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Chair's Report Sept 2022 - Sept 2023

It's that time of year again for me to reflect on the previous ECS season. We were pleased to welcome some new members to the choir and sorry to lose a few who had decided that it was time to "hang up their singing hats" or leave for pastures new. Whatever their reason for not being with us anymore, I wish them well.

Last autumn we gave a concert for Advent. We were delighted to welcome some students from the University of Chichester Conservatoire who joined us in singing extracts from Bach Christmas Oratorio, Handel Messiah and the dramatic Britten St Nicolas, the latter being greatly enhanced by our wonderful tenor soloist, Paul Austin Kelly. After this concert it was the usual round of our very enjoyable and worthwhile carol events: - The lunch time carol service in at Souls' Church, Carol singing in the Beacon Centre in aid of the local branch of the Samaritans, leading the singing at the Angels of Eastbourne Service, entertaining at Palm Court care home Christmas party, singing round the tree at The Hawthorns Retirement Village, and, a new venue for us, singing at The Star Inn in Alfriston on Christmas Eve for the Polizzi family and their guests. The latter was a wonderful occasion, we were well looked after and very much appreciated by everyone there. As well as giving pleasure to many people, our carol singing raises much needed funds for charity and for the choir.

After the Christmas break we began rehearsing for our March Mozart concert (with a little Haydn for good measure) for which we sang the ever popular Mozart Requiem, Haydn Insanae et Vanae Curae and Mozart Laudate Dominum. The concert included a wonderful performance of the much loved Mozart Clarinet Concerto by Alison Hughes. A wonderful evening of music! During this term we also enjoyed a social evening - of fish and chips followed by an interesting and entertaining talk about Mozart given by Dr Suzie Wilkins.

The summer term had rather a different repertoire - Mozart and Lieder Nocturns and Brahms Waltzes being the main pieces. After some initial trepidation, I think we all enjoyed singing these at the summer concert. Audience numbers were disappointing for this event though. It is the

usual problem we, particularly John, have with choosing repertoire – what will be popular with an audience and what will keep the choir interested!

We finished the season with a very enjoyable social evening to mark ECS's thirtieth anniversary. Much delicious food was shared, with a fair amount of wine and lively conversation. As of this September ECS has enjoyed singing for thirty years. It was in September 1993 that Elizabeth Muir Lewis formed our choir, rehearsing, amongst other things, Vivaldi Gloria, which they performed later that autumn for their inaugural concert. We also celebrated the fact that John has been our MD for twenty years! Over the thirty years, thanks to the leadership of these two inspiring people ECS has grown from strength to strength. Supported by some excellent accompanists, none more so than Nick, we are indeed very fortunate to work with such patient and inspirational, professional musicians.

A choir the size of ECS with a great reputation in the town to uphold, requires a good deal of organisation. I am so grateful to Claire, our secretary, for all the work she undertakes for choir, to Paul our treasurer for quietly managing all the finances so expertly, and to committee members Tina and Pauline for their help over this last year. Huge thanks to Alison, who, as our press officer writes so expertly to advertise our concerts, helps at the welcome desk and has now taken over the running of rehearsal break refreshments. Grateful thanks to Eleanor, our librarian, who, as well as giving out the scores and keeping track of them, spends a good deal of time accessing the music for us. Many thanks also to Tracy and Hugh Anderson for the help they give to Eleanor, and to Hugh Graham and Clare Chetwood who have taken on putting up our advertising boards.

Here's to another happy and successful year for ECS!

Thank you for your singing, your friendship and your loyalty to our choir.

Liz Barker

Chair Eastbourne Choral Society

Eastbourne Choral Society
Accounts year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Receipts and Payments 2022-2023

Payments		2022	2023	Receipts		2022	2023
		£	£			£	£
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	4770	4620	Members' subscriptions	9205	12650	
	Accompanists	2520	2310	Gift Aid	418	1642	
	Rent of Hall	1775	1945	Bank interest	38	52	
	Piano Tuning		150	Tea monies	523	717	
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)		29	Refreshments	128	482	
	Website	151	158	Ticket sales	4229	6393	
	Insurance	252	304	Donations	1070	1374	
	Other	15	15	Music hire (members)	711	1561	
Concert expenses	Artistes & Orchestra	9599	11155	Workshop fees	200	0	
	Commission on ticket sales	68	111	Socials	0	0	
	Flowers/gifts	106	107	Fundraising	0	752	
	Venue hire	740	1140	Other income	0	0	
	Press adverts	0	0				
	Staging	960	1340				
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	914	1594				
	Concert refreshments	141	207				
	Music hire	880	1563				
	Socials, etc	0	0				
	Miscellaneous	25	500				
	Refreshments	51	0				
Other	Total Expenses	22967	27248	Total Income	16522	25625	
	Choir folders	187		Folder sales	90	91	
	Bow ties, scarves						
	Other		165				
Asset Purchases	Total Payments	23154	27413	Total Receipts	16612	25716	
	Surplus			Shortfall	6542	1697	

Accounts 2022-2023

Assets at Year End		2022	2023
		£	£
Cash Funds			
Barclays Bank		2,922	4,172
Virgin Money deposit		26,949	24,001
Total		29,871	28,174

P A Collis

04/09/2023

DAVID PAUL BARKER

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16th September, 2023

Paul Collis (Hon Treasurer)
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**Eastbourne Choral Society
Review of Accounts 2022-2023**

In accordance with instructions I have reviewed the accounts of the Eastbourne Choral Society for the period 2022/2023.

These unaudited accounts have been reviewed from the information and records given to me together with explanations and clarifications provided.

I am comfortable that they reflect the financial positions of the charity and can be submitted to those bodies and institutions as may be required.



David P Barker