

Annual Report for Eclectic Voices Society for the year ending 31 August 2020

Registered Charity [1052289](#)

Governing Document: CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED 11TH JANUARY 1996

Trustees:

MR TIMOTHY LOWE
MRS ROSEMARY HURRELL
MS MELANIE EDDIS

Trustees are appointed by election at Annual General Meeting.

Contact address for the charity:

8, Rotherwick Road, London, NW11 7DA

Bankers

CAFCASH LTD

Independent Examiner
C HEATH
15 HEATH ROW
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
HERTS

OBJECTS

As stated in the Constitution:

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) to educate the public including the children of local schools in North London by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specially written works, this music being primarily presented by Eclectic Voices
and
- b) to or towards or for the benefit or furtherance of such charitable purposes or charitable institutions as the Committee in their absolute discretion shall think fit.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The charity is run by a committee, of which the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected, as are the voice reps. Other members of the committee are the Musical Director, the Deputy Musical Director (also director of the children's and youth choirs), representatives from each of the voice parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and others as co-opted at the discretion of the committee.

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are the Trustees of the charity.

The choir is structured as two parts:

- Eclectic Voices adult choir, directed by Scott Stroman, the Musical Director
- Highbury Youth Choirs, for children and teenagers, directed by Sarah Wilkinson.

RELATED PARTIES

No reportable transactions with related parties occurred during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES – Adult Choir

The choir's activities were curtailed by Covid, following the lockdown in March. The choir planned to perform Handel's Messiah in a subsidized concert, free to the audience, in the Union Chapel in April, and funds had been raised for this. The concert was cancelled at short notice due to Covid public health measures. The adult choir continued to run virtual rehearsals during the summer term but did no performances.

The People's Messiah project will be restarted in the future after the pandemic.

Date	Location	Event
Weekly	Christ Church, Highbury	Rehearsals directed by Scott Stroman or Sarah Wilkinson until 12 March.
Weekly	Virtual	Zoom rehearsals and study sessions led by Scott Stroman, from April-June.
28 th September	Caldicott School	Awayday – study of Autumn programme and musicianship.
18 th October	St Paul's Covent Garden	Autumn Concert, performing Faure's Requiem and jazz works
23 rd November	King's College	Performing John Kenny's Nocturne
15 th December	Christ Church, Highbury	Carol Service
21st December	St Paul's Covent Garden	'Yuletide Folk' concert with Chris Wood and the English Acoustic Collective and Highbury Youth Choirs

HIGHBURY YOUTH CHOIRS ACTIVITIES

Highbury Youth Choirs rehearse weekly during term & perform concerts at least once a term. There are three groups differentiated by age and developing musicianship (Young Singers, years 1-3; Junior Choir, years 4-6; Youth Choir, years 7+) and a team of three professional staff. Many projects we undertake are collaborations with other choirs and organisations, and the choirs regularly have the opportunity to perform with professional musicians.

2020 was a bit of a disrupted year for HYC. We rehearsed throughout the spring term of 2020 but cancelled our end of term concert when it became clear that was the safest thing to do. In the summer lockdown we made the move to online rehearsals, using Zoom for our members to learn songs and develop some music theory skills, with an online showcase at the end of the year.

Performances 2019 -2020 season

Date	Location	Event
17 th October	Christ Church, Highbury	Free Showcase Concert , 'On Your Bike', Songs of Travel and Transport.

12 th December	Christ Church, Highbury	A concert of Christmas music with audience
21st December	St Paul's Covent Garden	'Yuletide Folk' concert with Chris Wood and the English Acoustic Collective and Highbury Youth Choirs

GRANTS

Eclectic Voices received no grants during the year.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees consider that they provide a public benefit in:

- providing a musical education to the children of Highbury
- inspiring the children of Highbury to higher musical achievements, by training and performing with top professional musicians
- enabling amateur singers to learn music and perform at a high level with top professional musicians
- providing musical performances for the general public in Highbury and other venues
- providing music at no charge to groups who might otherwise be unable to hear, afford, or enjoy live music (Outreach Programme)
- encouraging and facilitating performance of original music.

The children's choir is open to all. The adult choir sets a minimum musical standard (tested through a simple audition process). The concessionary fees for low income members (and, exceptionally, assistance with the other costs of involvement with the choir) ensure that no one is barred from taking part by financial constraints.

OUTREACH AND CHARITY

The choir performed two Outreach and Charity events during the year.

- The Memory Café provides hospitality to older people, those with memory difficulties, and their carers each week at Christ Church, Highbury. A group from the choir visited and sang there on 10th December.
- The choir sang carols to raise money for Health Poverty Action at Highbury and Islington station on 5th December.

NEW MUSIC FUND

It is part of the choir's vision to encourage performance of new music, and to enable composers to provide it. The choir has raised funds (reported as Reserved Funds in the accounts) with the intention of commissioning new work with a choral element from aspiring young composers.

The choir sponsored a Folk Carol competition, with the winners and runners-up performed at our Christmas Folk concert. A cash prize of £400 was offered to the winner, Eoin Mulvaney.

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ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounts are prepared using a Receipts and Payments model, using the guidance on this model in SORP revised 2000 issued by the Charity Commission, with the exception that income from Gift Aid tax claims is recorded in the year of the claim not the year in which the funds are received.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income

EV Subscriptions (inc study days)	12135
HYS Subscriptions	3710
Concert Income	4335
Music sales	454
Refreshments	285
Bank interest	0
Sponsorship and donations	8405
Gift Aid Claim this year	4037
HYS uniform sales	130
New Music Fund donations	635
total	34127

Expenditure

EV Professional fees (inc study days)	10845
HYS Professional fees	4210
Concert Expenditure	8487
Music purchase	357
Sundry expenditure	335
MM Sub & Insurance	613
Venue Hire	3393
Printing and Publicity	844
Outreach Expenses	0
Bank fees	120
New Music Fund commissions	420
total	29623

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	
Cash	176
Bank account	12883
Gift Aid claimed, not yet received	3341
Other debtors	0
Liabilities	
None	0
Net assets	16400

RESERVED FUNDS

The choir has reserved funds for New Music and the People's Messiah project.

At start of year – New Music	522
Raised – New Music	635
Spent – New Music	-420
Reserved Funds at end of year – New Music	737
At start of year – People's Messiah	0
Raised – People's Messiah	6762
Spent – People's Messiah	-2868
Reserved Funds at end of year – People's Messiah	3894
Unreserved Funds at end of year	11769
Sum of Reserved and Unreserved	16400

DESIGNATED FUNDS

The choir has no designated funds.

Due to rounding, totals may not add exactly.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ECLECTIC VOICES SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 August 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher E J Heath

Certified Management Consultant, MIC

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Bishop's Stortford
Herts. CM23 5DH

Date: 3 March 2022