

# THE LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1040570

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1994-09-02

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** c/o Parish Office  
St Laurence Church  
37 Bromley Road  
London  
SE6 2TS

**Phone** 07817802379

**Email** [info@lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk)

**Website** [www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CHORAL CONCERTS AND RECITALS, AND TO ADVANCE SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS THE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

**Activities:** Promote public education in and appreciation of choral music through providing learning and singing opportunities for members and presenting at least four public concerts a year.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED - IN PRACTICE, LEWISHAM
- Lewisham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£90,695	£68,514	-	-
2024-08-31	£57,147	£65,005	-	-
2023-08-31	£78,555	£57,921	-	-
2022-08-31	£29,406	£38,972	-	-
2021-08-31	£14,948	£15,904	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>BRENDA SCANLAN</b>	Chair	2019-10-14
Anne Wheeler		2021-10-19
Catherine Goddard		2025-11-17
David Freeman		2025-11-17
Elizabeth Glasser		2021-10-19
Emily Williams		2020-10-12
<b>JAMES TOOHILL</b>		2019-10-14
Jane Wilson		2025-11-17
Jon Banks		2022-10-18
Lara Ruffle Coles		2020-11-03
Ole Baxter		2025-11-17
Penelope Anne Champion		2019-10-14
<b>ROSEMARY JANET SAVINSON</b>		2019-10-14
Rebecca Vicary		2023-10-18

**THE LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1040570

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# Accounts

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**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year to 31 August 2025**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1040570**

**Charitable objects**

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals, and to advance such other charitable purposes as the Committee may from time to time decides.

**Governance arrangements**

Lewisham Choral Society (LCS) is governed by its constitution, last updated in September 2016. Membership of LCS is by payment of the annual subscription. LCS is managed by a committee consisting of the chair, honorary business secretary, honorary membership secretary, honorary treasurer and up to twelve other members, who are the trustees of the charity. Committee members are elected or re-elected annually at the AGM.

**Trustees**

Brenda Scanlan (Chair)  
Jon Banks  
Penny Champion (Librarian)  
Elizabeth Glasser  
Lara Ruffle-Coles  
Rosemary Savinson  
James Toohill  
Rebecca Vicary  
Anne Wheeler (Treasurer)  
Emily Williams (Membership Secretary)

**Public Benefit**

In planning activities for the year, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**Activities and achievements**

Our 2024/25 season built on previous years' successes with an increase in both membership and audience numbers. Our repertoire ranged widely from the 16th Century to contemporary pieces, embedding a range of styles from polyphony to jazz-inspired works. Throughout the year, we have been led with energy, musical insight and commitment by Dan Ludford-Thomas our Music Director and supported excellently at the keyboard by Clodna Shanahan, LCS's principal accompanist. We owe them both our sincere thanks.

There were six major concerts during the year, along with other events.

The season opened with a packed house at Goldsmiths' Great Hall for a performance of Handel's Messiah. This is a perennial favourite, and we were pleased that there were singers and listeners at Goldsmiths who were introduced to it for the first time. We were very well supported by our quartet of soloists: Helen Meyerhoff, Charlie Morris, Sam Jenkins and Philip Tebb and by Forest Philharmonic Orchestra.

In December we held our traditional Christmas event at St Mary's Church, Lewisham, reprising some seasonally appropriate movements from Messiah alongside a range of carols, including for choir and audience.

Our spring concert took place in February, earlier in the year than usual. We collaborated with Hackney Singers in our sixth joint appearance - the first was in 2012 - to perform together at the Royal Festival Hall. The programme comprised Brahms' Tragic Overture and Ein Deutsches Requiem along with a Southbank premiere of Hiob a cantata by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel. We were accompanied by the London Mozart Players and joined by soprano and baritone soloists Eleanor Pennell-Briggs and Jonathan Brown. We were delighted to welcome Fanny's great-great-great granddaughter Sheila Hayman to the performance. Sheila's film the Other Mendelssohn highlights how Fanny's work had been overshadowed by her brother Felix's for many years. Now that it is coming into the light, our concert gave people an opportunity to hear Fanny's skill as a composer in her own right.

In May, we performed Rossini's Petite Messe Solonnelle at Blackheath Halls to another full house. Clodna Shanahan on Piano and James Orton, Harpist, were joined by a quartet of fine soloists: Ellen Mawhinney, Cathy Bell, Ashley Catling and Philip Tebb. A fortnight later, a group of LCS singers travelled to Cologne to perform with the Kölner Philharmonie in Benjamin Britten's War Requiem. The concert commemorated the 80th anniversary of the ending of the second World War and, as at its first performance in Coventry, included performers from several countries, with Dan conducting the Chamber Orchestra. The few rehearsals in Lewisham before the concert were an early opportunity to begin preparing LCS members for own performance in 2026, to which singers from Cologne will be invited.

Our final concert of the season took place in June. We returned to St Mary's Lewisham to perform an eclectic programme, headlined by Vivaldi's Gloria. Works by Monteverdi, Mozart, Barber and Eric Whitacre also featured. We were delighted to welcome back a group of singers from Vox Next Gen who performed two sets and also took the solo lines in the Gloria. The evening was an inspiring finale to the season.

There was a wide range of other activities outside the main concert programme, mainly for group singing organised by our members. A tradition which is always well supported is charity carol-singing. This Christmas we raised £925 for Crisis, St Christopher's Hospice and Health Poverty Action, and also took part in the all-day singing by choirs at Cannon Street station which raised over £1,700, a really excellent outcome which we hope to continue next Christmas. As in previous years, we greatly value the support of our colleague in the Basses who gives his time to conduct us.

In September we were invited to be the guest choir at morning Communion Service in the Royal Naval College chapel Greenwich, conducted by Lucy Morrell. We also participated in St Laurence church's Community Christmas service. This was followed a few months later by "Breath of Life" a spectacular event at St Laurence's featuring narrative, song, dance, juggling, light and sound to celebrate the history of our local area and the many groups of people from different communities and from across the globe who have settled here and for whom it is home. Composer Liam Paterson was commissioned to write a new piece for this event aligned with the narrative, performed by a group of LCS singers. Later in the spring, we were invited to take part in the Brockley Max festival and performed a set of short choral pieces at St Hilda's church ending with Sir James MacMillan's O Radiant Dawn. Finally, one of our members continued our "City Churches" series, where two contrasting choral pieces are performed in a number of different churches on the same day. The first of these took place in October 24, then in August 25. Considerable forward planning and coordination are required and we are grateful to our Bass singer who has taken this on, along with his colleague who conducts us.

As reported last year, members had agreed to keep the season's subscription rates at their existing level, and extended this again in July to apply for the 2025/26 season. During the year, we received a very generous and unexpected bequest left by a former Tenor in the choir who had passed away in 2023. To ensure this is used effectively, the Committee has asked members for ideas on how the bequest can be used to benefit our overall purpose and support the choir's development, which we plan to action in the coming season and beyond.

We continue to attract new members including recruiting younger singers as well as people who are new to choral singing, some of whom sign up after first attending a concert as an audience member. We aim to be a welcoming and accessible organisation and continue to look for ways to extend our reach to all parts of our community. Looking ahead, we will begin the 25/26 season with a collaboration with the Frisian Chamber Orchestra (FKO). Two concerts are planned of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Puccini's Messa di Gloria, locally in Goldsmiths' Great Hall and then in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Beyond that, we have a series of concerts taking shape during the rest of the season including works to celebrate Arvo Pärt's 90th birthday and a performance of Britten's War Requiem.

## Financial review

Income for the year was £91k, an increase of 60%. Subscriptions income remained strong. Concert income was more than twice that of the previous year due to the greater audience capacity at the RFH concert and high audiences at other concerts in the year. Income also include the legacy of £10k that the trustees have designated for future activities to support the choir's development. Expenditure for the year of £68k was just 5% higher than the previous year. Costs increased because of an overall uplift in prices and also partly due to the higher number of concerts and other events; however, concert costs did not increase at the same rate as concert income because some venue costs were paid in the previous year.

There was an overall surplus of £22k, bringing total funds at 31 August 2025 to £57,964. This includes £10k designated funds arising from the legacy. Funds were well within the Committee's policy to hold sufficient funds in reserves to cover costs of the next two major concerts, allowing us to plan an ambitious repertoire for the year ahead.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Brenda Scanlan, Chair 

Date: 10 November 2025

**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31 August 2025**

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Subscriptions	£27,714	£27,179
Gift Aid claim	£4,544	£4,878
Music sales / hire	£5,299	£6,894
Refreshments	£719	£849
Legacy and donations	£10,262	£441
Bank interest	£472	£514
Concert income	£41,685	£16,392
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£90,695</b>	<b>£57,147</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Music Director / Asst Music Director	-£14,680	-£12,370
Rehearsal venue	-£3,357	-£2,868
Refreshments	-£329	-£286
Concerts: venues, facilities, other	-£24,394	-£21,412
Concert professional fees	-£21,495	-£18,214
Music purchases / hire	-£2,761	-£8,346
Making Music subscription & insurance	-£700	-£742
Website / IT	-£798	-£767
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£68,514</b>	<b>-£65,005</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£22,181</b>	<b>-£7,859</b>
Brought forward funds	<b>£35,783</b>	<b>£43,642</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>£57,964</b>	<b>£35,783</b>

**Assets and liabilities at 31 August 2024**

	£	£
Bank	£57,801	£35,568
Cash / cheques in hand	£163	£215
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>£57,964</b>	<b>£35,783</b>

Signed *B. Scanlan*

Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date: 10 November 2025

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lewisham Choral Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lewisham Choral Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of Lewisham Choral Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**John Howard FCA**  
Chartered Accountant  
Thornwood Road  
Hither Green  
London SE13

Date: 14 November 2025

**THE LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1040570

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# Accounts

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**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year to 31 August 2024**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1040570**

**Charitable objects**

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals, and to advance such other charitable purposes as the Committee may from time to time decides.

**Governance arrangements**

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**Trustees**

Brenda Scanlan (Chair)  
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Penny Champion (Librarian)  
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Trevor Jarvis (resigned October 2023)  
Lara Ruffle-Coles  
Rosemary Savinson  
James Toohill  
Rebecca Vicary (elected October 2023)  
Anne Wheeler (Treasurer)  
Emily Williams (Membership Secretary)

**Public Benefit**

In planning activities for the year, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**Activities and achievements**

In 2023/24 we enjoyed another highly successful season. During the year, membership has grown, and we have seen near capacity audiences at each of our concerts. Undoubtedly, the variety of our repertoire has been attractive to both singers and audience alike and we are grateful to our Director, Dan Ludford-Thomas for proposing such a good range of choral works from different centuries and traditions.

Our season began in November with an all-Mozart concert at Goldsmiths' Great Hall, University of London. We were joined by Forest Philharmonic and soloists Eleanor Pennell-Briggs, Abbie Ward, Ben Miller and Allyn Wu in a performance which culminated in Mozart's Requiem. At our Christmas concert we welcomed a capacity audience to a range of seasonal music. This performance also included movements from Rachmaninov's All Night Vigil to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. We were very grateful to one of our members who recorded the Church Slavonic text to help members familiarise themselves with the work.

In the spring term we rehearsed a work that LCS had never previously performed - Francis Poulenc's Stabat Mater. As this was a challenging piece, we provided additional workshop sessions, facilitated by Dan, and supported by long-standing friends of LCS: singer Helen Meyerhoff and accompanist James Orford. Forest Philharmonic Orchestra joined us for the March concert which took place at Blackheath Halls. The repertoire also included a moving performance of Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs with Daniel Tate as soloist, and Poulenc's Piano Concerto performed by Nico de Villiers, LCS's former deputy director until his recent move to the RNCM.

In July, our final concert of the season took place at Sinfonia Smith Square and comprised a broad range of American and British 20th century and contemporary works. For the headline piece, In the Beginning by Aaron Copland we were joined by Mezzo-Soprano Cathy Bell, who also sang the alto solo in Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, along with treble

Leo Ogungbemi. We also performed works by Samuel Barber, Philip Glass, Eric Whitacre and Cecilia McDowall. Throughout, we were accompanied by Cliodna Shanahan LCS's Principal Accompanist who played Amy Beach's A Hermit Thrush at Morn as a solo work and also accompanied Cathy in Barber's Three Hermit Songs.

In addition to concert performances, there were opportunities throughout the year for LCS members to take part in other singing activities. There were workshop invitations from other choirs which several members joined. Our Christmas carol singing sessions were exceptionally well supported, raising over £1,300 for four different charities, St Christopher's Hospice and LEWCAS both locally-based, and CRISIS and Health Poverty Action which have a national reach. We would particularly like to thank our choir member who once again, conducted us in the carols.

A new development in the year was a flash mob type event to sing Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium in a number of City churches. This was organised by one of the members, giving singers the opportunity to perform a piece which was well liked by the choir and which was particularly suited to church settings. Permission was obtained from the churches in advance and around 30 LCS members took part. This proved very popular and there are plans to organise this again in the coming season.

In last year's report, we referenced the Marketing Action Plan, supported by a members' survey. This gathered feedback to help develop LCS's Vision, Values and goals. The survey explored what had attracted people to LCS and how we could expand on this to reflect our local demographic better. We also received ideas on how we could continue developing the choir's skills and experience whilst at the same time remaining relevant to our local community and audiences. The survey suggestions are very much still work in progress. Nonetheless, in this past season we implemented a number of practical changes and had some success in attracting new recruits, which we hope will be sustained in the coming season that we begin with Handel's Messiah, an iconic piece.

Reflecting concerns about the cost-of-living difficulties many people are experiencing, the membership agreed proposals to retain our subscriptions at the same level in 2024/25 as last year. These include a student rate and a reduced rate for individuals on means-tested benefits. We also are introducing a new rate for people aged 25 and under aimed at attracting younger members to the choir.

We have been excellently led throughout the season by our Music Team: Director Dan Ludford-Thomas and Principal Accompanist Cliodna Shanahan. A rehearsal schedule is planned in advance for each term which enables members to look ahead and practice at home as they wish. The schedule is flexible and can be adapted depending on the choir's progress. This, along with Dan's approach at rehearsals, builds people's confidence and enjoyment so that we can give our best when we perform.

Looking ahead, as well as Messiah in the Autumn term, the coming season, 2024/2025, includes a joint concert at the Southbank Centre with Hackney Singers and the London Mozart Players: Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem and Fanny Hensel's Hiob Cantata. A first for LCS will be a chamber group performance of music by Josquin at the Christmas concert, with other seasonal music for choir and audience. At the start of the season a group of LCS members will be the guest choir at the morning Communion Service at the Old Royal Naval College chapel in Greenwich, to which we are very much looking forward.

## **Financial review**

Income for the year was £57k. Compared with the previous year, subscriptions income increased by 22% whereas concert income fell by 60%. Concert income was exceptionally high in the previous year due to the sold out concert at the RFH in that year. Expenditure was £65k. Overall running costs, excluding concert costs were 2% higher than the previous year. Concert costs were 9% higher. These included advance payments for concerts in 2024/25. There was an overall deficit of £7,859. The strong opening reserves allowed us to plan for a deficit budget with an ambitious concert programme for the year. We were also able to subsidise the cost of scores to members for the summer concert.

Total funds at 31 August 2024 were £35,783. The Committee's reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds in reserves to cover the costs of the next two major concerts, and this target was exceeded.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 27 September 2024

**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31 August 2024**

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Subscriptions	£27,179	£22,228
Gift Aid claim	£4,878	£6,921
Music sales / hire	£6,894	£6,069
Rehearsal refreshments	£849	£707
Donations / other income	£441	£232
Bank interest	£514	£67
Concert income: tickets & refreshments	£16,392	£42,331
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£57,147</b>	<b>£78,555</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Music Director / Asst Music Director	-£12,370	-£11,395
Rehearsal venue	-£2,868	-£2,430
Refreshments	-£286	£294
Concerts: venues, facilities, other	-£21,412	-£20,602
Concert professional fees	-£18,214	-£15,708
Music purchases / hire	-£8,346	-£5,983
Making Music subscription & insurance	-£742	-£780
Website / IT	-£767	-£729
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£65,005</b>	<b>-£57,921</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£7,859</b>	<b>£20,634</b>
Brought forward funds	<b>£43,642</b>	<b>£23,008</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>£35,783</b>	<b>£43,642</b>

**Assets and liabilities at 31 August 2024**

	£	£
Bank	<b>£35,568</b>	<b>£43,278</b>
Cash / cheques in hand	<b>£215</b>	<b>£364</b>
Total cash funds	<b>£35,783</b>	<b>£43,642</b>

Signed

*B. Scanlan*

Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 27 September 2024

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Hither Green  
London SE13

Date: 27 September 2024

**THE LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1040570

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# Accounts

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### **Trustees**

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Rosemary Savinson  
James Toohill  
Anne Wheeler (Treasurer)  
Emily Williams (Membership Secretary)

### **Public Benefit**

In planning activities for the year, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

### **Activities and achievements**

Our 2022/23 season has been highly successful. Our membership numbers increased significantly, boosted by the range of repertoire throughout the season. We also were pleased to welcome back several "returners" to the choir who had not been signing since the pandemic.

All our concerts were successful this year with audiences at near or full capacity. We were particularly pleased that our joint concert with Hackney Singers at the Royal Festival Hall in April: *Verdi's Requiem* was fully sold.

Our performing season began earlier than usual with a performance in early October of *Haydn's Nelson Mass* at the Blackheath Halls. This concert was a collaboration with the Frisian Chamber Orchestra (FKO) who also played *Mozart's Overture to the Magic Flute* and *Schubert's Unfinished Symphony*. The FKO were in London for a long weekend with a number of LCS members hosting guests whilst a programme of social events was also arranged. Later in the month, a group of around 40 LCS members and their supporters travelled to Leeuwarden in the Netherlands for a further joint performance of the Nelson Mass and the orchestral works.

We were particularly appreciative of the detailed planning that went into the two concerts by our respective Directors: Dan Ludford-Thomas and Ronald Slager who conducts the FKO. Feedback by members of both organisations about this partnership has been very positive and we are now in early discussion with the FKO about a future collaboration. Lewisham was London's Borough of Culture in 2022 and following on from our performances earlier in the year, this Autumn concert was included as part of the Council's programme of events.

Our Christmas concert this year included *Britten's St Nicolas* as the main work. We were very well supported by a trio of Pickled Boys from Dulwich College, a group of LCS sopranos and altos who formed the chamber choir, along with tenor, Sam Harris, as the adult Nicolas. As well as carols for choir and audience, the concert also included pieces for

the choir, one of which was *Morten Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium* which sounded atmospheric in the church's acoustic.

Moving ahead to the spring term, we rehearsed *Verdi's Requiem* in depth for our joint concert with Hackney Singers at the Royal Festival Hall, where we were accompanied by the London Mozart Players. Because this is a deservedly popular work, we decided to offer the opportunity for non-members to join for the term if they wished to sing in the concert: several people did this and very positively, some have continued as LCS members. The attention to detail that Dan gave to our preparation was key to the choirs' confident and exhilarating sell-out performance.

The final concert of the season was our first at St John's Smith Square and also the first time we have performed on a Sunday evening. The repertoire comprised *Handel's Dixit Dominus* and the *Coronation Anthems* along with *Henry Purcell's Funeral Sentences*. For this concert, we were joined by soloists Elizabeth Weisberg and Helen Meyerhoff. We also welcomed singers from Vox Next Gen, a new group, launched in April, to support and encourage young people from diverse backgrounds to gain experience and confidence in choral singing with the potential for some to continue their careers in the music industry. Two of their singers, Miles Dahan and Antonio Olivera sang the Tenor and Bass solo lines in *Dixit Dominus*. Vox Next Gen also performed two pieces of their own: *Maurice Greene's: Lord, let me know mine end* and *Rebecca Clarke's: Music when soft voices die*. Special thanks go to Clodna Shanahan, our accompanist, who did a sterling job on the organ throughout the concert. The evening was exceedingly warm so LCS had to find sufficient energy for the performance, especially the challenges of *Dixit Dominus*. Our previous hard work paid off and the concert was very well received with 300 people in the audience.

There have been a number of other activities throughout the year. One of the most well-supported by members is charity carol-singing during the Christmas season. This year, there were three separate sessions and overall, 50 members took part, raising around £900. We very much appreciate having support from one of our Basses, who has conducted our charity carol-singing over several years.

Towards the end of the season, the committee initiated a project to help support the choir's ongoing development. A Marketing Action Plan (MAP) will be developed to help deliver LCS's vision, values and goals. The project has begun by issuing a survey document to all LCS members to ascertain their views, what they see as LCS's strengths and where they feel any improvements could be made. The survey response rate has been high at around 60% of active members. Much of the analysis and any "next steps" will be undertaken in 2023/24. The committee would like to thank one of our members for his considerable input and support to the committee with this project.

Throughout the season we have been very well led by our Music Director, Dan Ludford-Thomas, who has enabled the choir to improve their skills and also build confidence in their ability to perform at a high level. Since Nico de Villiers left for his new post at the RNCM at the end of last season we were initially supported by Chad Vindin as our interim accompanist and more recently by Clodna Shanahan.

Finally, looking ahead, our future repertoire plans for the new season include an all-Mozart concert, a performance of Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*, sections from Rachmaninov's *All Night Vigil* to celebrate his 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a performance of 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary works.

## Financial review

Income for the year was £79k and expenditure was £58k. Income and expenditure both significantly increased this year. Our membership subscriptions income increased by 38%. Concert income and associated costs were exceptionally high due to the fully sold spring concert at the Royal Festival Hall; the accounts include 50% of the income and expenditure from this concert which was a joint undertaking with the Hackney Singers. Income also includes a Gift Aid claim for the prior year, which was received after the year end, as well as this year's Gift AID claim.

LCS achieved a surplus for the year of £20k which has strengthened total funds and gives us a strong base to plan for future activities. Total funds at 31 August 2023 were £43,642. The Committee's reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds in reserves to cover the costs of the next two major concerts. At 31 August 2023, reserves met this requirement.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 18 October 2023

**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31 August 2023**

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Subscriptions	£22,228	£16,100
Gift Aid claim	£6,921	£0
Music sales / hire	£6,069	£3,430
Rehearsal refreshments	£707	£308
Donations / other income	£299	£270
Concert income: tickets & refreshments	£42,331	£9,298
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£78,555</b>	<b>£29,406</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Music Director / Asst Music Director	-£11,395	-£11,081
Rehearsal venue	-£2,430	-£2,835
Refreshments	£294	
Concerts: venues, facilities, other	-£20,436	-£6,375
Concert professional fees	-£15,708	-£12,940
Advertising	-£166	-£159
Music purchases / hire	-£5,983	-£4,171
Making Music subscription & insurance	-£780	-£436
Website / other	-£729	-£973
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£57,921</b>	<b>-£38,970</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£20,634</b>	<b>-£9,567</b>
Brought forward funds	<b>£23,008</b>	<b>£32,574</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>£43,642</b>	<b>£23,008</b>

**Assets and liabilities at 31 August 2023**

	£	£
Bank	£43,278	£22,837
Cash / cheques in hand	£364	£172
Total cash funds	£43,642	£23,008

Signed

*B. Scanlan*

Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 18 October 2023

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lewisham Choral Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lewisham Choral Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of Lewisham Choral Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**John Howard FCA**  
Chartered Accountant  
Thornwood Road  
Hither Green  
London SE13

Date: 18 October 2023

**THE LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1040570

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# Accounts

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**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year to 31 August 2022**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1040570**

### **Charitable objects**

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals, and to advance such other charitable purposes as the Committee may from time to time decide.

### **Governance arrangements**

Lewisham Choral Society (LCS) is governed by its constitution, last updated in September 2016. Membership of LCS is by payment of the annual subscription. LCS is managed by a committee consisting of the chair, honorary business secretary, honorary membership secretary, honorary treasurer and up to twelve other members, who are the trustees of the charity. Committee members are elected or re-elected annually at the AGM.

### **Trustees**

Brenda Scanlan (Chair)  
Jon Banks (elected October 2022)  
Penny Champion (Librarian)  
Charlotte Davies (resigned October 2021)  
David Dennis (resigned October 2022)  
Elizabeth Glasser (elected October 2021)  
Trevor Jarvis  
Andrew McLeod (Membership Secretary to October 2021, resigned October 2022)  
Lara Ruffle-Coles  
Rosemary Savinson  
James Toohill  
Anne Wheeler (Treasurer; elected October 2021)  
Emily Williams (Membership Secretary from October 2021)

### **Public Benefit**

In planning the activities for the year, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

### **Activities and achievements**

Our previous two seasons were significantly compromised because of the Covid pandemic and the limitations on rehearsing and performing in person, with the associated individual and public health risks. However, because LCS had continued to meet and rehearse online during this period members were well prepared to resume rehearsals and take part in a number of events in 2021/22. In summary, it has been a very full year with four concerts and a range of other performances. Very positively, we had some 150 subscribing members during the season.

Following a comprehensive review of our existing Risk Management Plan, we began the new season in September by organising a Saturday Workshop for members and guests. Whilst *Faure's Requiem* is well-known, the Workshop enabled our Director and singers to explore the work in greater depth. By opening the workshop to non-members we gained new recruits and provided an opportunity for some former members, who had moved away from London, to sing with us again.

Still in September, we were invited to perform at Eltham Palace. We gave two afternoon recitals in the medieval Great Hall, with the repertoire drawing extensively on works we had rehearsed in 20/21 on-line, including pieces by John Tavener, Randall Thompson and John Rutter.

We held two major concerts at Saint Mary's church in the Autumn term. The first, in October, showcased *John Rutter's Gloria* as the main work – the first time LCS had performed it. Other repertoire in this concert included *Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs* and *Thompson's Frostiana* song cycle in its entirety. In December our Christmas concert focused mainly on carols, with the choir also performing three Movements from *Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610*, in some ways a taster, looking ahead to our major concert in the Spring term.

LCS had been originally due to perform the Vespers in March 2020, but this was cancelled just two days beforehand owing to the first Covid lockdown. The concert was eventually rescheduled for April 2022 at Holy Trinity Sloane Square –an important milestone for many members who were committed to its performance. The fortnight leading up to the concert in April saw Covid infections rise nationally and many members unfortunately were unable to perform. But we were very grateful to some singers from other choirs who had performed the work recently and were able to join us on the day. We were accompanied by His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts along with seven vocal soloists in what was an exhilarating and moving performance that will remain in people's memories for a long time.

Lewisham is London's Borough of Culture in 2022 with the Choir taking part in several events that have supported and promoted "WeAreLewisham". At launch day in January, a group of singers performed a variety of pieces in the open air at Lewisham station. At this we gave the first performance of a new piece *Room for All* by Barbara Dudek, commissioned by the Council, which recognised Lewisham as a place of Sanctuary, one of the main themes of the year. A few months later, also as part of the Borough of Culture programme, a group of members performed at St Dunstan's summer festival in their Big Tent to showcase some of our current repertoire.

At our summer concert in Saint Mary's, LCS took up the second theme of the Borough of Culture year which was to highlight the impact of climate change and the need to protect our natural environment. The programme included *Whitacre's Seal Lullaby*, *Will Todd's Songs of Magical Creatures*, *Tavener's Tyger and Lamb*, *Dove's Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars* and two piano solo pieces sumptuously played by LCS's Deputy Music Director Nico de Villiers: *the Maiden and the Nightingale* by *Granados* and *Maxwell Davies' Farewell to Stromness*. The centrepiece of the concert was *Whitacre's Cloudburst* in which the choir were joined by percussion ensemble Orchestra da Camera to great effect.

We have benefited from a new website during the season. Designed by one of our Trustees, the aim has been to make LCS more attractive to potential new recruits and to focus on how we can increasingly diversify our membership base so that we are more inclusive of Lewisham's communities. At a practical level, the new website also aims to improve accessibility and make it easier for members to transact day-to-day business e.g. subscriptions, ordering music etc.

Throughout the year, we have been very well supported by our Music Team: Dan Ludford-Thomas and Nico de Villiers have provided excellent leadership and have encouraged the choir to grow in both technical skills and musical confidence. We learned at the end of the season that Nico had secured a new post as Head of Vocal Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, so after 12 years' association with LCS he left us in July. We are fortunate to have secured an interim Deputy Director: Chad Vindin who will join us for the new season in September 2022. We have a full programme of concerts planned for 2022/23 beginning with a collaboration with the Frisian Chamber Orchestra (FKO) who will perform with LCS in early October in a programme that includes Haydn's Nelson Mass, and a return concert for a group of LCS singers later in the month in Leeuwarden.

### **Financial review**

Income for the year was £29k and expenditure was £39k. Compared to the previous year, income and expenditure were both significantly higher because of the concert income and associated costs. As in previous years, the main source of income was membership subscriptions and the main area of expenditure was the regular rehearsal costs including fees paid to the Music Team and the venue hire. It should be noted that income does not include Gift Aid; whilst a claim for £2,873 was submitted to HMRC, payment was not received until after the year end and will therefore be included in total receipts in the next year.

LCS incurred a deficit for the year of £9,567 which was met from available funds. The main reasons for the deficit were mainly due to the full programme of concerts and events and to the late receipt of the Gift Aid claim.

Total funds at 31 August 2022 were £23,008. The Committee's reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds in reserves to cover the costs of the next two major concerts. At 31 August 2022, reserves met this requirement.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 18 October 2022

**LEWISHAM CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31 August 2022**

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Subscriptions	£16,100	£11,180
Gift Aid claim	£0	£2,018
Music sales / hire	£3,430	£1,017
Rehearsal refreshments	£268	£0
Donations / other	£269	£506
Concert income: tickets & refreshments	£9,298	£0
Choir history	£41	£228
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£29,406</b>	<b>£14,948</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Music Director / Asst Music Director	-£11,081	-£11,020
Rehearsal venue	-£2,835	-£2,436
Concerts: venues, facilities, other	-£6,375	£0
Concert professional fees	-£12,940	£0
Advertising	-£159	-£20
Music purchases / hire	-£4,171	-£823
Choir history	-£0	-£224
Making Music subscription & insurance	-£438	-£613
Website / other	-£973	-£768
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£38,972</b>	<b>-£15,904</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/-PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-£9,566</b>	<b>-£956</b>
Brought forward funds	<b>£32,574</b>	<b>£33,530</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>£23,008</b>	<b>£32,574</b>

**Assets and liabilities at 31 August 2022**

	£	£
Bank	<b>£22,837</b>	£32,433
Cash / cheques in hand	<b>£172</b>	£141
Total cash funds	<b>£23,008</b>	£32,574

Signed

*B. Scanlan*

Brenda Scanlan, Chair

Date 18 October 2022

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lewisham Choral Society**

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**John Howard FCA**  
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Date: 18 October 2022