with you all. I have kept every programme and brochure from every event from all over the years; they remind me of the feelings of awe and joy that I personally felt so many times and I am truly grateful." (**Academy of Vocal Music parent**)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

"Participating in *Singing Medicine* is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run; getting them into the air and letting them be free. It's a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing, it's almost like being allowed to stretch." (**Member of staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital**)

"It is incredible that singing medicine is freely given... We appreciate it so much. We want her to find the - at times gruelling - treatment as manageable as possible, emotionally as well as physically." (**Parent of a *Singing Medicine* patient**)

"We have really enjoyed the singing session, it really made my child smile. It was even more special as one of the ladies sang the song in our language" ((**Parent of 5-year-old *Singing Medicine* beneficiary in Wolverhampton**)

"@singingmed One of the greatest teams lifting spirits, changing worlds. Your work is amazing." (**Prof Grenville Hancox MBE**)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances to be satisfactory, with net expenditure of £10,341 during the period, reducing funds carried forward to £108,980. As outlined in the report above, it remained a challenging period of adjustment to an operating context that we recognise has changed but has not fully settled.

The charity received revenue grant funds amounting to £121,261 from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Although we are delighted with the increase in core funding from Arts Council England, this remains far less than the organisation's baseline operating costs, with the shortfall closed by fundraising and core cost recovery from activity.

£365,074 was raised from sponsorships, donations and grants from other public sources, trusts, commercial and private funds for use during the period.

Earned income from ticket sales, and from fees for concert engagements and education projects was £341,386.

Fundraising Practices

Over the last 10 years fundraised income has become an increasingly important income stream. Ex Cathedra's approach is to seek funds from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, with the large majority of funds raised in the year being received from trusts and foundations.

Fundraising activities were undertaken by members of staff, including a part-time Grants & Individual Giving Manager, who drafts applications, writes reports for funders and looks after the individuals who donate to the Host of Angels scheme.

Ex Cathedra is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Regulator's Fundraising Promise, Code of Fundraising Practice and its terms and conditions. During the year Ex Cathedra received no complaints about its fundraising work.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees have established a policy on the amount of reserves that Ex Cathedra should carry. They believe that as a non-profit making organisation there is no requirement to accumulate reserves beyond its immediate needs. However, Ex Cathedra does need to maintain a minimum level of free reserves to safeguard its ongoing viability and provide adequate cashflow.

To meet the cashflow requirements, the trustees consider that the organisation should ideally maintain reserves at the equivalent level of 8 weeks of a 12-month turnover. This target would currently be around £135,000.

The trustees have also determined a minimum operating threshold, being the funds necessary to finance the business through an orderly shutdown of the charity in the event of an unforeseen, catastrophic disaster. This level will also vary from time to time. The early warning threshold has been set at £100,000.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of Ex Cathedra, with a regular review of the cashflow forecast and projects pipeline given the high inflationary environment and ongoing audience uncertainty (see Future plans below). They are mindful of the reserves position and diminished resilience to future trading challenges but consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the organisation for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that the charitable company is a going concern.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

FUTURE PLANS

With more limited headroom in its reserves, the trustees have adopted a prudent plan for 2024-25.

Our grant from Birmingham City Council has been halved for 2024-25 and ends entirely in March 2025. Whilst the value of the funding had declined substantially over several years, this loss of funding will be compounded by an increase in unrecoverable VAT on the venues owned by the Council, and the wider impact of cuts to other funded organisations where we have complex inter-relationships.

The overall fundraising required to enable concerts, education projects and to cover core costs therefore remains high, and, in light of this and the changed operating context, the organisation is undertaking a fundraising review.

We have also made a number of adjustments to activity, for example expanding our programme at St Martin-in-the-Fields, continuing the relationship with Lichfield Festival at Christmas, and reviewing ticket pricing and start times to reflect trends identified. Concerts promoted in Birmingham include two venues located outside of the city centre.

Spring/summer 2024 has included a well-attended 300th anniversary performance of Bach's *St John Passion* at Symphony Hall, engaging our Academy of Vocal Music and members of Birmingham community choirs in a contemporary reconstruction of the Good Friday liturgy Bach knew. During May, the choir visited Sherborne Abbey, reached new audiences in a staged production of Carlos Acosta's show *On Before*, and gave a live-music version of the film *Amadeus* with the CBSO at Symphony Hall. In June we gave 5 performances of Summer Music by Candlelight to audiences across the West Midlands and in London and held two private workshop sessions with prospective artistic directors as part of our recruitment process.

June also saw the release of our latest album, *Gentle Flame: choral music by Liz Dilnot Johnson*, comprising several works written for Ex Cathedra by our composer-in-residence including *Blake Reimagined* and the choral movements of *When a Child is a Witness*.

A live film recording of our Monteverdi Vespers 1610 featured in the LIVE from London online summer festival, reaching audiences across the world, alongside internationally-renowned choral ensembles VOCES8, Chanticleer, Ringmasters and others.

Looking ahead to our 2024-25 concert season, titled "... to the heart" - which encompasses as wide a range of repertoire as ever - we will:

- celebrate Bruckner's 200th birthday with a rare performance of his Mass in E Minor, given alongside the wind and brass of the CBSO and captured for BBC Radio 3
- develop a new programme of music from the Latin American Baroque
- explore new music, for example in a *Northern Lights* collaboration with the CBSO
- present much-loved core repertoire such as Bach's Mass in B Minor and St Matthew Passion
- give 13 performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight across the Midlands and in London
- present concerts across the Midlands including Coventry Cathedral, Hagley, Hereford Cathedral, Leicester, Lichfield Cathedral, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and, of course, at various Birmingham venues - including a concert that revisits our roots in Bournville
- work closely with graduate Scholars, Student Scholars from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and from the University of Birmingham - presenting a Scholars Ensemble concert

Our Academy of Vocal Music will continue its programme of rehearsals and performances, including 27 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet and our *Good Friday St Matthew Passion*.

Our Education & Participation team have already spent several days in the studio recording new resources for our schools and *Singing Medicine* projects, and in May we released a charity single *You are Everything* recorded with staff and patients at Birmingham Children's Hospital. We are working extensively with schools from Sefton to Stratford-on-Avon, collaborating with Birmingham Arts School, and are working on a major new project with Birmingham Royal Ballet: Luna.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

'In person' schools projects have resumed, but children in schools have missed out on 3 years of singing development, staff confidence is low and there has been long-term de-prioritisation of music, with declining numbers of students taking music at GCSE and A level. Within this context, we continue working to inspire young people to engage with music and singing and to access all the benefits and opportunities it brings, and we will do this through a hybrid model that supports school staff with a suite of online resources and films as well as 'in person' visits and "big sing" spark events with hundreds of children at Symphony Hall.

Singing Medicine continues to expand both through and beyond our core partnership with Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospital; partnering with other NHS Trusts and sector partners to support patients recovering from a stroke, or with dementia, mental health, lung function and other challenges. We know that singing can help recovery as well as improving wellbeing and combatting isolation: singing together releases feel-good hormones, reduces stress and aids deeper breathing.

We were thrilled that recognition of this work in 2024-25 includes the inaugural Sky Arts Hero Award being presented to Sally Spencer, our singer and co-creator of our *Singing Medicine* project 20 years ago.



Ex Cathedra musician and child leukaemia nurse, Sally Spencer, is the inaugural winner of the Sky Arts Hero award, September 2024, for her work on our Singing Medicine project at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and constitution

Ex Cathedra is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 February 1989 as amended on 25 November 2004 to allow for indemnity insurance cover for directors and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Each director agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Company currently has 10 directors or trustees, the Chairman being appointed from amongst them. Birmingham City Council nominates up to one representative to observe meetings under its funding agreement. Ex Cathedra also appoints one young person (under 20) each year to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction and training of new trustees

When considering co-opting new directors or trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They are required to state on their appointment that they know of no reason why they should not be appointed and to undergo clearance procedures with the Disclosure and Barring Service (repeated periodically) due to the Company's relationships with vulnerable beneficiaries.

Organisational structure

The directors meet quarterly as a Board. Between meetings there is a trustee overview of activities through several subcommittees, each chaired by a trustee. Trustees are nominated to take responsibilities for different areas of the Company's activities e.g. finance, education, marketing etc. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the General Manager with support from the Director of Education and Head of Finance.

Key management remuneration

The board of directors (trustees), General Manager, Director of Education and Finance Manager comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Artistic Director is not an employee, but contracted to provide services. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually.

Risk management

The trustees have carried out a detailed review to identify the major risks that the charity faces in order to implement a risk management strategy that includes the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks and their potential effect on the charity. Risks are scored for likelihood and impact after mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Board at least once a year and adjusted as necessary.

The trustees consider that the main risks to Ex Cathedra are:

- Ensuring a smooth transition of artistic leadership as we approach the retirement of founder Jeffrey Skidmore
- Achieving a sustainable financial and fundraising model, including growth in core costs fundraising

A focus on its Business Plan priorities, strong relationships with key funders, robust financial monitoring, and the work of subgroups ensure that these priorities are being addressed. The charity has a strong system of internal control, including:

- Clear oversight at Board level
- Formal limits on staff ability to authorise expenditure, with a dual bank authorisation process that always requires payment approval from at least one trustee
- Robust safeguarding practices regarding its work with children and vulnerable adults, independently reviewed during 2022

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02396173 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1004086

Registered office

CBSO Centre
Berkley Street
Birmingham
West Midlands
B1 2LF

Trustees

J F Clemson
Ms S M Kernthaler
P J T Keene
Ms L J Krishnamoorthy
A Nayak
P S Phillips (chair)
Professor J M Pymm
Dr J Robinson
Professor J A Smith
Ms P Whitehouse

Auditors

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

General Manager

Peter Trethewey

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Erdington Branch
Birmingham

Insurance brokers

Marsh Commercial
45 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2RT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Ex Cathedra Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Locke Williams Associates LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



P S Phillips - Trustee

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ex Cathedra Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charitable company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to these risks, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries with management, trustees and enquiries of third parties, where appropriate.

As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and checking the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing, using analytical review to identify any significant or unusual transactions and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Locke Williams Associates

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

Date: 29/10/2024



TRUSTED ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS



Registered number: OC350146
Registered in England and Wales.
Katrina Williams FCA CTA TEP
David Williams FCA FCCA

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Locke Williams Associates LLP
Blackthorn House, St Pauls Square
Birmingham B3 1RL T: 0121 262 3980

Ex Cathedra Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

				Year Ended 31.3.24 Total funds £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 Total funds £
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	228,269	258,066	486,335	338,509
Charitable activities	5				
Own promotions		205,605	-	205,605	185,877
Engagements, media and other concerts		106,281	-	106,281	12,989
Education & participation		-	-	-	4,500
Recording		29,500	-	29,500	-
Sundry income	3	26,462	-	26,462	10,601
Investment income	4	441	-	441	92
Total		<u>596,558</u>	<u>258,066</u>	<u>854,624</u>	<u>552,568</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	30,128	29,091	59,219	38,905
Charitable activities	7				
Own promotions		279,426	21,628	301,054	287,123
Engagements, media and other concerts		172,271	-	172,271	54,257
Education & participation		91,728	207,037	298,765	189,432
Recording		33,656	-	33,656	-
Total		<u>607,209</u>	<u>257,756</u>	<u>864,965</u>	<u>569,717</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,651)	310	(10,341)	(17,149)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		113,302	6,019	119,321	136,470
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>102,651</u>	<u>6,329</u>	<u>108,980</u>	<u>119,321</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet
31 March 2024**

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	2,222	5,056
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	96,542	143,232
Cash at bank		<u>179,140</u>	<u>196,293</u>
		275,682	339,525
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(168,924)	(225,260)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>106,758</u>	<u>114,265</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>108,980</u>	<u>119,321</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>108,980</u>	<u>119,321</u>
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		102,309	112,960
IT Fund		<u>342</u>	<u>342</u>
		<u>102,651</u>	<u>113,302</u>
Restricted funds:			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		<u>6,329</u>	<u>6,019</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>108,980</u>	<u>119,321</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet - continued
31 March 2024**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 October 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



P S Phillips - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

		Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	<u>(17,594)</u>	<u>(78,439)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(17,594)</u>	<u>(78,439)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,020)
Interest received		<u>441</u>	<u>92</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>441</u>	<u>(928)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(17,153)	(79,367)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>196,293</u>	<u>275,660</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>179,140</u></u>	<u><u>196,293</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preceding period financial statements were presented for the eight-month period from 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. The accounting reference date was shortened to bring the charity into line with other key organisations, such as Arts Council England. The Statement of Financial Activity is therefore not entirely comparable.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For grants and donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled

Income from charitable activities includes ticket and fee income earned from undertaking performances, engagements and recordings. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in furtherance of the charitable objectives and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs are shown net of any recoverable VAT.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Charitable activity costs include those direct costs incurred in the furtherance of the charitable activities and are analysed between the significant activities undertaken.

Support (core) costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Payroll costs been allocated accords activities on the basis of employees involvement in each activity and other overheads have been allocated in proportion to incoming resources by activity.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Concert equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Grants for core funding purposes	121,261	49,412
Sponsorships and donations	365,074	237,434
Legacies	-	51,663
	<u>486,335</u>	<u>338,509</u>

3. SUNDRY INCOME

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Royalties, media and recording	839	1,293
Sales of CDs etc	2,657	2,681
Other income	22,966	6,627
	<u>26,462</u>	<u>10,601</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Deposit account interest	441	92

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Activity		
Own promotions	205,605	185,877
Engagements, media and other concerts	106,281	12,989
Education & participation	-	4,500
Recording	29,500	-
	<u>341,386</u>	<u>203,366</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Purchases	28,981	19,299
Staff costs	30,238	19,606
	<u>59,219</u>	<u>38,905</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Own promotions	299,179	1,875	301,054
Engagements, media and other concerts	171,302	969	172,271
Education & participation	298,765	-	298,765
Recording	33,387	269	33,656
	<u>802,633</u>	<u>3,113</u>	<u>805,746</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs are the charity's Governance costs, being audit and legal fees. These costs have been allocated to the charitable activities in proportion to income arising.

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Auditors' remuneration	3,000	3,000
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	113	113
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,834</u>	<u>2,303</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the period ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the period ended 31 March 2023.

11. STAFF COSTS

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Wages and salaries	219,705	135,538
Social security costs	9,482	8,800
Other pension costs	<u>4,005</u>	<u>6,603</u>
	<u>233,192</u>	<u>150,941</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 11 (2023:11) including its choral Scholars. At 31 March 2024, the Charity employed 2 full time members of administration staff, 6 part time administration staff and 4 part-time choral Scholars. The full time equivalent (FTE) number of administration staff is 5.4 (excluding choral Scholars as numbers vary depending on funding each year).

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £96,430 (£55,881 for the 8-month year ending 31 March 2023). The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the board of directors, who are the Charity's trustees, and the senior management team, being the General Manager, the Director of Education and the Finance Manager.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	154,402	184,107	338,509
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	185,877	-	185,877
Engagements, media and other concerts	12,989	-	12,989
Education & participation	4,500	-	4,500
Sundry income	10,601	-	10,601
Investment income	<u>92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92</u>
Total	368,461	184,107	552,568

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,877	17,028	38,905
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	281,097	6,026	287,123
Engagements, media and other concerts	54,257	-	54,257
Education & participation	<u>28,808</u>	<u>160,624</u>	<u>189,432</u>
Total	<u>386,039</u>	<u>183,678</u>	<u>569,717</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(17,578)	429	(17,149)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	130,880	5,590	136,470
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>113,302</u>	<u>6,019</u>	<u>119,321</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Concert equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>18,263</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>19,542</u>	<u>40,317</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	15,635	1,944	568	17,114	35,261
Charge for year	<u>1,261</u>	-	-	<u>1,573</u>	<u>2,834</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,896</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>18,687</u>	<u>38,095</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,367</u>	-	-	<u>855</u>	<u>2,222</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,628</u>	-	-	<u>2,428</u>	<u>5,056</u>

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			31.3.24	31.3.23
			£	£
Trade debtors			14,999	33,255
Prepayments and accrued income			81,543	109,977
			<u>96,542</u>	<u>143,232</u>
15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			31.3.24	31.3.23
			£	£
Trade creditors			30,331	27,207
Social security and other taxes			6,708	8,099
Other creditors			10,000	10,047
Deferred income			49,254	101,261
Accrued expenses			72,631	78,646
			<u>168,924</u>	<u>225,260</u>
16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS			31.3.24	31.3.23
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,222	-	2,222	5,056
Current assets	269,353	6,329	275,682	339,525
Current liabilities	(168,924)	-	(168,924)	(225,260)
	<u>102,651</u>	<u>6,329</u>	<u>108,980</u>	<u>119,321</u>
17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			Net movement	At
		At 1.4.23	in funds	31.3.24
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund		112,960	(10,651)	102,309
IT Fund		342	-	342
		113,302	(10,651)	102,651
Restricted funds				
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		6,019	310	6,329
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>119,321</u>	<u>(10,341)</u>	<u>108,980</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	596,558	(607,209)	(10,651)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	257,756	(257,756)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	310	-	310
	<u>258,066</u>	<u>(257,756)</u>	<u>310</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>854,624</u>	<u>(864,965)</u>	<u>(10,341)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	130,538	(17,578)	112,960
IT Fund	342	-	342
	130,880	(17,578)	113,302
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	5,590	429	6,019
	<u>136,470</u>	<u>(17,149)</u>	<u>119,321</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	368,461	(386,039)	(17,578)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	183,678	(183,678)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	429	-	429
	<u>184,107</u>	<u>(183,678)</u>	<u>429</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>552,568</u>	<u>(569,717)</u>	<u>(17,149)</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Purpose of funds:

Restricted Funds:

- 1) The Restricted Income fund is income largely received from Trusts and Foundations, Donations and Partnership income which are restricted for specific activities. The funds are expended during the year.
- 2) Alice Corser Scholarship Fund - a fund set up in memory of Alice Corser, a past Concerts Manager, in order to establish a postgraduate scholarship scheme to support young singers as they establish their professional careers.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31.3.24 £	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(10,341)	(17,149)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,834	2,303
Interest received	(441)	(92)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	46,690	(47,600)
Decrease in creditors	<u>(56,336)</u>	<u>(15,901)</u>
Net cash used in operations	<u>(17,594)</u>	<u>(78,439)</u>

20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>196,293</u>	<u>(17,153)</u>	<u>179,140</u>
	<u>196,293</u>	<u>(17,153)</u>	<u>179,140</u>
Total	<u>196,293</u>	<u>(17,153)</u>	<u>179,140</u>

EXC01-CHA 2024 Final

Final Audit Report

2024-10-29

Created:	2024-10-23
By:	DAVID WILLIAMS (davidw@lockewilliams.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAADNPYEzLI1CZifGNo-n5xEA2oleUJpws

"EXC01-CHA 2024 Final" History

-  Document created by DAVID WILLIAMS (davidw@lockewilliams.com)
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-  Signer peterphillips@masteragency.co.uk entered name at signing as Peter Phillips
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-  Agreement completed.
2024-10-29 - 11:45:24 GMT

EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1004086

Accounts



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02396173 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1004086

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023
for
Ex Cathedra Limited**

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

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Ex Cathedra Limited

Artistic Director's Report for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Ex Cathedra is special. A highly regarded music critic once said that the choir was probably the best in the world.

This is quite a claim and not only includes the technical virtuosity and unique chemistry of the singers but also the ethos of the ensemble, its ability and desire to communicate with audiences, its imaginative programming, its stylistic awareness and above all its humanity.

Ex Cathedra's orchestra is a mixture of leading players and talented young players at the beginning of their careers and perfectly complements the choir.

Our participation and education work adds a further crucial dimension.

All these elements allow the group to explore an extraordinary range of diverse repertoire which addresses the important issues of our age including climate change, immigration, racism, the fight against torture, world peace, health and equality.

We perform at the highest possible level traditional repertoire and newly commissioned music from every continent in our aim to make great music accessible to everybody.

Another leading commentator, festival director and respected musical thinker summed up our work by saying that Ex Cathedra was "the most sophisticated, three dimensional and multi-layered of all the leading groups in the country". This is high praise and something we strive to maintain.

We are extremely grateful to all the funders and supporters who have helped us navigate the pandemic, and to Arts Council England for increasing our grant for 2023-26. However, we continue to face financial challenges. Earned and box office income continues to recover slowly. We urgently need more support towards core costs and our artistic programme if we are to sustain our current activity, grow and flourish over the next 50 years.

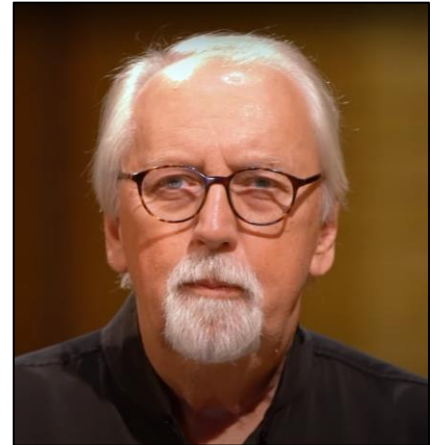
We are ambitious to engage more people – from all backgrounds – in singing. Singing is for everyone, and singing together is a powerful, shared creative experience. It transforms individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. It builds confidence, shared understanding and empathy. It teaches us to listen with care and express ourselves with confidence.

Everyone should have opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together, and to be inspired by world-class choral music. The great Tudor composer William Byrd – whose 400th anniversary we are celebrating in 2023 - wrote in the preface to his *Psalms, Sonets, and Songs of Sadness and Piete* in 1588:

*Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learne to sing.*



Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
Artistic Director



**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. This reflects their decision to change the year end date. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ex Cathedra is established to further the education of the public of the West Midlands and elsewhere in the art and science of music. It seeks to reach and engage as many people as possible with outstanding vocal experiences by exploring, commissioning and performing the finest choral music, and by producing inspirational projects with participants of all ages in schools, hospitals and community groups. Ex Cathedra has set out the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2022-26:

- a) Excellence, reach and relevance - promoting inspirational, inclusive concerts and participatory projects, developing the repertoire and artform, and widening reach and relevance for audiences and participants
- b) Talent & diversity - nurturing talent and fostering an increasingly diverse pool of musicians
- c) Securing our future - financial sustainability, completing an organisational review and ensuring we retain and cultivate a dynamic approach as we address capacity challenges and work towards a smooth succession for our founding Artistic Director
- d) Embedding environmental responsibility - as an exemplar within the choral sector we will continue to reduce our environmental impact and use our voices to promote awareness and provoke debate



Mothers and toddlers supported by Carriers of Hope perform their own piece as part of Liz Dilnot Johnson's "When a Child is a Witness", winner of an Ivor Novello Composer Award in the Community and Participation category.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Thanks to its recordings, live and online performances, and its sector-leading education and participation projects, Ex Cathedra enjoys an international reputation as a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble.

Founded in 1969 by Jeffrey Skidmore OBE, Ex Cathedra comprises a chamber choir, a Consort (10 singers), and a Baroque Orchestra/Ensemble comprising the UK's finest period-instrumentalists. Its education and participation projects are delivered by an award-winning team of Vocal Tutors, all members of Ex Cathedra, who comprise qualified teachers, professional singers, conductors and experienced workshop leaders.

Ex Cathedra is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, with funding offered until March 2026 and an uplift secured in the latest funding round. The organisation receives a small annual grant from Birmingham City Council, support from private and commercial sources, donations from individuals, and grants from trusts and foundations.

In setting objectives, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on widening access and setting fees. The company offers a wide range of ticket prices for all its concerts, with tickets available from £15 for all concerts with discounts starting at £5 for those in receipt of benefits, u16s and students, 18-30s, and disabled patrons. It frequently targets ticket offers to community groups it has worked with in local areas e.g. Ladywood.

To meet its objectives, Ex Cathedra:

- Promotes a season of concerts in Birmingham and across the Midlands. Concerts are given in a range of venues across Birmingham (where Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist at the B:Music venues Symphony Hall & Town Hall) and the group has established a regular pattern of concerts at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton, Hereford Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral and St James the Greater in Leicester
- Promotes concerts in London where it has a burgeoning relationship with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Gives performances across the UK and abroad, by invitation, acting as a cultural ambassador for Birmingham
- Undertakes audio and audio-visual broadcasts, gives online concerts, and releases recordings of repertoire particularly associated with the group on a range of record labels
- Develops the choral repertoire through
 - research into little-known or newly rediscovered works from across the world
 - an extensive programme of commissions and premieres from leading composers, which in recent years has included music by Sally Beamish, Liz Dillnot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Alec Roth, Penelope Thwaites and Stevie Wishart
 - inclusive, co-creative programming to widen the communities who engage with choral music
- Nurtures young musicians through
 - children's and youth training choirs for 3-18 year olds, plus parent and toddler sessions
 - a Student Scholarship scheme with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
 - a choral Scholarship programme for graduate singers
 - performance and solo opportunities for the UK's finest emerging professional singers
 - its Associate Conductor scheme
- Undertakes an extensive education and participation programme, engaging 25,000+ schoolchildren each year through its suite of *Singing Schools* projects and digital resources
- Undertakes an extensive programme of arts and health activities, a suite of *Singing Medicine* projects working with patients and families on paediatric wards, mental health, stroke, dementia, and Long Covid Recovery with multiple NHS Trusts

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Ex Cathedra elected to change its year end in this period to align with the fiscal year. This change was necessary to more efficiently meet the requirements of Arts Council England.

The period reported is therefore 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. This was a period of gradual restoration of audience confidence and behaviour post-pandemic, negatively impacted by rising prices and the “cost of living” crisis. Activity with schools and in healthcare settings slowly resumed. Schools retained some protocols such as year-group “bubbles” for the academic year, and continued to limit engagement with external opportunities. ‘In person’ visits to hospitals began to resume mid-period, with the appropriate care and caution.

The autumn of 2022 was therefore particularly challenging. Despite what we had felt was prudent budgeting, we saw substantial losses on some events, whilst other earned income – and thus contributions to core costs – also remained suppressed.

The box office position improved from Christmas 2022 onwards, with some well-attended concerts in spring 2023 indicating that audience confidence had changed quite significantly, but booking patterns continue to be much later than pre-pandemic. Engagement with schools and healthcare settings was on an upward trend as we ended the year, but we anticipate it may take another couple of years to restore activity to pre-pandemic levels, noting that both sectors are experiencing stress.

This was also the first period without any support from the Culture Recovery Fund to offset these challenges. We were therefore extremely grateful to receive and retain support from a number of trusts, our Host of Angels supporters and some individual donations towards specific projects, whilst a significant legacy donation came as a wonderful and much-needed surprise. Without this, the situation would have been very bleak. Even with it, the period has markedly diminished our resilience to future trading challenges.

We also noticed an increase in competition for trust support, with more funders offering considerably less than requested, even when successful. The consequent increase in applications and reporting has placed considerable additional demands on our limited capacity.

However, we were pleased to secure an uplift in funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation for 2023-26, reflecting our contribution to its “Let’s Create” strategy. Whilst this recognizes and helps with the challenges and opportunities we outlined in our application, we will require significant additional fundraising and earned income success for 2023-24 and beyond.

Notable achievements during the year included:

- A balanced season of own promoted concerts, including: “King for a Day” with French Baroque music by Lalande and two of Handel’s Coronation Anthems; Bach’s Christmas Oratorio; “Songs of Protest” and “Byrd’s Great” alongside Christmas Music by Candlelight.
- “Songs of Protest” continued a strand of social themes and featured two world premieres: Alec Roth’s setting of a WWII text by Dietrich Bonhoeffer *The Peace of the Night*; and Sally Beamish’s *A Knock on the Door*, a compelling exploration of the relationship between torturer and hostage. Sir James MacMillan’s *Cantos Sagrados*, about political repression, and John Joubert’s setting of Thomas Hardy’s Anglo-Boer War texts *South of the Line* (an Ex Cathedra 1986 commission) completed the programme.
- *A Knock on the Door* was filmed live and published online free for a period of 3 weeks.
- “Songs of Protest” included a pre-concert performance by our Academy of Vocal Music choirs, presenting their own compositions on the subject of protest and hope, and performing from Cecilia MacDowall’s *The Girl from Aleppo*.
- “Byrd’s Great” was a lavish programme celebrating the 400th anniversary of one of Britain’s greatest composers, performed with His Majestys Sagbutts & Cornetts and the Linarol Consort of Viols. The inclusion of Thomas Tallis’ 40-part *Spem in alium* helped secure a near-capacity audience.
- 100 people participated in our sold-out “Singing Byrd Workshop” the day before “Byrd’s Great”, exploring and performing sections from the concert, including the Tallis alongside all the performers involved in the concert.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

- 12 performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight included a return to Kidderminster Town Hall, following our socially-distanced appearance there in December 2020. Meanwhile our 2019 film was once again broadcast on Sky Arts.
- Appearances across the region – Coventry Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, Kidderminster, Leicester, Shrewsbury, Warwick, Wolverhampton, plus St John's Smith Square and St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.
- Phased resumption of 'in person' activity with schoolchildren, including "big sing" events with hundreds of primary schoolchildren attending at Symphony Hall, supported by online resources available on our dedicated website (www.singingschools.co.uk). Online resources continued to be freely available to all Birmingham schools and available to purchase worldwide for all other schools, stranded into Singing Playgrounds, SingMaker and ChoirMaker for different age groups.
- Phased resumption of 'in person' delivery of Singing Medicine, working bedside with children and adults at hospitals including Birmingham and Wolverhampton. This work is supported by online resources available on our dedicated website (www.singingmedicine.co.uk), with films and resources stranded into categories developed for children, teenagers, adults, and to support parents with new babies.
- New digital resources continued to be made for these projects.
- Our Academy of Vocal Music choirs (toddlers to 18 year olds) gave a number of performances in addition to "Songs of Protest" listed above, including: 12 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Hippodrome; the Good Friday Bach Passion at Symphony Hall with Ex Cathedra; end of term informal concerts for parents, and "Angels, Stars & Kings", our family Christmas concert. The Senior Academy sang Evensong at St Peter's College, Oxford with Quintin Beer.
- We resumed 'in person' sessions for our Ladywood community choir, who gave a winter concert and took part in the Good Friday Passion at Symphony Hall.



*Summer Music by Candlelight 2023,
curated and directed by Associate Conductor Sarah Latto.*

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**



Primary schoolchildren take part in a Singing Playgrounds session with two of our Vocal Tutors, Dan Ludford Thomas and Gemma King



Ex Cathedra animateurs deliver a Big Sing event at Symphony Hall with 500 primary and secondary schoolchildren and teachers



A screenshot from a schools resource film featuring Kadialy Kouyate (L) and Dan Ludford Thomas (R)



Kadialy Kouyate performs as part of Liz Dilnot Johnson's "When a Child is a Witness", for which the composer won an Ivor Novello Award



Ex Cathedra's Senior Academy of Vocal Music at Symphony Hall for our Good Friday Bach Passion



Our Academy of Vocal Music Children's Choir

Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

Charitable activities – continued

Feedback included:

"impressive" (**Guardian review of *Songs of Protest***)

"one of Britain's very best choirs... superb" (**New York Times**)

"truly magical" (**5* www.reviewsgate.com review of Alec Roth's *The Traveller***)

"movingly rendered ... a gripping, emotionally committed performance" (**Musical Opinion**)

"choral delights ... blazing with pageantry... a smoothly, effortlessly (though obviously meticulously rehearsed and choreographed) flowing sequence of music by Handel and Lalande. The latter composer has long been one of Ex Cathedra's calling-cards, and here we relished many examples of his "royal" music, beginning with the rolling, burgeoning kettle-drums launching the *Te Deum*, heralding well-defined, well-weighted choral delivery"

(**5* review of *King for a Day*, www.midlandsmusicreviews.co.uk**)

"In this thoughtful programme Ex Cathedra went beyond mere remembrance this Armistice-tide and instead chose works railing against torture, repression and soulless militarism, two of them world premieres. Jeffrey Skidmore ... drew from his choristers singing of immense clarity and engagement"

(**www.midlandsmusicreviews.co.uk review of *Songs of Protest***)

"breathless lyricism, and one of those rare 'time-stood-still' moments..."

(**www.reviewsgate.com review of Byrd's *Great***)

"an artistically ambitious and emotionally compelling work that is firmly rooted in the contributions of the participants ... evocative music with a purpose and meaningful sense of engagement"

(**Ivor Composer Award citation for *When a Child is a Witness 2022***)

"one of the most significant and poignant contributions to Coventry's City of Culture celebrations... the work empowers performers from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures and experiences to create a distinguished artwork designed to make this a better world for all"

(**www.seenandheard-international.com review of *When a Child is a Witness***)

"fresh and absolutely vital" (**www.bachtrack.com review of Bach's *St Matthew Passion***)

"compelling and engrossing ... this magnificent musical outfit has a history ahead of it as long and distinguished as that behind" (**5* www.reviewsgate.com**)

"I would like to thank everyone involved with the concert on Wednesday. As ever, it was absolutely stunning and I found it very moving. Perfect choice of repertoire performed to such a high standard. C and E loved every minute and we can't stop singing *Changing Gears* at home. I love how you foster a sense of family and I'm so pleased the girls are part of this."

(**Academy of Vocal Music parent**)

"Participating in *Singing Medicine* is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run; getting them into the air and letting them be free. It's a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing, it's almost like being allowed to stretch." (Member of staff at **Birmingham Children's Hospital**)

"We have really enjoyed the singing session, it really made my child smile. It was even more special as one of the ladies sang the song in our language"

(**Parent of 5-year-old *Singing Medicine* beneficiary in Wolverhampton**)

"@singingmed One of the greatest teams lifting spirits, changing worlds. Your work is amazing." (**Prof Grenville Hancox MBE**)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finances

The period reported is 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023 following the decision to change our year end date. The activity is therefore for 8 months rather than a complete year.

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances to be satisfactory. Thanks to the funding available - including an unexpected legacy donation – unrestricted reserves only decreased during the 8-month period by £17,578, to £113,302.

As outlined in the report above, it was a very challenging period in a difficult operating context, the first post-pandemic period without any support from the Culture Recovery Fund, and one in which the box office and other trading income remained suppressed.

The charity received revenue grant funds amounting to £49,412 from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council, far less than the organisation's baseline operating costs. The increase in Arts Council funding for the period 2023-26 will help reduce this shortfall.

£237,434 was raised from sponsorships, donations and grants from other public sources, trusts, commercial and private funds for use during the period, and £51,663 in legacy donations.

Earned income from ticket sales, and from fees for concert engagements and education projects was £203,366.

Fundraising Practices

Over the last 10 years fundraised income has become an increasingly important income stream. Ex Cathedra's approach is to seek funds from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, with the large majority of funds raised in the year being received from trusts and foundations.

Fundraising activities were undertaken by members of staff, including a part-time Grants & Individual Giving Manager, who drafts applications, writes reports for funders and looks after the individuals who donate to the Host of Angels scheme.

Ex Cathedra is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Regulator's Fundraising Promise, Code of Fundraising Practice and its terms and conditions. During the year Ex Cathedra received no complaints about its fundraising work.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees have established a policy on the amount of reserves that Ex Cathedra should carry. They believe that as a non-profit making organisation there is no requirement to accumulate reserves beyond its immediate needs. However, Ex Cathedra does need to maintain a minimum level of free reserves to safeguard its ongoing viability and provide adequate cashflow.

To meet the cashflow requirements, the trustees consider that the organisation should ideally maintain reserves at the equivalent level of 8 weeks of a 12-month turnover. This target would currently be around £135,000.

The trustees have also determined a minimum operating threshold, being the funds necessary to finance the business through an orderly shutdown of the charity in the event of an unforeseen, catastrophic disaster. This level will also vary from time to time. The early warning threshold has been set at £100,000.

Unrestricted free reserves were £107,904 at 31 March 2023.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of Ex Cathedra, with a regular review of the cashflow forecast and projects pipeline given the high inflationary environment and ongoing audience uncertainty (see Future plans below). They are mindful of the reserves position and diminished resilience to future trading challenges but consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the organisation for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that charitable company is a going concern.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

FUTURE PLANS

Plans for 2023-24 financial year will see Ex Cathedra present a marginally smaller programme of concerts to mitigate some of the financial risk given the operating context outlined above. The overall fundraising required to enable concerts, education projects and to cover core costs remains high.

Spring/summer 2023 has included a well-attended Good Friday performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Symphony Hall, engaging our Academy of Vocal Music and local community choirs in a contemporary reconstruction of the Good Friday liturgy Bach knew. We have also given 6 performances of Summer Music by Candlelight, in a programme that was curated and conducted by Sarah Latto, one of our Associate Conductors as we continue to plan towards the transition of artistic leadership in 2027.

Our vocal tutors spent 3 days in the studio recording new schools resources during the spring, and welcomed c.500 primary and secondary children to Symphony Hall for a "big sing" celebration. The team also performed at the closing ceremony of the Transplant Games. A series of workshops have been delivered for patients at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Parkview Clinic, and at both care homes and retirement homes.

July 2023 saw the release of our live recording of *The Traveller* by Alec Roth and Vikram Seth performed alongside the Britten Sinfonia, tenor Mark Padmore, violinist Philippe Homoré and speaker Vayu Naidu. In addition to writing six new poems for this work, Seth translated some 20 classic Indian texts from a rich variety of traditions and languages.

The autumn has commenced with another recording, capturing a new CD of choral music by Liz Dilot Johnson, including movements from *When a Child is a Witness: Requiem for Refugees*, *Blake Reimagined* (premiered by Ex Cathedra) and *The Windhover* (commissioned by Ex Cathedra). This will be released in April 2024 to celebrate Johnson's 60th birthday.

Looking ahead to our 2023-24 concert season, titled "Byrd to Bacharch – and Bach" – which encompasses as wide a range of repertoire as ever – we will:

- celebrate Rachmaninoff's 150th birthday with 4 performances of his "Vespers", taking into account our research into the 1915 premiere
- return to Handel's *Messiah* for the first time since 2015 with a cast of 12 soloists, of whom half are former Scholars
- give 13 performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight, including a return to Lichfield Cathedral in partnership with Lichfield Festival
- give our family-friendly Christmas concert "Angels, Stars & Kings" with the younger members of our Academy of Vocal Music
- revive "Baroque Passion: music of heartbreak and healing"
- give 3 concerts at both Hereford Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields as we build audiences at both venues
- welcome four new graduate Scholars and a new cohort of Student Scholars from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and present our first Scholars Ensemble concert in partnership with the Conservatoire
- recruit our first University of Birmingham Student Scholars

Our Academy of Vocal Music will continue its programme, and we look forward to welcoming a new conductor to the Senior Academy, following Suzzie Vango's decision to step down with our grateful thanks after several, very successful years in the role

'In person' schools projects have resumed, but children in schools have missed out on 3 years of singing development, staff confidence is low and there is a continued de-prioritisation of music from government, with declining numbers of students taking music at GCSE and A level. Within this context, we continue working to inspire young people to engage with music and singing and to access all the benefits and opportunities it brings, and we will do this through a hybrid model that supports school staff with a suite of online resources and films as well as 'in person' visits and "big sing" spark events with hundreds of children at Symphony Hall.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

We have been delighted to see *Singing Medicine* resume in hospitals. After such a long hiatus, there are changes in personnel and it is taking some time for hospitals to recommit funds at the level they contributed pre-pandemic, to match our fundraising. *Singing Medicine* continues to expand beyond our core partnership with Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospital, partnering with other NHS Trusts and sector partners to support patients recovering from a stroke, suffering from Long Covid or with dementia, mental health, lung function and other challenges. We know that singing can help recovery as well as improving wellbeing and combatting isolation: singing together releases feel-good hormones, reduces stress and aids deeper breathing.

Our ground-breaking *Singing Medicine* work with stroke patients has led to an invitation to contribute to the forthcoming Stroke Association UK conference.

Ex Cathedra continues to evolve its business model to adjust to changes in the funding available. We have been delighted to receive an increase in Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation funding for 2023-26. Following this, we are pleased to have taken some steps to address the capacity challenges the trustees previously identified. It should be noted, however, that the increase in funding is relatively modest and will not be sufficient to address all the issues. We still require a step-change in our underlying funding and financial model to create a platform that can unlock the undoubted latent potential of the organisation, particularly while we continue to face a challenging operating environment and rising costs, as outlined above.

We are mindful of the uncertainty regarding our grant from Birmingham City Council following the Council's recent 114 Notice, and the potential compounding impact of any cuts given the complex inter-relationships with other funded organisations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and constitution

Ex Cathedra is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 February 1989 as amended on 25 November 2004 to allow for indemnity insurance cover for directors and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Each director agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Company currently has 10 directors or trustees, the Chairman being appointed from amongst them. Birmingham City Council nominates up to one representative to observe meetings under its funding agreement. Ex Cathedra also appoints one young person (under 20) each year to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction and training of new trustees

When considering co-opting new directors or trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They are required to state on their appointment that they know of no reason why they should not be appointed and to undergo clearance procedures with the Disclosure and Barring Service (repeated periodically) due to the Company's relationships with vulnerable beneficiaries.

Organisational structure

The directors meet quarterly as a Board. Trustees are nominated to take responsibilities for different areas of the Company's activities e.g. finance, education, marketing etc. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the General Manager with support from the Director of Education and Head of Finance.

Key management remuneration

The board of directors (trustees), General Manager, Director of Education and Head of Finance comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Artistic Director is not an employee, but contracted to provide services. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

Risk management

The trustees have carried out a detailed review to identify the major risks that the charity faces in order to implement a risk management strategy that includes the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks and their potential effect on the charity. Risks are scored for likelihood and impact after mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Board at least once a year and adjusted as necessary.

The trustees consider that the main risks to Ex Cathedra are:

- Rebuilding box office and earned income post-pandemic whilst navigating the current recession
- Ensuring a smooth transition of artistic leadership as we approach the retirement of founder Jeffrey Skidmore
- Achieving a sustainable financial and fundraising model that alleviates pressure on the existing staff structure

A focus on its Business Plan priorities, strong relationships with key funders, robust financial monitoring, and the work of subgroups ensure that these priorities are being addressed. The charity has a strong system of internal control, including:

- Clear oversight at Board level
- Formal limits on staff ability to authorise expenditure, with a dual bank authorisation process that always requires payment approval from at least one trustee
- Robust safeguarding practices regarding its work with children and vulnerable adults, independently reviewed during 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02396173 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1004086

Registered office

CBSO Centre
Berkley Street
Birmingham
B1 2LF

Trustees

Mr J F Clemson	
Ms S M Kernthaler	
Mr Paul Keene	appointed 23.01.2023
Ms L J Krishnamoorthy	
Mr P N Ledgard	resigned 13.03.2023
Mr Alok Nayak	appointed 23.01.2023
Mr Peter Phillips (chair)	
Dr J M Pymm	
Mrs J Robinson	
Prof Judith Smith	appointed 23.01.2023
Ms P Whitehouse	

Company Secretary

Mrs A R Burgess	resigned 03.07.2023
Mrs Roxanne Johnson	appointed 03.07.2023

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

Auditors

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
B3 1RL

General Manager

Peter Trethewey

Advisers

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Erdington Branch
Birmingham

Insurance brokers

Marsh Commercial
45 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2RT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Ex Cathedra Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

AUDITORS

The auditors, Locke Williams Associates LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Psean Phillips
Psean Phillips (Oct 16, 2023 12:19 GMT+1)

Mr Peter Phillips - Trustee

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees
of Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ex Cathedra Limited (the 'charitable company') for the period ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees
of Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charitable company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to these risks, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries with management, trustees and enquiries of third parties, where appropriate.

As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and checking the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing, using analytical review to identify any significant or unusual transactions and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Locke Williams Associates

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

5 October 2023



TRUSTED ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS



Registered number: OC350146
Registered in England and Wales.
Katrina Williams FCA CTA TEP
David Williams FCA FCCA

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Locke Williams Associates LLP
Blackthorn House, St Pauls Square
Birmingham B3 1RL T: 0121 262 3980

Ex Cathedra Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

				Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 Total funds £	Year Ended 31.7.22 Total funds £
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	154,402	184,107	338,509	510,236
Charitable activities	5				
Own promotions		185,877	-	185,877	148,296
Engagements, media and other concerts		12,989	-	12,989	87,129
Learning		4,500	-	4,500	10,785
Special projects		-	-	-	197,300
Fundraising	3	10,601	-	10,601	5,096
Investment income	4	92	-	92	9
Total		<u>368,461</u>	<u>184,107</u>	<u>552,568</u>	<u>958,851</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	21,877	17,028	38,905	44,927
Charitable activities	7				
Own promotions		281,097	6,026	287,123	286,347
Engagements, media and other concerts		54,257	-	54,257	151,817
Learning		28,808	160,624	189,432	285,760
Special projects		-	-	-	197,300
Total		<u>386,039</u>	<u>183,678</u>	<u>569,717</u>	<u>966,151</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(17,578)	429	(17,149)	(7,300)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		130,880	5,590	136,470	143,770
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>113,302</u>	<u>6,019</u>	<u>119,321</u>	<u>136,470</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet
31 March 2023**

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.7.22 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	5,056	6,339
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	143,232	95,632
Cash at bank		<u>196,293</u>	<u>275,660</u>
		339,525	371,292
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(225,260)	(241,161)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>114,265</u>	<u>130,131</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>119,321</u>	136,470
NET ASSETS		<u><u>119,321</u></u>	<u><u>136,470</u></u>
FUNDS	18		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		112,960	130,538
IT Fund		<u>342</u>	<u>342</u>
		<u>113,302</u>	<u>130,880</u>
Restricted funds:			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		<u>6,019</u>	<u>5,590</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>119,321</u></u>	<u><u>136,470</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet - continued
31 March 2023**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2 October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Psean Phillips
Psean Phillips (Oct 16, 2023 12:19 GMT+1)

Mr Peter Phillips - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

Cash Flow Statement
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	20	<u>(78,439)</u>	<u>(187,599)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(78,439)</u>	<u>(187,599)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,020)	(965)
Interest received		<u>92</u>	<u>9</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(928)</u>	<u>(956)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(79,367)	(188,555)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>275,660</u>	<u>464,215</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>196,293</u></u>	<u><u>275,660</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are presented for the eight month period from 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. The accounting reference date was shortened to bring the charity into line with other key organisations, such as Arts Council England. Profit and loss comparatives are shown for the full proceeding twelve month period and so are not entirely comparable.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For grants and donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled

Income from charitable activities includes ticket and fee income earned from undertaking performances, engagements and recordings. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in furtherance of the charitable objectives and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs are shown net of any recoverable VAT.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Charitable activity costs include those direct costs incurred in the furtherance of the charitable activities and are analysed between the significant activities undertaken.

Support (core) costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Payroll costs been allocated accords activities on the basis of employees involvement in each activity and other overheads have been allocated in proportion to incoming resources by activity.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Concert equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Grants for core funding purposes	49,412	131,061
Sponsorships and donations	237,434	379,175
Legacies	<u>51,663</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>338,509</u>	<u>510,236</u>

Included within grants for core funding purposes in the prior period is £56,944 of Cultural Recovery Funds received from the Arts Council England during the year (current period £nil).

We were extremely grateful to receive a significant, unexpected legacy donation during the period and would like to express our thanks to the individual who remembered us in their Will.

3. FUNDRAISING

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Royalties, media and recording	1,293	2,391
Sales of CDs etc	2,681	2,705
Other income	<u>6,627</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,601</u>	<u>5,096</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Deposit account interest	<u>92</u>	<u>9</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Own promotions	185,877	148,296
Engagements, media and other concerts	12,989	87,129
Learning	4,500	10,785
Special projects	-	197,300
	<u>203,366</u>	<u>443,510</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Arts Council England	-	197,300

6. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Purchases	19,299	17,099
Staff costs	19,606	27,828
	<u>38,905</u>	<u>44,927</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Own promotions	284,278	2,845	287,123
Engagements, media and other concerts	54,058	199	54,257
Learning	189,363	69	189,432
	<u>527,699</u>	<u>3,113</u>	<u>530,812</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023**

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs are the charity's Governance costs, being audit and legal fees. These costs have been allocated to the charitable activities in proportion to income arising.

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Auditors' remuneration	3,000	2,700
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	113	113
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,303</u>	<u>2,978</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 July 2022.

11. STAFF COSTS

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Wages and salaries	135,538	182,491
Social security costs	8,800	8,853
Other pension costs	<u>6,603</u>	<u>9,685</u>
	<u>150,941</u>	<u>201,029</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of employees during the period was 11 (2022:14). The Charity employs 3 full time members of staff with an average of 8 part time (including 1 choral Scholar), FTE number of staff is 4.2.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

11. STAFF COSTS - continued

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £55,881 (2022 £79,933). The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the board of directors, who are the Charity's trustees, and the senior management team, being the general manager, the director of education and the director of finance.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	207,371	302,865	510,236
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	141,841	6,455	148,296
Engagements, media and other concerts	87,129	-	87,129
Learning	10,785	-	10,785
Special projects	-	197,300	197,300
Fundraising	5,096	-	5,096
Investment income	9	-	9
Total	<u>452,231</u>	<u>506,620</u>	<u>958,851</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	20,084	24,843	44,927
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	210,552	75,795	286,347
Engagements, media and other concerts	151,817	-	151,817
Learning	77,438	208,322	285,760
Special projects	-	197,300	197,300
Total	<u>459,891</u>	<u>506,260</u>	<u>966,151</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(7,660)	360	(7,300)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	138,540	5,230	143,770
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>130,880</u>	<u>5,590</u>	<u>136,470</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Concert equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 August 2022	18,263	1,944	568	18,522	39,297
Additions	-	-	-	1,020	1,020
At 31 March 2023	18,263	1,944	568	19,542	40,317
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 August 2022	14,794	1,944	568	15,652	32,958
Charge for year	841	-	-	1,462	2,303
At 31 March 2023	15,635	1,944	568	17,114	35,261
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	2,628	-	-	2,428	5,056
At 31 July 2022	3,469	-	-	2,870	6,339

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.7.22 £
Trade debtors	33,255	17,774
VAT	-	3,545
Prepayments and accrued income	109,977	74,313
	<u>143,232</u>	<u>95,632</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.7.22 £
Trade creditors	27,207	61,226
Social security and other taxes	8,099	2,303
Other creditors	10,047	10,318
Deferred income	101,261	102,978
Accrued expenses	78,646	64,336
	<u>225,260</u>	<u>241,161</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.3.23 £	31.7.22 £
Within one year	-	3,809

After the balance sheet date, but prior to the approval of these financial statements, the charity entered into a five lease commitment totalling £3,900.

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.7.22 Total funds £
Fixed assets	5,056	-	5,056	6,339
Current assets	333,506	6,019	339,525	371,292
Current liabilities	(225,260)	-	(225,260)	(241,161)
	<u>113,302</u>	<u>6,019</u>	<u>119,321</u>	<u>136,470</u>

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	130,538	(17,578)	112,960
IT Fund	342	-	342
	<u>130,880</u>	<u>(17,578)</u>	<u>113,302</u>
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	5,590	429	6,019
	<u>5,590</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>6,019</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>136,470</u>	<u>(17,149)</u>	<u>119,321</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	368,461	(386,039)	(17,578)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	183,678	(183,678)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	429	-	429
	<u>184,107</u>	<u>(183,678)</u>	<u>429</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>552,568</u>	<u>(569,717)</u>	<u>(17,149)</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	138,198	(7,660)	130,538
IT Fund	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342</u>
	138,540	(7,660)	130,880
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	<u>5,230</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>5,590</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>143,770</u></u>	<u><u>(7,300)</u></u>	<u><u>136,470</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	452,231	(459,891)	(7,660)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	308,960	(308,960)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	360	-	360
Special project grant	<u>197,300</u>	<u>(197,300)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>506,620</u>	<u>(506,260)</u>	<u>360</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>958,851</u></u>	<u><u>(966,151)</u></u>	<u><u>(7,300)</u></u>

Purpose of funds:

Designated Fund:

The Investment fund represents funds set aside for future investment opportunities in Education and Choral activities.

The research fund represents funds set aside for future research projects.

Restricted Funds:

- 1) The Education fund - funded largely from Government and Local Authority sources for the promotion of singing activities in schools and hospitals.
- 2) Alice Corser Scholarship Fund - a fund set up in memory of Alice Corser, a past Concerts Manager, in order to establish a postgraduate scholarship scheme to support young singers as they establish their professional careers.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 31 March 2023.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Period 1.8.22 to 31.3.23 £	Year Ended 31.7.22 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(17,149)	(7,300)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,303	2,978
Interest received	(92)	(9)
Increase in debtors	(47,600)	(42,664)
Decrease in creditors	<u>(15,901)</u>	<u>(140,604)</u>
Net cash used in operations	<u>(78,439)</u>	<u>(187,599)</u>

21. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.8.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>275,660</u>	<u>(79,367)</u>	<u>196,293</u>
Total	<u>275,660</u>	<u>(79,367)</u>	<u>196,293</u>

EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1004086

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02396173 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1004086

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022
for
Ex Cathedra Limited**



Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

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Ex Cathedra Limited

Artistic Director's Report for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

It feels as if we're getting back to normal. Our 2022-23 season includes a wonderful selection of concerts in great venues, which demonstrates the wide range of special qualities for which Ex Cathedra is so admired by audiences, musicians and critics.

Music is a force for good. We are reminded constantly of this in our work: it can change lives, uplift, inspire; it can bring people together and it knows no boundaries! It is local and global; it is a universal language that is fundamental to human existence.

Ex Cathedra is uniquely placed, through the special chemistry which has evolved amongst its musicians during its 50-year history, to demonstrate the power of music through its exceptional work in schools, hospitals, in the wider community and through its annual concert series performed in the region and beyond. We have developed a thriving relationship with audiences in Wolverhampton, Hereford, Coventry, Shrewsbury, Leicester, London and of course in Birmingham.



This extraordinary creative energy, imagination and ability to engage the local community is a great tribute to the spirit of Ex Cathedra

We are extremely grateful to all the funders and supporters who have helped us navigate the pandemic. However, there are challenges ahead. Earned and box office income continues to recover slowly. We are extremely grateful to Arts Council England for increasing our grant for 2023-26 but we urgently need more support towards core costs and our artistic programme if we are to sustain our current activity, grow and flourish over the next 50 years.

We are ambitious to engage more people – from all backgrounds – in singing. Singing is for everyone, and singing together is a powerful, shared creative experience. It transforms individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. It builds confidence, shared understanding and empathy. It teaches us to listen with care and express ourselves with confidence.

Everyone should have opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together, and to be inspired by world-class choral music. The great Tudor composer William Byrd – whose 400th anniversary we celebrate in 2023 - wrote in the preface to his Psalms, Sonets, and Songs of Sadness and Piete in 1588:

*Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learne to sing.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Skidmore".

Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
Artistic Director

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ex Cathedra is established to further the education of the public of the West Midlands and elsewhere in the art and science of music. It seeks to reach and engage as many people as possible with outstanding vocal experiences by exploring, commissioning and performing the finest choral music, and by producing inspirational projects with participants of all ages in schools, hospitals and community groups. Ex Cathedra has set out the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2022-26:

- a) Excellence, reach and relevance - promoting inspirational, inclusive concerts and participatory projects, developing the repertoire and artform, and widening reach and relevance for audiences and participants
- b) Talent & diversity - nurturing talent and fostering an increasingly diverse pool of musicians
- c) Securing our future - financial sustainability, completing an organisational review and ensuring we retain and cultivate a dynamic approach as we address capacity challenges and work towards a smooth succession for our founding Artistic Director
- d) Embedding environmental responsibility - as an exemplar within the choral sector we will continue to reduce our environmental impact and use our voices to promote awareness and provoke debate



Mothers and toddlers supported by Carriers of Hope perform their composition as part of Liz Dilnot Johnson's "When a Child is a Witness", produced by Ex Cathedra at Coventry Cathedral, February 2021

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Thanks to its recordings, live and online performances, and its sector-leading education and participation projects, Ex Cathedra's international reputation as a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble goes from strength to strength.

Founded in 1969 by Jeffrey Skidmore OBE, Ex Cathedra comprises a chamber choir, a Consort (10 singers), and a Baroque Orchestra/Ensemble comprising the UK's finest period-instrumentalists. Its education and participation projects are delivered by a sector-leading team of Vocal Tutors, all members of Ex Cathedra, who comprise qualified teachers, professional singers, conductors and experienced workshop leaders.

Ex Cathedra is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, with funding offered until March 2026 and an uplift secured in the latest funding round. The organisation receives a small annual grant from Birmingham City Council, support from private and commercial sources, donations from individuals, and grants from trusts and foundations. During the pandemic it benefited from the government's Culture Recovery Fund.

In setting objectives, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on widening access and setting fees. The company offers a wide range of ticket prices for all its concerts, with tickets available from £15 for all concerts and discounts for those in receipt of benefits, u16s and students, 18-30s, and disabled patrons. It frequently targets ticket offers to groups it has worked with in local areas e.g. Ladywood.

To meet its objectives, Ex Cathedra:

- Promotes a season of concerts in Birmingham and across the Midlands. Concerts are given in a range of venues across Birmingham (where Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist at the B:Music venues Symphony Hall & Town Hall) and the group has established regular audiences for concerts at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton, Hereford Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral and St James the Greater in Leicester
- Promotes concerts in London where it has close links with St John's Smith Square and a burgeoning relationship with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Gives performances across the UK and abroad, by invitation, acting as a cultural ambassador for Birmingham
- Undertakes audio and audio-visual broadcasts, gives online concerts, and releases recordings of repertoire particularly associated with the group on a range of record labels
- Develops the choral repertoire through
 - research into little-known or newly rediscovered works from across the world
 - an extensive programme of commissions and premieres from leading composers, which in recent years has included music by Sally Beamish, Liz Dillnot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Alec Roth, Penelope Thwaites and Stevie Wishart
 - inclusive, co-creative programming to widen the communities who engage with choral music
- Nurtures young musicians through
 - children's and youth training choirs for 3-18 year olds, plus parent and toddler sessions
 - a Student Scholarship scheme with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
 - a choral Scholarship programme for graduate singers
 - performance and solo opportunities for the UK's finest emerging professional singers
 - its Associate Conductor scheme
- Undertakes an extensive education and participation programme, engaging 25,000+ schoolchildren each year through its suite of *Singing Schools* projects and digital resources
- Undertakes an extensive programme of arts and health activities, a suite of *Singing Medicine* projects working with patients and families on paediatric wards, mental health, stroke, dementia, and Long Covid Recovery with multiple NHS Trusts

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2021-22 was a period of yet more adjustment as the world emerged from the pandemic. Most activities retained covid protocols, and some concerts retained social distancing but the majority went on sale without this restriction in place. Attendance at concerts increased but remained substantially below pre-pandemic levels. 'In person' projects in schools began to resume during the year, but work with hospital patients remained online throughout with just two hospital visits resuming right at the end of the year. It was a period in which the contribution to overhead costs from activities was around £61k lower than the equivalent year would have been pre-pandemic.

Fortunately, Ex Cathedra was able to secure a further grant of £57k from the final round of the government's Culture Recovery Fund. We are grateful to the trust funders who continued to support the digital programmes of work we created for project beneficiaries, and to many individuals who continued to donate through our Host of Angels individual giving scheme.

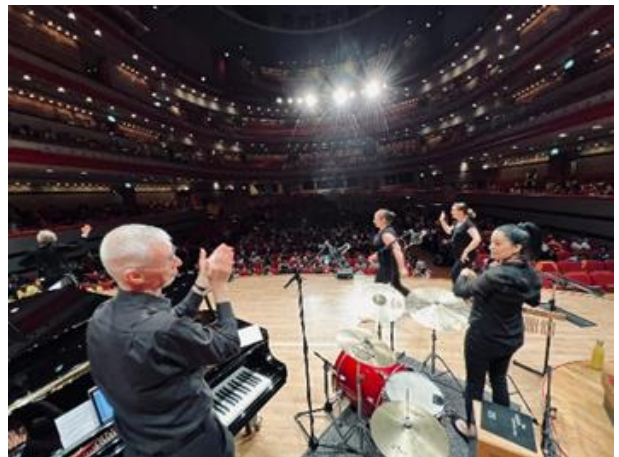
Notable achievements during the year included:

- The delivery of two major, postponed projects supported thanks to a National Lottery Projects Grant from Arts Council England, designed to engage new audiences and participants in choral music. These projects involved all the elements and skills of Ex Cathedra – from the Academy of Vocal Music choirs to the vocal tutors who were embedded with each of the participation groups:
 - *When a Child is a Witness* with composer Liz Dilnot Johnson, co-created with refugee communities in Coventry (Carriers of Hope, Inini Initiative, Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre), the European Youth Music Refugee Choir and Kadialy Kouyate. It culminated in a very powerful and moving performance to a full audience at Coventry Cathedral in February 2022 as part of Coventry City of Culture, filmed and watched online during a limited window by over 9k people. Liz Dilnot Johnson has since won a prestigious Ivor Composer Award in the Community and Participation category for this project.
 - *Unending Love Weekenders* explored western and Indian classical music as part of the Commonwealth Games cultural festival. Workshops and performances involved Milap, Britten Sinfonia, Vayu Naidu, Debipriya Sircar, Ensemble Tempus Fugit, Anderton Park Primary School, Lordswood Girls School, Mark Padmore and Philippe Honoré. Recent repertoire included *The Traveller* by Vikram Seth and Alec Roth, and *Unending Love* by Roxanna Panufnik (text by Tagore), whilst *Calcutta* explored connections between 18th-century western and Indian classical music.
- A season of live, non-distanced concerts covering Ex Cathedra's wide range of repertoire. Early and established repertoire included "Our First Love: the English Renaissance", Monteverdi Vespers 1610 (with His Majestys Sagbutts & Cornetts), two Bach cantatas, two performances of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (Symphony Hall and Chipping Campden Music Festival), and Mozart's *Requiem*. This was presented alongside ground-breaking research – a reconstruction of Beethoven's Funeral procession – an ongoing commitment to new music such as the world premiere of Liz Dilnot Johnson's *I stand at the door* (on the subject of climate change) and Penelope Thwaites' *A song at dawn*, and innovative collaborations such as David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* with Keneish Dance and the CBSO.
- Appearances across the region – Chipping Campden, Coventry Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, Leicester, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, plus St John's Smith Square in London and two performances in a new, burgeoning relationship with St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.
- Continued broadcast of *Christmas Music by Candlelight* filmed in 2019 on Sky Arts (including on Christmas Eve) as part of existing 3-year licence.
- Creation of 100s of new films and resources for schools projects, featuring children from our Academy of Vocal Music and Anderton Park Primary school, offered via our dedicated schools website in the suite of projects *Singing Playgrounds*, *SingMaker* and *ChoirMaker* (with *ChoirMaker* new for autumn 2022). 90% of repertoire composed by our team of vocal tutors.
- Phased resumption of 'in person' activity with schoolchildren, including "big sing" events with hundreds of primary schoolchildren attending at Symphony Hall.
- Publication of our dedicated Singing Medicine website (www.singingmedicine.co.uk), with films and resources stranded into categories developed for children, teenagers, adults, and to support parents with new babies.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022



Children from Anderton Park Primary School take a break from recording Singing Playgrounds resource material at Vada Studios



Ex Cathedra animators deliver a Big Sing event at Symphony Hall with 700 primary schoolchildren and teachers



A screenshot from a schools resource film featuring Kadialy Kouyate (L) and Dan Ludford Thomas (R)



Kadialy Kouyate performs as part of Liz Dilnot Johnson's "When a Child is a Witness", produced by Ex Cathedra at Coventry Cathedral, February 2021



Ex Cathedra, the CBSO and Keneish Dance perform David Fanshawe's "African Sanctus" at Symphony Hall, January 2021

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

Charitable activities – continued

Feedback included:

"one of Britain's very best choirs... superb" (**New York Times**)

"Ex Cathedra and their players gave an inspired and thrilling performance of this extraordinary work... singing with great agility, authenticity, and sensitivity. The band were simply sublime. This was a memorable and outstanding performance"

(**www.reviewsgate.com review of Monteverdi Vespers**)

"an artistically ambitious and emotionally compelling work that is firmly rooted in the contributions of the participants ... evocative music with a purpose and meaningful sense of engagement"

(**Ivor Composer Award citation for *When a Child is a Witness***)

"one of the most significant and poignant contributions to Coventry's City of Culture celebrations... the work empowers performers from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures and experiences to create a distinguished artwork designed to make this a better world for all"

(**www.seenandheard-international.com review of *When a Child is a Witness***)

"It was lovely to see the collaboration between high quality arts and grassroots community engagement. At no point was anyone made to feel 'second class'... never has the integration been so warm and respectful."

(**Keith Horsfall, EYM Refugee Choir founder**)

"a ravishing performance of this monumental work"

(**www.reviewsgate.com review of Bach's *St Matthew Passion***)

"a memorable performance which had everything one could wish for from such an iconic work... This piece showcased not only Ex Cathedra, but also their Academy of Vocal Music and members of their community choirs. The Academy sang with professionalism and precision, a true reminder that the future of choral music is in very good hands"

(**www.davidbartonmusic.co.uk review of Bach's *St Matthew Passion***)

"In the works performed in this concert there is a perfect melding – or symbiosis if you will – of words and music. Moreover, there is perhaps what all artistic creatives hope for: a true, honest & sincere expression of the human condition – of our lived-experience and human emotions... In these composers [Panufnik and Roth] – and indeed in the texts and authors they choose to set or to collaborate with – there is a real sense of authenticity and of a consummate, deeply felt storytelling."

(**www.reviewsgate.com review of Unending Love Weekenders**)

"I would like to thank everyone involved with the concert on Wednesday. As ever, it was absolutely stunning and I found it very moving. Perfect choice of repertoire performed to such a high standard. C and E loved every minute and we can't stop singing *Changing Gears* at home. I love how you foster a sense of family and I'm so pleased the girls are part of this."

(**Academy of Vocal Music parent**)

"an intercontinental 'sonic friendship', where worlds don't so much collide as collaborate"

(**www.5against4.com review of *African Sanctus***)

"Participating in *Singing Medicine* is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run; getting them into the air and letting them be free. It's a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing, it's almost like being allowed to stretch." (Member of staff at **Birmingham Children's Hospital**)

"We have really enjoyed the singing session, it really made my child smile. It was even more special as one of the ladies sang the song in our language"

(**Parent of 5-year-old Singing Medicine beneficiary in Wolverhampton**)

"@singingmed One of the greatest teams lifting spirits, changing worlds. Your work is amazing." (**Prof Grenville Hancox MBE**)

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finances

Finances

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances to be secure. Thanks to the funding support available - including the government's Culture Recovery Fund - reserves only decreased during a very challenging year by £7,300, ending the year at £136,470.

The charity received revenue grant funds amounting to £131,061 from local authority and public sources, of which £56,944 was from the Culture Recovery Fund. This was critical as Ex Cathedra's annual funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council is far less than its baseline operating costs, so with the contribution to core costs after activity costs being so impacted by the pandemic, reserves would have been depleted, placing Ex Cathedra in a perilous position.

£379,175 was raised from sponsorships, donations and grants from other public sources, trusts, commercial and private funds for use during the year, a relatively small reduction on pre-pandemic fundraising.

Earned income from ticket sales, and from fees for concert engagements and education projects recovered to £246,210, in part due to the rescheduling of activity postponed from prior years.

Fundraising Practices

Over the last 10 years fundraised income has become an increasingly important income stream. Ex Cathedra's approach is to seek funds from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, with the large majority of funds raised in the year being received from trusts and foundations.

Fundraising activities were undertaken by members of staff, including a part-time Grants & Individual Giving Manager, who drafts applications, writes reports for funders and looks after the individuals who donate to the Host of Angels scheme.

Ex Cathedra is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Regulator's Fundraising Promise, Code of Fundraising Practice and its terms and conditions. During the year Ex Cathedra received no complaints about its fundraising work.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees have established a policy on the amount of reserves that Ex Cathedra should carry. They believe that as a non-profit making organisation there is no requirement to accumulate reserves beyond its immediate needs. However, Ex Cathedra does need to maintain a minimum level of free reserves to safeguard its ongoing viability and provide adequate cashflow.

To meet the cashflow requirements, the trustees consider that the organisation should seek to maintain reserves at the equivalent level of 8 weeks of turnover.

Whilst the organisation had a cash outflow in the year of £188,555, this was due timing of planned activity which meant a reduction in deferred income levels in the year and hence a cash outflow.

The trustees have also determined a minimum operating threshold, being the funds necessary to finance the business through an orderly shutdown of the charity in the event of an unforeseen, catastrophic disaster. This level will also vary from time to time. It was recently calculated at £100,000.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of Ex Cathedra, with a regular review of the cashflow forecast and projects pipeline given the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, high inflationary environment and ongoing audience uncertainty (see Future plans below). They consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the organisation for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that charitable company is a going concern.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

FUTURE PLANS

Plans for the 2022-23 season will see Ex Cathedra present a concert programme that welcomes audiences back to something nearer a normal season of activity. However, audiences are expected to remain cautious, and the national data indicates that around 15% of audiences have not yet returned, and these people were previously buying around 30% of the tickets by value. High inflation and the cost of living means audiences face more difficult choices. There are indications of price resistance and of audiences attending fewer concerts. Plans will remain under continuous review, particularly as no further support from the government's Culture Recovery Fund is expected.

'In person' schools projects have resumed, but children in schools have missed out on 3 years of singing development, staff confidence is low and there is a continued de-prioritisation of music from government, with declining numbers of students taking music at GCSE and A level. Within this context, we will work to inspire young people to engage with music and singing and to access all the benefits and opportunities it brings, and we will do this through a hybrid model that supports school staff with a suite of online resources and films as well as 'in person' visits and "big sing" spark events with hundreds of children at Symphony Hall.

We also hope to see *Singing Medicine* resume in hospital. After a long hiatus, there are changes in ward personnel and it is likely to take some time for hospitals to commit funds at the level they contributed pre-pandemic, to supplement our fundraising. *Singing Medicine* delivery will continue to expand beyond our core partnership with Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospital, partnering with other NHS Trusts and sector partners to support patients recovering from a stroke, suffering from Long Covid or with dementia, mental health, lung function and other challenges. We know that singing can help recovery as well as improving wellbeing and combatting isolation: singing together releases feel-good hormones, reduces stress and aids deeper breathing.

2022-23 will see Ex Cathedra deliver a wide-ranging season of concerts, and continue to develop innovative and inclusive new approaches:

- "King for a Day" will celebrate the music of two great Baroque composers, Handel & Lalande
- "Songs of Protest" explores themes of political repression, the inhumanity of war, and the complex relationship between hostage and torturer, with music by MacMillan and Joubert and two world premieres from Sally Beamish and Alec Roth, with a pre-concert, linked "Songs of Protest and Hope" created and performed by our Academy of Vocal Music choirs
- fresh insight into choral masterpieces – Bach *Christmas Oratorio*, Bach *St Matthew Passion* (with liturgical reconstruction), and a celebration of William Byrd in his 400th anniversary
- continue to champion new music and living composers throughout the season – from established connections with Sally Beamish, Liz Dilot Johnson and Alec Roth, to 18-year-old Christopher Churcher (winner of the Sir David Willcocks Carol Competition 2021 and former member of our Academy of Vocal Music)
- release a new CD of *The Traveller* by Vikram Seth and Alec Roth, recorded live as part of *Unending Love Weekenders* with Signum Records – featuring Vayu Naidu, Mark Padmore, Philippe Honoré and the Britten Sinfonia
- promote concerts at satellite regional venues – Coventry, Hereford, Leicester and Wolverhampton – plus three concerts in London, including a nascent partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- continue working with graduate Scholars and Student Scholars, the latter in partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- present Summer Music by Candlelight in a programme developed, rehearsed and conducted by one of our Associate Conductors
- deliver weekly rehearsals for the Junior and Senior Academy of Vocal Music training choirs, monthly for the children's choirs, leading to involvement in *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at Birmingham Hippodrome, and the family-friendly Christmas concert *Angels, Stars & Kings*, plus roles for youth choirs in "Songs of Protest" (see above) and Bach's *St Matthew Passion*
- create 200+ personalised, interactive *Singing Medicine* "postcard" films for patients, working collaboratively with the staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital and other NHS Trusts
- increase subscriptions to the www.singingplaygrounds.co.uk website, working with Music Education Hubs and directly with schools

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

Over the last 10 years, Ex Cathedra has evolved its financial model to adjust to continuing changes in the funding available. However, funding for core costs from public funders has not been available to enable staff capacity to grow alongside the increase in activity required to generate more earned income, and represented just 6% of turnover for 2021-22 (although £175k National Lottery Projects Grant for *When a Child is a Witness* and *Unending Love Weekenders* was also delivered during the year).

The trustees recognise that the staff team are working far in excess of their contracted hours and pay is low compared to peer organisations. The organisation's underlying financial model remains at risk despite this hidden subsidy, and it is potentially over-exposed to fluctuations in box office and fundraised income – expected to remain significant risks throughout the next 2 years. As the organisation emerges from the pandemic, it needs to make a step-change in its underlying funding and financial model to create a sustainable structure and platform from which to deliver its existing programme of activity and unlock its latent potential.

Following the success of our Arts Council England NPO application and the uplift in funding offered, the organisation is pleased to take the first step in this direction and begin to address some of its capacity challenges. It should be noted, however, that the increase in funding offered is still relatively modest and from April 2023 will represent something in the region of 12% of total income (the average for NPOs is c.20%). This will not be sufficient for the organisation to address all the issues we outlined above, and, with earned income likely to remain deflated, the budget for the next period remains challenging.

Mandatory reporting templates from Arts Council England mean that Ex Cathedra is likely to need to change its year end to the fiscal year to minimize the additional workload imposed. This may mean Ex Cathedra's 2022-23 financial year is shortened, running from August 2022 to March 2023.



Ex Cathedra perform by candlelight

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and constitution

Ex Cathedra is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 February 1989 as amended on 25 November 2004 to allow for indemnity insurance cover for directors and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Each director agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Company currently has 10 directors or trustees, the Chairman being appointed from amongst them. Birmingham City Council nominates up to one representative to observe meetings under its funding agreement. Ex Cathedra also appoints one young person (under 20) each year to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction and training of new trustees

When considering co-opting new directors or trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They are required to state on their appointment that they know of no reason why they should not be appointed and to undergo clearance procedures with the Disclosure and Barring Service (repeated periodically) due to the Company's relationships with vulnerable beneficiaries.

Organisational structure

The directors meet quarterly as a Board. Trustees are nominated to take responsibilities for different areas of the Company's activities e.g. finance, education, marketing etc. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the General Manager with support from the Director of Education and Head of Finance.

Key management remuneration

The board of directors (trustees), General Manager, Director of Education and Head of Finance comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually.

Risk management

The trustees have carried out a detailed review to identify the major risks that the charity faces in order to implement a risk management strategy that includes the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks and their potential effect on the charity. Risks are scored for likelihood and impact after mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Board at least once a year and adjusted as necessary.

The trustees consider that the main risks to Ex Cathedra are:

- Securing its recovery from the pandemic and navigating the current recession
- Ensuring a smooth succession for founder and Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
- Achieving a sustainable financial and fundraising model that alleviates pressure on the existing staff structure

A focus on its Business Plan priorities, strong relationships with key funders, robust financial monitoring, and the work of subgroups ensure that these priorities are being addressed. The charity has a strong system of internal control, including:

- Clear oversight at Board level
- Formal limits on staff ability to authorise expenditure, with a dual bank authorisation process that always requires payment approval from at least one trustee
- Robust safeguarding practices regarding its work with children and vulnerable adults, independently reviewed during 2022

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02396173 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1004086

Registered office

CBSO Centre
Berkley Street
Birmingham
West Midlands
B1 2LF

Trustees

Mr J F Clemson
Ms S M Kernthaler
Ms L J Krishnamoorthy
Mr P N Ledgard
Mr Peter Phillips (chair)
Dr J M Pymm
Mrs J Robinson
Ms P Whitehouse

Three trustees, Mr P Keene, Mr A Nayak and Professor J Smith have been invited and are expected to join the board of trustees.

Company Secretary

Mrs A R Burgess

Auditors

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

General Manager

Peter Trethewey

Advisers

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Erdington Branch
Birmingham

Insurance brokers

Marsh Commercial
45 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2RT

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Ex Cathedra Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

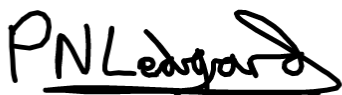
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Locke Williams Associates LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P N Ledgard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P N Ledgard - Trustee

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ex Cathedra Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charitable company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to these risks, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries with management, trustees and enquiries of third parties, where appropriate.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and checking the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing, using analytical review to identify any significant or unusual transactions and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

26/01/2023

Date:



TRUSTED ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS



Registered number: OC350146
Registered in England and Wales.
Katrina Williams FCA CTA TEP
David Williams FCA FCCA

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Blackthorn House, St Pauls Square
Birmingham B3 1RL T: 0121 262 3980

Ex Cathedra Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.7.22 Total funds £	31.7.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	207,371	302,865	510,236	650,643
Charitable activities					
Own promotions		141,841	6,455	148,296	36,414
Engagements, media and other concerts		87,129	-	87,129	33,562
Learning		10,785	-	10,785	-
Special projects		-	197,300	197,300	-
Fundraising	3	5,096	-	5,096	2,551
Investment income	4	9	-	9	20
Total		<u>452,231</u>	<u>506,620</u>	<u>958,851</u>	<u>723,190</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	20,084	24,843	44,927	40,756
Charitable activities	7				
Own promotions		210,552	75,795	286,347	273,707
Engagements, media and other concerts		151,817	-	151,817	95,423
Learning		77,438	208,322	285,760	284,435
Special projects		-	197,300	197,300	-
Total		<u>459,891</u>	<u>506,260</u>	<u>966,151</u>	<u>694,321</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,660)	360	(7,300)	28,869
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>138,540</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>143,770</u>	<u>114,901</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>130,880</u></u>	<u><u>5,590</u></u>	<u><u>136,470</u></u>	<u><u>143,770</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet
31 July 2022**

	Notes	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	6,339	8,352
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	95,632	52,968
Cash at bank		<u>275,660</u>	<u>464,215</u>
		371,292	517,183
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(241,161)	(381,765)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>130,131</u>	<u>135,418</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		136,470	143,770
NET ASSETS		<u>136,470</u>	<u>143,770</u>
FUNDS	18		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		130,538	138,198
IT Fund		<u>342</u>	<u>342</u>
		<u>130,880</u>	<u>138,540</u>
Restricted funds:			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		<u>5,590</u>	<u>5,230</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>136,470</u>	<u>143,770</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2022.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

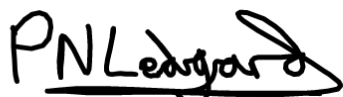
These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet - continued
31 July 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23 January 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PN Ledgard', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

P N Ledgard - Trustee

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

	Notes	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	20	<u>(187,599)</u>	<u>38,314</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(187,599)</u>	<u>38,314</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(965)	(8,340)
Interest received		<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(956)</u>	<u>(8,320)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(188,555)	29,994
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>464,215</u>	<u>434,221</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>275,660</u></u>	<u><u>464,215</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For grants and donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from charitable activities includes ticket and fee income earned from undertaking performances, engagements and recordings. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in furtherance of the charitable objectives and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs are shown net of any recoverable VAT.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Charitable activity costs include those direct costs incurred in the furtherance of the charitable activities and are analysed between the significant activities undertaken.

Support (core) costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Payroll costs have been allocated across activities on the basis of employees involvement in each activity and other overheads have been allocated in proportion to incoming resources by activity.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Concert equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Grants for core funding purposes	131,061	245,140
Sponsorships and donations	379,175	405,503
	<u>510,236</u>	<u>650,643</u>

Included within grants for core funding purposes is £56,944 of Cultural Recovery Funds received from the Arts Council England during the year (2021 £171,022).

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

3. CHARITABLE TRADING

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Royalties, media and recording	2,391	1,307
Sales of CDs etc	<u>2,705</u>	<u>1,244</u>
	<u>5,096</u>	<u>2,551</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Activity		
Own promotions	148,296	36,414
Engagements, media and other concerts	87,129	33,562
Learning	10,785	-
Special projects	<u>197,300</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>443,510</u>	<u>69,976</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Arts Council England	<u>197,300</u>	<u>-</u>

6. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Purchases	17,099	13,865
Staff costs	<u>27,828</u>	<u>26,891</u>
	<u>44,927</u>	<u>40,756</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Own promotions	285,407	940	286,347
Engagements, media and other concerts	151,264	553	151,817
Learning	285,692	68	285,760
Special projects	196,048	1,252	197,300
	<u>918,411</u>	<u>2,813</u>	<u>921,224</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs are the charity's Governance costs, being audit and legal fees. These costs have been allocated to the charitable activities in proportion to income arising.

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	2,700	2,700
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit work	113	113
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,978</u>	<u>1,501</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2022 nor for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2022 nor for the year ended 31 July 2021.

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.7.22	31.7.21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	182,491	183,224
Social security costs	8,853	8,016
Other pension costs	<u>9,685</u>	<u>8,731</u>
	<u>201,029</u>	<u>199,971</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

11. STAFF COSTS - continued

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 14 (2021:13). The Charity employs 3 full time members of staff with an average of 11 part time (including 4 choral Scholars), FTE number of staff is 5.80.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £78,150 (2021 £75,875). The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the board of directors, who are the Charity's trustees, and the senior management team, being the general manager, the director of education and the director of finance.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	319,313	331,330	650,643
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	36,414	-	36,414
Engagements, media and other concerts	33,562	-	33,562
Fundraising	2,551	-	2,551
Investment income	20	-	20
Total	<u>391,860</u>	<u>331,330</u>	<u>723,190</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,381	19,375	40,756
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	193,028	80,679	273,707
Engagements, media and other concerts	95,423	-	95,423
Learning	53,699	230,736	284,435
Total	<u>363,531</u>	<u>330,790</u>	<u>694,321</u>
NET INCOME	28,329	540	28,869
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	110,211	4,690	114,901
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>138,540</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>143,770</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Concert equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 August 2021	18,263	1,944	568	17,557	38,332
Additions	-	-	-	965	965
At 31 July 2022	18,263	1,944	568	18,522	39,297
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 August 2021	13,533	1,944	568	13,935	29,980
Charge for year	1,261	-	-	1,717	2,978
At 31 July 2022	14,794	1,944	568	15,652	32,958
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 July 2022	3,469	-	-	2,870	6,339
At 31 July 2021	4,730	-	-	3,622	8,352

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
Trade debtors	17,774	6,998
VAT	3,545	-
Prepayments and accrued income	74,313	45,970
	<u>95,632</u>	<u>52,968</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
Trade creditors	61,226	23,716
Social security and other taxes	2,303	4,602
Other creditors	10,318	10,330
Deferred income	102,978	247,710
Accrued expenses	64,336	95,407
	<u>241,161</u>	<u>381,765</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
Within one year	3,809	7,574
Between one and five years	-	3,809
	<u>3,809</u>	<u>11,383</u>

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.7.22 Total funds £	31.7.21 Total funds £
Fixed assets	6,339	-	6,339	8,352
Current assets	365,702	5,590	371,292	517,183
Current liabilities	(241,161)	-	(241,161)	(381,765)
	<u>130,880</u>	<u>5,590</u>	<u>136,470</u>	<u>143,770</u>

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	138,198	(7,660)	130,538
IT Fund	342	-	342
	<u>138,540</u>	<u>(7,660)</u>	<u>130,880</u>
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	5,230	360	5,590
	<u>5,230</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>5,590</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>143,770</u>	<u>(7,300)</u>	<u>136,470</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	452,231	(459,891)	(7,660)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	308,960	(308,960)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	360	-	360
Special project grant	197,300	(197,300)	-
	<u>506,620</u>	<u>(506,260)</u>	<u>360</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>958,851</u>	<u>(966,151)</u>	<u>(7,300)</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	109,869	28,329	138,198
IT Fund	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342</u>
	110,211	28,329	138,540
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	<u>4,690</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>5,230</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>114,901</u>	<u>28,869</u>	<u>143,770</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	391,860	(363,531)	28,329
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	330,790	(330,790)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>
	<u>331,330</u>	<u>(330,790)</u>	<u>540</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>723,190</u>	<u>(694,321)</u>	<u>28,869</u>

Purpose of funds:

Designated Fund:

The Investment fund represents funds set aside for future investment opportunities in Education and Choral activities.

The research fund represents funds set aside for future research projects.

Restricted Funds:

- 1) The Restricted Income fund is income largely received from Trusts and Foundations, Donations and Partnership income which are restricted for specific activities. The funds are expended during the year.
- 2) Alice Corser Scholarship Fund - a fund set up in memory of Alice Corser, a past Concerts Manager, in order to establish a postgraduate scholarship scheme to support young singers as they establish their professional careers.
- 3) The Special project grant represents income received – predominantly from Arts Council England – for delivery of additional activities during the year including *When a Child is a Witness* as part of Coventry City of Culture and *Unending Love Weekenders* as part of the Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2022.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.7.22 £	31.7.21 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(7,300)	28,869
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,978	1,501
Interest received	(9)	(20)
Increase in debtors	(42,664)	(27,402)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(140,604)	35,366
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	(187,599)	38,314

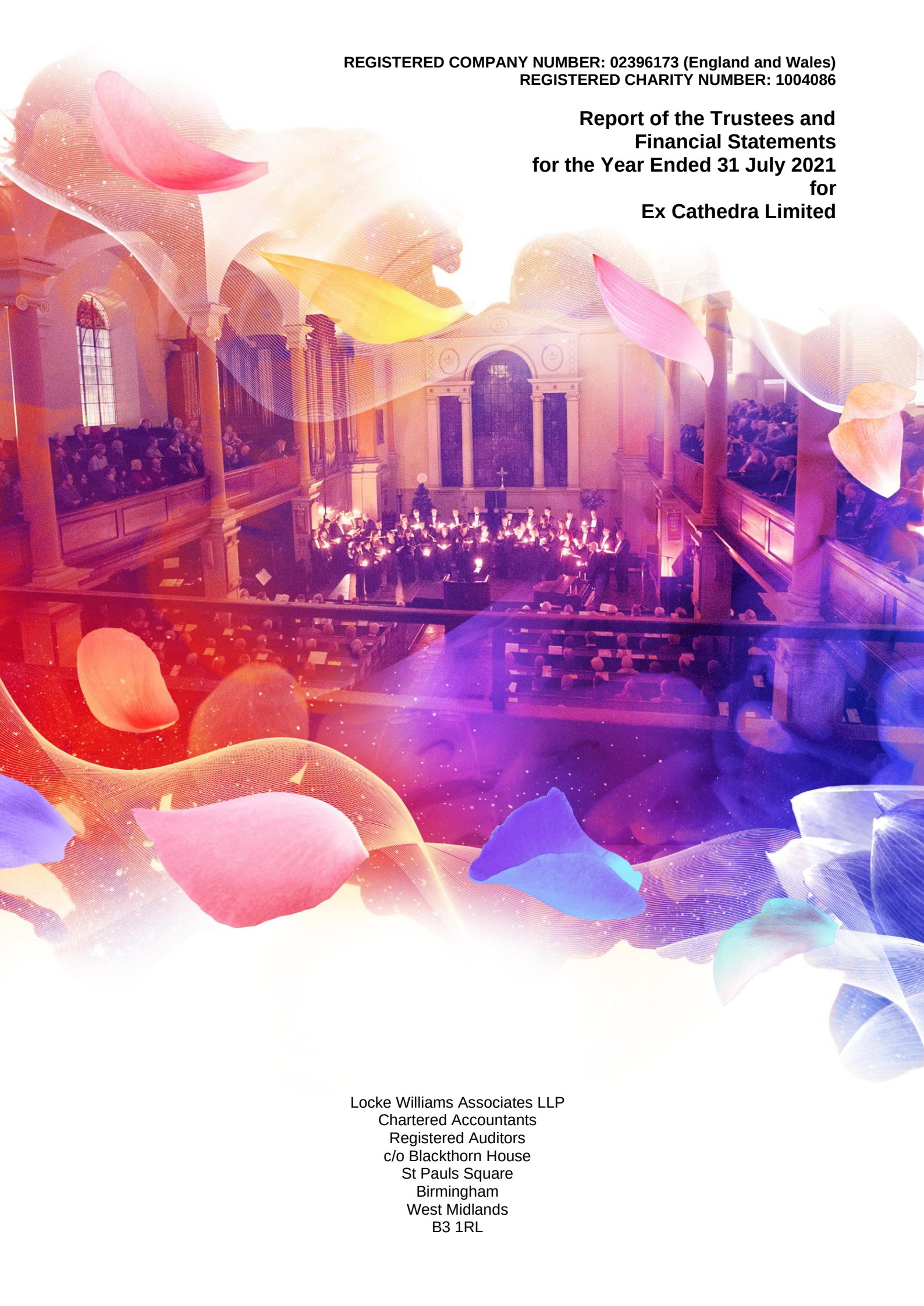
21.. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.8.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.7.22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>464,215</u>	<u>(188,555)</u>	<u>275,660</u>
	<u>464,215</u>	<u>(188,555)</u>	<u>275,660</u>
Total	<u>464,215</u>	<u>(188,555)</u>	<u>275,660</u>

EX CATHEDRA LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1004086

Accounts



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 02396173 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1004086

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021
for
Ex Cathedra Limited**

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

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Ex Cathedra Limited

Report of the Artistic Director for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Ex Cathedra is back! I'm tempted to say Ex Cathedra is Bach... Mozart, Beethoven, Monteverdi, Alec Roth, Liz Dilnot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Penelope Thwaites ... and much more! Ex Cathedra continues to celebrate the great human achievements of the past alongside new and special projects which reach out to the world, in particular the Middle East, India, Africa, Australia and the Americas.

It feels like a rebirth, a renewal, a refreshment, a regeneration. It is very sweet and joyful to have announced a 2021-22 season which is stronger and more passionate than ever, and which eagerly reaches out to a wide audience. We have learnt so much from our time in isolation, the tragic dark ages of the pandemic, but now we have a wonderful, innovative programme.



Of course Ex Cathedra never went away. From the beginning and throughout the pandemic the whole Ex Cathedra family rallied in a creative explosion which embraced with apparent ease new technology to produce high quality and imaginative virtual videos, live films with and without audience. Much of this work can be found on our website and YouTube channel, with ticketed concerts released at the Idagio Global Concert Hall.

Our Education and Participation team alone, with its extraordinary group of Vocal Tutors, has produced over 1,500 short films to provide online materials for schools, hospitals, community choirs and workshops. We have maintained our Academy of Vocal Music, Student and Graduate Scholarships, the Associate Conductors scheme, our relationship with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire especially in the field of research, and have commissioned new music and new editions.

This extraordinary creative energy, imagination and ability to engage the local community is a great tribute to the spirit of Ex Cathedra

Grants from the government's Culture Recovery Fund and other wonderful funders and supporters have helped avoid disaster and made this work possible. We are extremely grateful to them all.

However, there are challenges ahead. Earned income has fallen dramatically and will be slow to recover. We urgently need more regular support towards core costs and our artistic programme if we are to sustain our current activity, grow and flourish over the next 50 years.

We are ambitious to engage more people - from all backgrounds - in singing. Singing is for everyone, and singing together is a powerful, shared creative experience. It transforms individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. It builds confidence, shared understanding and empathy. It teaches us to listen with care and express ourselves with confidence.

Everyone should have opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together, and to be inspired by world-class choral music. As the great Tudor composer William Byrd wrote in the preface to his Psalms, Sonets, and Songs of Sadness and Piete in 1588:

*Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learne to sing.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Skidmore".

Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
Artistic Director

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

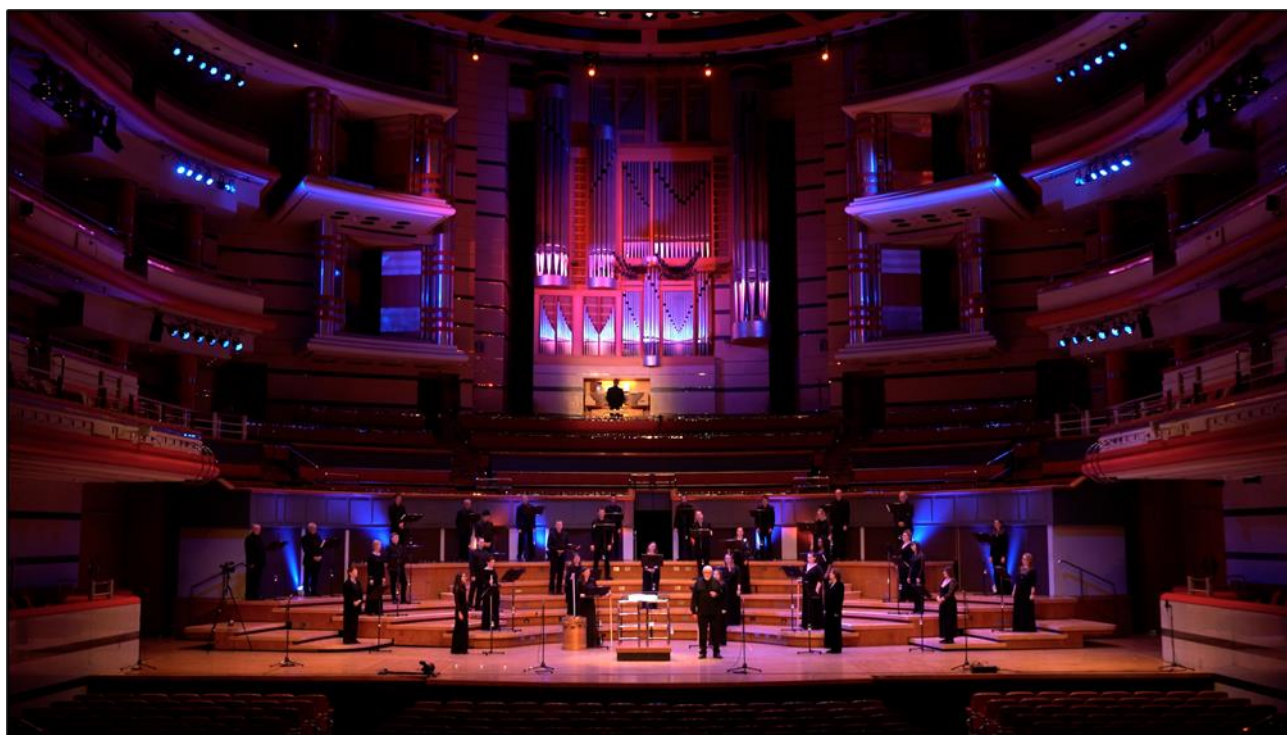
The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Ex Cathedra is established to further the education of the public of the West Midlands and elsewhere in the art and science of music. It seeks to reach and engage as many people as possible with outstanding vocal experiences by exploring, commissioning and performing the finest choral music, and by producing inspirational projects with participants of all ages in schools, hospitals and community groups. Ex Cathedra has set out the following priorities in its Business Plan for 2021-23:

- a) Excellence, reach and relevance - promoting inspirational, inclusive concerts and participatory projects, developing the repertoire and artform, and widening reach and relevance for audiences and participants
- b) Talent & diversity - nurturing talent and fostering an increasingly diverse pool of musicians
- c) Securing our future - financial sustainability, completing an organisational review and ensuring we retain and cultivate a dynamic approach as we address capacity challenges and work towards a smooth succession for our founding Artistic Director
- d) Embedding environmental responsibility - as an exemplar within the choral sector we will continue to reduce our environmental impact and use our voices to promote awareness and provoke debate



*Screenshot from Christmas Music by Candlelight,
recorded at Symphony Hall, December 2020
Published on the Idagio Global Concert Hall*

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Thanks to its recordings, live and online performances, and its sector-leading education and participation projects, Ex Cathedra's international reputation as a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble goes from strength to strength.

Founded in 1969 by Jeffrey Skidmore OBE, Ex Cathedra comprises a chamber choir, a Consort (10 singers), and a Baroque Orchestra/Ensemble comprising the UK's finest period-instrumentalists. Its education and participation projects are delivered by a team of Vocal Tutors, all members of Ex Cathedra, who comprise qualified teachers, professional singers, conductors and experienced workshop leaders.

Ex Cathedra is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, with funding currently secured until March 2023, and receives a small annual grant from Birmingham City Council. Ex Cathedra receives sponsorship from private and commercial sources and grants from trusts and foundations. During the pandemic it has benefited from the government's Culture Recovery Fund.

In setting objectives, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary guidance on widening access and setting fees. The company offers a wide range of ticket prices for all its concerts, with tickets available from £13 for all concerts and discounts for those in receipt of benefits, u16s and students, 18-30s, and disabled patrons. It frequently targets ticket offers to groups it has worked with in local areas e.g. Ladywood.

To meet its objectives, Ex Cathedra:

- Promotes a season of concerts in Birmingham and across the Midlands. Concerts are given in a range of venues across Birmingham (where Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist at the B:Music venues Symphony Hall & Town Hall) and the group has established regular audiences for concerts at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton, Hereford Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral and St James the Greater in Leicester
- Promotes concerts in London where it has close links with St John's Smith Square and a burgeoning relationship with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Gives performances across the UK and abroad, by invitation, acting as a cultural ambassador for Birmingham
- Undertakes audio and audio-visual broadcasts, gives online concerts, and releases recordings of repertoire particularly associated with the group on a range of record labels
- Develops the choral repertoire through
 - research into little-known or newly rediscovered works from across the world
 - an extensive programme of commissions and premieres from leading composers, which in recent years has included music by Sally Beamish, Liz Dillnot Johnson, Roxanna Panufnik, Stevie Wishart and Alec Roth
 - inclusive, co-creative programming to widen the communities who engage with choral music
- Nurtures young musicians through
 - 7 youth training choirs for 3-18 year olds
 - a Student Scholarship scheme with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
 - a choral Scholarship programme for graduate singers
 - performance and solo opportunities for the UK's finest emerging professional singers
 - its Associate Conductor scheme
- Undertakes an extensive education and participation programme, engaging 25,000+ schoolchildren each year through its suite of Singing Playgrounds projects
- Undertakes an extensive programme of arts and health activities, a suite of Singing Medicine projects working with patients and families at Birmingham Children's Hospital (online since March 2020), mental health, stroke, dementia, and Long Covid Recovery with multiple NHS Trusts

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Building on the swift pivot to digital outputs during spring 2020, activities during 2020-21 were adapted to meet the changing pandemic conditions, meeting government requirements and restrictions as they evolved, with a combination of online and hybrid performances and projects. Until May 2021, engagement with audiences and project participants was online only, although musicians were able to come together in controlled environments to perform and record films and project resources. From spring 2021 socially-distanced audiences returned to concert performances and the Academy of Vocal Music resumed rehearsing in person, but participatory projects like Singing Playgrounds and Singing Medicine remained online.

This was possible thanks to support from the government's Culture Recovery Fund and support from other funders who responded to urgent appeals or agreed with proposals to reach and engage project beneficiaries via digital methods.

Notable achievements during the year included:

- The creation and publication of "Ex Cathedra: Our First 50 Years" - an online concert recorded from homes during lockdown 1 and watched by 61,000 people free of charge on Ex Cathedra's Facebook and YouTube channels. This included an online choral workshop with participants submitting recordings included in the final films
- Recording and publication of www.lostinsong.com in partnership with Limina Immersive and NHS Arden & GEMS - an online resource aimed at combatting loneliness
- "Ex Cathedra: Our First Love" and "Christmas Music by Candlelight 2020" recorded in person during autumn 2020 and published for ticketed audiences on the Idagio Global Concert Hall
- 6 live performances of Christmas Music by Candlelight where Covid restrictions allowed
- Licensing Christmas Music by Candlelight 2019 to Sky Arts for 3 years, and broadcast on a Universal Music YouTube channel (70,000 views)
- Around the World - Jeffrey Skidmore at 70" - an online concert recorded from homes during lockdown 2 and watched by 55,000 people free of charge on Facebook and YouTube to celebrate Jeffrey Skidmore's 70th birthday.
- Baroque Passion", "Bach St John Passion", "Into a World Unknown" and "Summer Music by Candlelight" concerts, all recorded at Symphony Hall and published on the Idagio Global Concert Hall
- Live audiences at "Into a World Unknown" and 9 socially-distanced performances of "Summer Music by Candlelight"
- World premieres of two works by Liz Dilnot Johnson - Blake Reimagined (collaborating with Debipriya Sircar) and The Windhover
- Creating over 500 interactive Singing Playgrounds and Singing Medicine films for children, teachers, patients and families to access once online - many featuring Noah Bear, the Singing Medicine mascot
- The publication of www.singingplaygrounds.co.uk, a dedicated, subscription-based website for schools packed with resources and films for pupils and teachers
- Weekly free Facebook Live Singing Medicine sessions
- Weekly online sessions for Scholars and Student Scholars, in partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Completion of Hilary Campbell's term as Associate Conductor despite restrictions

*Sample page from www.singingplaygrounds.co.uk
- available free to all Birmingham schools during lockdown*



**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

Feedback included:

"one of Britain's very best choirs... superb" (**New York Times**)

"necessity is the mother of invention, and Ex Cathedra have done something remarkable with this online presentation" (**Midlands Music Review** of "Our First 50 Years" online concert)

"Wow! That film! what a testament to your creativity and drive and the brilliance of your whole team! Well done everyone. Stunning at every moment." (**Composer**)

"Many congratulations on the concert. Just wonderful singing. And much admiration for the recording, editing and final creation. A wonderful record of the achievements in these strange but creative times" (**Audience** - former CEO of Birmingham Royal Ballet, Scottish Opera and trustee of Three Choirs Festival)

"That rendition of Jerusalem with the Indian singer and the musical accompaniment was, in my view, a stroke of genius. A magnificent response to those who have been using music to seek to divide us in recent weeks. Thank you! What a wonderful way to celebrate Birmingham as she is today. Thank you." (**Audience** tweet)

"Being a professional choral singer is such a unique vocation, with no real guide book on how to go about your work. Training with Ex Cathedra is that guide book which every young singer wants - lessons in how to be a professional in a safe, supportive environment. I am hugely grateful for this opportunity." (Ellie Sperling, **2018-19 Scholar**)

"I really can't think of a comparative scheme in which a conductor is able to experience the breadth and depth of an organisation, from rehearsals to Board meetings." (Sarah Latto, **Associate Conductor** Spring 2019)

"M has been part of the Junior Academy and Girl's Academy for a number of years and has gained so much from the experience. She has loved taking part in *The Nutcracker* at the Hippodrome, *St John Passion* at Symphony Hall and many other projects –a fantastic experience, we feel very lucky to be part of it." (**Parent** of Academy of Vocal Music singer)

"Participating in *Singing Medicine* is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run; getting them into the air and letting them be free. It's a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing, it's almost like being allowed to stretch." (Member of staff at **Birmingham Children's Hospital**)

"@singingmed One of the greatest teams lifting spirits, changing worlds. Your work is amazing.' (**Prof Grenville Hancox** MBE)



A *Singing Medicine* film, featuring Noah Bear



Noah Bear meets William Shakespeare at the Library of Birmingham ahead of a recording for *Singing Playgrounds*

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finances

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances to be secure. Thanks to the funding support available - including the government's Culture Recovery Fund which allowed reflation of reserves depleted during the first part of the pandemic - reserves increased over the year by £28,869 to £143,770.

The charity received revenue grant funds amounting to £245,140 from local authority and public sources, of which £171,022 was from the Culture Recovery Fund. This was critical as Ex Cathedra's annual funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council is far less than its baseline operating costs, so reserves were being rapidly depleted placing Ex Cathedra in a perilous position.

£405,503 was raised from sponsorships, donations and grants from other public sources, trusts, commercial and private funds for use during the year, only a small reduction on pre-pandemic fundraising.

However, earned income from ticket sales, and from fees for concert engagements and education projects was just £69,976 - 22% of the last full pre-pandemic year.

Fundraising Practices

Over the last 10 years fundraised income has become an increasingly important income stream. Ex Cathedra's approach is to seek funds from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, with the large majority of funds raised in the year being received from trusts and foundations.

Fundraising activities were undertaken by members of staff, including a part-time Grants & Individual Giving Manager, who drafts applications, writes reports for funders and looks after the individuals who donate to the Host of Angels scheme.

Ex Cathedra is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Regulator's Fundraising Promise, Code of Fundraising Practice and its terms and conditions. During the year Ex Cathedra received no complaints about its fundraising work.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees have established a policy on the amount of reserves that Ex Cathedra should carry. They believe that as a non-profit making organisation there is no requirement to accumulate reserves beyond its immediate needs. However, Ex Cathedra does need to maintain a minimum level of free reserves to safeguard its ongoing viability and provide adequate cashflow.

To meet the cashflow requirements, the trustees consider that the organisation should seek to maintain reserves at the equivalent level of 8 weeks of turnover.

The trustees have also determined a minimum operating threshold, being the funds necessary to finance the business through an orderly shutdown of the charity in the event of an unforeseen, catastrophic disaster. This level will also vary from time to time. It was recently calculated at £100,000.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of Ex Cathedra, with a regular review of the cashflow forecast and projects pipeline given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. They are delighted that a further grant from round 3 of the Culture Recovery Fund has been secured to support Ex Cathedra during the winter of 2021-22 and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the organisation for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that charitable company is a going concern.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

FUTURE PLANS

Plans for 2021-22 will see Ex Cathedra present a concert programme that welcomes audiences back to something nearer a normal season of activity. However, audience confidence is expected to remain hugely deflated by the coronavirus pandemic even without further restrictions. Plans will remain under continuous review for both safety and financial reasons. Support from round 3 of the Culture Recovery Fund will offset some of the box office shortfalls, and this, alongside other funds raised for the year, is expected to make the planned season of concerts possible.

The return to 'in person' rehearsals and performances will enable the Academy of Vocal Music youth choirs, graduate and student Scholars, and Associate Conductor schemes operate - and nurture talent - much as they did before the pandemic. However, delivery of 'in person' activity in schools is expected to remain limited, dependent on case numbers in the community, and there is currently no clear date for a return to 'in person' activity in hospitals and healthcare settings. These projects will continue to be delivered digitally, building on the skills developed by the organisation during the pandemic via the dedicated websites www.singingplaygrounds.co.uk and www.singingmedicine.co.uk (forthcoming in 2022). Ex Cathedra has the flexibility to rapidly switch to 'in person' delivery if this becomes possible.

Ex Cathedra believes it is critically important to safely support its project beneficiaries throughout the rest of the pandemic and is very grateful to its various funders for valuing this work and supporting digital delivery where 'in person' is not possible. Patients - often already isolated for medical reasons - will continue to face greatly limited visiting and distanced/barrier nursing. We know that singing can help recovery (including from Long Covid) as well as improving wellbeing and combatting isolation. Singing together is powerful. It releases feel-good hormones, reduces stress and aids deeper breathing. It touches our emotions and can transform individuals into a community, connecting us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender or any other definition. Sadly, schools - often lacking confident musicians on their staff - remain uncertain about creating safe singing environments and the amount and quality of music provision in schools is patchy. Children often have very limited opportunities in much-changed school environments. Ex Cathedra's suite of schools projects are designed to support a return to singing in schools, and provide teachers with support, resources and confidence.

2021-22 will see Ex Cathedra welcome back live, non-distanced audiences, reschedule some of its postponed plans, adapt others, and continue to develop innovative and inclusive new approaches:

- a reconstruction of Beethoven's Funeral Procession at Symphony Hall, with rare performances of the music heard as 20,000 people lined the streets of Vienna that day in 1827 – in partnership with the Concert Trombone Quartette
- fresh insight into choral masterpieces – Monteverdi Vespers (1610), Bach cantatas, Bach *St Matthew Passion* (with liturgical reconstruction), and Mozart's Requiem
- continue to champion new music and living composers throughout the season
- the world premiere of Liz Dilnot Johnson's cantata *I Stand at the Door* for choir and Baroque orchestra with soloist Gabriella Liandu
- deliver both (postponed) major elements of a project designed to engage new, diverse audiences in choral music:
 - Liz Dilnot Johnson's *When a Child is a Witness* with refugee partnerships at Coventry Cathedral as part of the City of Culture year
 - *Unending Love Weekenders* exploring fusion between choral and Indian Classical music as part of the Commonwealth Games cultural festival, in partnership with Milapfest
- record *The Traveller* by Vikram Seth and Alec Roth as part of *Unending Love Weekenders* for release on CD with Signum Records – featuring Vayu Naidu, Mark Padmore, Philippe Honoré and the Britten Sinfonia
- promote concerts at satellite regional venues – Coventry, Hereford, Leicester and Wolverhampton – plus three concerts in London, including a new partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields
- welcome the fourth and fifth Associate Conductors, 4 graduate Scholars and 4 Student Scholars, the latter in partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- deliver weekly rehearsals for the Junior and Senior Academy of Vocal Music training choirs, monthly for the children's choirs, leading to involvement in 28 performances of *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet at Birmingham Hippodrome, the annual Sankta Lucia service at Birmingham Cathedral, the family-friendly Christmas concert *Angels, Stars & Kings*, plus roles for youth choirs in *When a Child is a Witness*, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and the *Unending Love Weekenders*

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

- create 200+ personalised, interactive *Singing Medicine* “postcard” films for patients, working collaboratively with the staff at Birmingham Children’s Hospital and other NHS Trusts
- deliver interactive, weekly *Singing Medicine* sessions on a dedicated Facebook page
- publish www.singingmedicine.co.uk complete with a bank of 200+ non-personalised *Singing Medicine* films
- increase subscriptions to the www.singingplaygrounds.co.uk website, working with Music Education Hubs and directly with schools

Following Peter Phillips' appointment as Chair of Ex Cathedra in January 2021, priorities for the 2021-22 year were identified: to secure Ex Cathedra's recovery from the pandemic; ongoing work towards the appointment of an Assistant Conductor and successor for Jeffrey Skidmore; and to work towards another step-change in the organisation's fundraising and financial model.

Over the last 10 years, Ex Cathedra has evolved its financial model to adjust to continuing changes in the funding available. However, funding for core costs from public funders has not been available to enable staff capacity to grow alongside the increase in activity required to generate more earned income, and has indeed declined to just 7% of projected turnover for 2021-22. The trustees recognise that the staff team are working far in excess of their contracted hours and pay is low compared to peer organisations. The organisation's underlying financial model remains at risk despite this hidden subsidy provided by its dedicated staff, and it is potentially over-exposed to fluctuations in box office and fundraised income - expected to be significant risks throughout the next 2 years. As the organisation emerges from the pandemic, it needs to make another step-change in its underlying funding and financial model to create a sustainable structure and platform from which to deliver its existing programme of activity and unlock its latent potential.

The 2021-22 year will see Ex Cathedra apply for National Portfolio Funding from Arts Council England for the period 2023-26. The trustees believe that Ex Cathedra's contribution to the strategic objectives of its core public funders is currently greatly undervalued, and that it deserves better recognition for what it already delivers - and a better opportunity to unlock its potential to further deliver - against the outcomes of Arts Council England's Lets Create strategy for 2020-30. They believe that singing is a powerful, shared creative experience and that everyone should have an equitable opportunity to experience the physical and wellbeing benefits of singing together and to be inspired by world-class choral music. They believe that Ex Cathedra provides an offer that is not available anywhere else in the UK, and that there are very few arts organisations in England who already engage as many people of all ages and backgrounds or are as well placed to deliver these strategic outcomes via singing-based projects.



Christmas Music by Candlelight
Photo: Simon Peter King

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and constitution

Ex Cathedra is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 February 1989 as amended on 25 November 2004 to allow for indemnity insurance cover for directors and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Each director agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Company currently has 10 directors or trustees, the Chairman being appointed from amongst them. Birmingham City Council nominates up to one representative to observe meetings under its funding agreement. Ex Cathedra also appoints one young person (under 20) each year to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction and training of new trustees

When considering co-opting new directors or trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They are required to state on their appointment that they know of no reason why they should not be appointed and to undergo clearance procedures with the Disclosure and Barring Service (repeated periodically) due to the Company's relationships with vulnerable beneficiaries.

Organisational structure

The directors meet quarterly as a Board. Trustees are nominated to take responsibilities for different areas of the Company's activities e.g. finance, education, marketing etc. The day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the General Manager with support from the Director of Education and Head of Finance.

Key management remuneration

The board of directors (trustees), General Manager, Director of Education and Head of Finance comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration during the year. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually.

Risk management

The trustees have carried out a detailed review to identify the major risks that the charity faces in order to implement a risk management strategy that includes the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks and their potential effect on the charity. Risks are scored for likelihood and impact after mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Board at least once a year and adjusted as necessary.

The trustees consider that the main risks to Ex Cathedra are:

- Securing its recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic
- Ensuring a smooth succession for founder and Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore OBE
- Achieving a sustainable post-pandemic financial and fundraising model that alleviates pressure on the existing staff structure

A focus on its Business Plan priorities, strong relationships with key funders, robust financial monitoring, and the work of subgroups ensure that these priorities are being addressed. The charity has a strong system of internal control, including:

- Clear oversight at Board level
- Formal limits on staff ability to authorise expenditure, with a dual bank authorisation process that always requires payment approval from at least one trustee
- A robust Safeguarding Policy regarding its work with children and vulnerable adults

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

02396173 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1004086

Registered office

CBSO Centre
Berkley Street
Birmingham
West Midlands
B1 2LF

Trustees

J F Clemson
Mrs P Hawthorne Smalley (resigned 14.12.20)
Ms S M Kernthaler
Ms L J Krishnamoorthy
P N Ledgard
G R Mackenzie OBE (resigned 18.1.21)
P S Philips (chair) (appointed 18.1.21)
S Purkess (resigned 19.10.20)
Dr J M Pymm
Mrs J Robinson
Ms P Whitehouse

Young Person Representative

Rosy Heneghan (appointed 27.10.2020)

Company Secretary

Mrs A R Burgess

Auditors

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

General Manager

Peter Trethewey

Advisers

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Erdington Branch
Birmingham

Insurance brokers

Marsh Commercial
45 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2RT

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Ex Cathedra Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Locke Williams Associates LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24 January 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Alison Perrier-Burgess

Mrs A R Burgess - Secretary

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ex Cathedra Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to these risks, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries with management and enquiries of third parties where appropriate.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

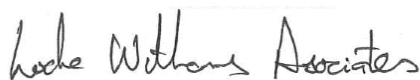
As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and checking the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing, using analytical review to identify any significant or unusual transactions and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Locke Williams Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006
c/o Blackthorn House
St Pauls Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 1RL

27/01/2022

Date:



TRUSTED ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS



Registered number: OC350146
Registered in England and Wales.
Katrina Williams FCA CTA TEP
David Williams FCA FCCA

Locke Williams Associates LLP
Blackthorn House, St Pauls Square
Birmingham B3 1RL T: 0121 262 3980

Ex Cathedra Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.7.21 Total funds £	31.7.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	319,313	331,330	650,643	482,578
Charitable activities	5				
Own promotions		36,414	-	36,414	183,444
Engagements, media and other concerts		33,562	-	33,562	33,032
Learning		-	-	-	12,000
Recording		-	-	-	28,941
Charitable trading	3	2,551	-	2,551	8,098
Investment income	4	20	-	20	144
Other income	6	-	-	-	10,589
Total		391,860	331,330	723,190	758,826
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	7	21,381	19,375	40,756	45,418
Charitable activities	8				
Own promotions		193,028	80,679	273,707	302,712
Engagements, media and other concerts		95,423	-	95,423	93,815
Learning		53,699	230,736	284,435	296,733
Recording		-	-	-	30,863
Total		363,531	330,790	694,321	769,541
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		28,329	540	28,869	(10,715)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		110,211	4,690	114,901	125,616
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>138,540</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>143,770</u>	<u>114,901</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Ex Cathedra Limited (Registered number: 02396173)

**Balance Sheet
31 July 2021**

	Notes	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	8,352	1,513
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	52,968	25,566
Cash at bank		<u>464,215</u>	<u>434,221</u>
		517,183	459,787
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(381,765)	(346,399)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>135,418</u>	<u>113,388</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		143,770	114,901
NET ASSETS		<u>143,770</u>	<u>114,901</u>
FUNDS	19		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		138,198	109,869
IT Fund		<u>342</u>	<u>342</u>
		<u>138,540</u>	<u>110,211</u>
Restricted funds:			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund		<u>5,230</u>	<u>4,690</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>143,770</u>	<u>114,901</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2021.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

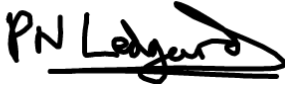
These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet - continued
31 July 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 January 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PN Ledgard', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

P N Ledgard

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

	Notes	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	21	<u>38,314</u>	<u>81,285</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>38,314</u>	<u>81,285</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,340)	(1,776)
Interest received		<u>20</u>	<u>144</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(8,320)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		29,994	79,653
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>434,221</u>	<u>354,568</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>464,215</u></u>	<u><u>434,221</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

For grants and donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled

Income from charitable activities includes ticket and fee income earned from undertaking performances, engagements and recordings. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in furtherance of the charitable objectives and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs are shown net of any recoverable VAT.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Charitable activity costs include those direct costs incurred in the furtherance of the charitable activities and are analysed between the significant activities undertaken.

Support (core) costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Payroll costs been allocated accords activities on the basis of employees involvement in each activity and other overheads have been allocated in proportion to incoming resources by activity.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Concert equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
Grants for core funding purposes	245,140	70,859
Sponsorships and donations	<u>405,503</u>	<u>411,719</u>
	<u>650,643</u>	<u>482,578</u>

Included within grants for core funding purposes is £171,022 of Cultural Recovery Funds received from the Arts Council England during the year.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

3. CHARITABLE TRADING

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
Royalties, media and recording	1,307	1,817
Sales of CDs etc	1,244	2,881
Other income	-	3,400
	<u>2,551</u>	<u>8,098</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>20</u>	<u>144</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
Activity		
Own promotions	36,414	183,444
Engagements, media and other concerts	33,562	33,032
Learning	-	12,000
Recording	-	28,941
	<u>69,976</u>	<u>257,417</u>

6. OTHER INCOME

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
HMRC – Creative Industry Tax relief	<u>-</u>	<u>10,589</u>

7. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	31.7.21	31.7.20
	£	£
Purchases	13,865	19,504
Staff costs	<u>26,891</u>	<u>25,914</u>
	<u>40,756</u>	<u>45,418</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021**

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Own promotions	272,243	1,464	273,707
Engagements, media and other concerts	94,074	1,349	95,423
Learning	<u>284,435</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,435</u>
	<u>650,752</u>	<u>2,813</u>	<u>653,565</u>

9. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs are the charity's Governance costs, being audit and legal fees. These costs have been allocated to the charitable activities in proportion to income arising.

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Auditors' remuneration	2,700	2,500
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	113	113
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>1,501</u>	<u>263</u>

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2021 nor for the year ended 31 July 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2021 nor for the year ended 31 July 2020.

12. STAFF COSTS

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Wages and salaries	183,224	177,821
Social security costs	8,016	10,297
Other pension costs	<u>8,731</u>	<u>8,732</u>
	<u>199,971</u>	<u>196,850</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 13 (2020:13). The Charity employs 3 full time members of staff with an average of 9 part time (including 4 choral Scholars), FTE number of staff is 5.80.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

12. STAFF COSTS - continued

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £75,875 (2020 £74,484). The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the board of directors, who are the Charity's trustees, and the senior management team, being the general manager, the director of education and the director of finance.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	179,620	302,958	482,578
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	183,444	-	183,444
Engagements, media and other concerts	33,032	-	33,032
Learning	12,000	-	12,000
Recording	28,941	-	28,941
Charitable trading	8,098	-	8,098
Investment income	144	-	144
Other income	10,589	-	10,589
Total	455,868	302,958	758,826
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	22,828	22,590	45,418
Charitable activities			
Own promotions	254,930	47,782	302,712
Engagements, media and other concerts	93,815	-	93,815
Learning	64,507	232,226	296,733
Recording	30,863	-	30,863
Total	466,943	302,598	769,541
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(11,075)	360	(10,715)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	121,286	4,330	125,616
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>110,211</u>	<u>4,690</u>	<u>114,901</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Concert equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 August 2020	13,218	1,944	568	14,262	29,992
Additions	<u>5,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,295</u>	<u>8,340</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>18,263</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>17,557</u>	<u>38,332</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 August 2020	13,218	1,944	568	12,749	28,479
Charge for year	<u>315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,501</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>13,533</u>	<u>1,944</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>13,935</u>	<u>29,980</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 July 2021	<u>4,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,622</u>	<u>8,352</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>1,513</u>

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Trade debtors	6,998	4,719
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>45,970</u>	<u>20,847</u>
	<u>52,968</u>	<u>25,566</u>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Trade creditors	23,716	12,646
Social security and other taxes	4,602	5,006
Other creditors	10,330	972
Deferred income	247,710	259,640
Accrued expenses	<u>95,407</u>	<u>68,135</u>
	<u>381,765</u>	<u>346,399</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

17. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Within one year	7,574	8,060
Between one and five years	<u>3,809</u>	<u>12,284</u>
	<u>11,383</u>	<u>20,344</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.7.21 Total funds £	31.7.20 Total funds £
Fixed assets	8,352	-	8,352	1,513
Current assets	511,953	5,230	517,183	459,787
Current liabilities	<u>(381,765)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(381,765)</u>	<u>(346,399)</u>
	<u>138,540</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>143,770</u>	<u>114,901</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.7.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	109,869	28,329	138,198
IT Fund	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342</u>
	110,211	28,329	138,540
Restricted funds			
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	4,690	540	5,230
	<u>114,901</u>	<u>28,869</u>	<u>143,770</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	391,860	(363,531)	28,329
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	330,790	(330,790)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>
	331,330	(330,790)	540
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>723,190</u>	<u>(694,321)</u>	<u>28,869</u>

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	96,944	(11,075)	24,000	109,869
Investment fund	24,000	-	(24,000)	-
IT Fund	342	-	-	342
	121,286	(11,075)	-	110,211
Restricted funds				
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	4,330	360	-	4,690
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>125,616</u>	<u>(10,715)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,901</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	455,868	(466,943)	(11,075)
Restricted funds			
Restricted income fund	302,598	(302,598)	-
Alice Corser Scholarship Fund	360	-	360
	<u>302,958</u>	<u>(302,598)</u>	<u>360</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>758,826</u>	<u>(769,541)</u>	<u>(10,715)</u>

Purpose of funds:

Designated Fund:

The Investment fund represents funds set aside for future investment opportunities in Education and Choral activities.

Restricted Funds:

- 1) The Restricted Income fund is income largely received from Trusts and Foundations, Donations and Partnership income which are restricted for specific activities. The funds are expended during the year.
- 2) Alice Corser Scholarship Fund - a fund set up in memory of Alice Corser, a past Concerts Manager, in order to establish a postgraduate scholarship scheme to support young singers as they establish their professional careers.

Ex Cathedra Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2021.

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.7.21 £	31.7.20 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	28,869	(10,715)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,501	263
Interest received	(20)	(144)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,402)	108,057
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	35,366	(16,176)
Net cash provided by operations	<u>38,314</u>	<u>81,285</u>

22.. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.8.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.7.21 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>434,221</u>	<u>29,994</u>	<u>464,215</u>
	<u>434,221</u>	<u>29,994</u>	<u>464,215</u>
Total	<u>434,221</u>	<u>29,994</u>	<u>464,215</u>