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### **Chair's Report Sept 2023 - Sept 2024**

I cannot believe that another choir year has flown by and its time to write my annual report. The year has seen us welcome some new members, and sadly lose a few others who gave up singing for health, or other personal, reasons. It is always lovely to see some of our former members attending our concerts though.

The first concert of the season, "The Glory of Music" was held in November. It was given to celebrate St Cecilia's Day. We sang Handel – Part one of Alexander's Feast, and Puccini – Meses de Gloria, at the unusual time of 4pm. This was an experiment to see if more people would prefer to come out to listen to us in the daylight rather than a dark winter's evening. The audience was, however, much the same size as always, some people commented that they came because of the earlier time, but we had no way of knowing who didn't come because of it! As with all our concerts it was well received.

This was followed by our usual round of carol events – singing at Palm Court Care Home's Christmas Party, The Hawthorn's Retirement Village, All Souls Lunch time carol service, singing carols in the Beacon Centre where we raised over £500 for the local Samaritans, and finally, on Christmas eve at The Star Hotel, Alfriston to start off their Christmas celebrations. All events were very enjoyable, some raising funds for choir, others for charity, but I have to say singing carols on Christmas eve in a beautifully decorated hotel which was once called The Star of Bethlehem and was used by pilgrims on their way to either Chichester or Canterbury, was a delightful experience and seemed very appropriate! All these organisations have asked us to come again this year!

January 2024 found us rehearsing Handel Messiah, always a favourite with singers and audience alike. We had a wonderful term with our MD, John, who always brings something new to a piece which is well known to some of us, but was new to others. The subsequent concert, where we were accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists, was uplifting, and enthusiastically received by a large audience.

The summer term had a very different feel with us rehearsing Rutter Magnificat, Haydn Little Organ Mass, Chilcott A Little Jazz Mass and the Spirituals from Tippett's A Child of our Time. An eclectic mix which many found challenging, but refreshingly different. Rather than a concert, we finished the term with an "open to all singers" event of an afternoon rehearsal followed by an informal concert in St Nicolas Church Pevensey, a pretty venue on a lovely summer's day. We were joined for this by Katie Brown, a lovely student soprano soloist from Chichester University Conservatoire, and accompanied by our ever reliable and brilliant

accompanist, Nick. I am delighted to say that Katie will be joining us to sing solos for our Advent Concert in November.

During the year we held several social/fundraising events: A wine tasting and quiz evening – grateful thanks to Rebecca and Fenella for sharing their wine expertise, and to Pauline for devising and running the quiz, a Bottle Tombola, thank you to Tracy and Hugh, a Fish and Chip supper followed by a talk given by Dr Suzie Wilkins, who is an expert in her field and a former member of ECS, a cake sale kindly organised by Barbara and Alec – huge thank you to them, and finally, on a beautiful summer's evening, a guided walk along Eastbourne seafront courtesy of Kim, followed by drinks in the Lansdowne Hotel – a very enjoyable, interesting and sociable evening. Grateful thanks to Kim.

Managing a large, very active choir is certainly a demanding task. I am very grateful to Claire, our secretary for all her help and support over the year, especially on concert days, to Paul, our treasurer who does a tremendous amount of work quietly in the background to keep our finances in order. I would also like to Eleanor, our choir librarian, who works extremely hard to ensure that we have all the vocal scores we need, and the music the instrumentalists need for concerts. We are indeed very fortunate to have a professional librarian working for us! Grateful thanks to Alison who writes so expertly as our Press Officer, helps on the Welcome desk at rehearsals, and who is responsible for making sure the tea break each week at rehearsal actually happens with all the necessary provisions and personnel. Thanks to Lesley who comes early each week to help set up for rehearsals and stays behind to help lock up. Also thank you to Lorraine and Michelle for their work with social media on our behalf.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to John and Nick for their continued interest in and work for ECS. We are indeed fortunate to have two such experienced and talented musicians to teach us the music, and inspire us to give of our best at concerts.

Perhaps most importantly of all, thank you to you, the members of ECS who make our choir such a lovely community with your loyalty, your singing and your friendship.

Liz Barker  
Chair Eastbourne Choral Society



Eastbourne Choral Society  
Accounts year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

	Payments	2023	2024	Receipts	2023	2024
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	4620	5060	Members' subscriptions	12650	12544
	Accompanists	2310	2030	Gift Aid	1642	0
	Rent of Hall	1945	1980	Bank interest	52	197
	PianoTuning	150	150	Tea monies	717	690
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)	29		Refreshments	482	621
	Website	158	158	Ticket sales	6393	7615
	Insurance	304	339	Donations	1374	4475
	Other	15	35	Music hire (members)	1561	1041
Concert expenses	Artistes & Orchestra	11155	11955	Workshop fees	0	60
	Commission on ticket sales	111	130	Socials	0	421
	Flowers/gifts	107	85	Fundraising	752	701
	Venue hire	1140	1895	Other income	0	
	Press adverts	0	0			
	Staging	1340	1400			
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	1594	1131			
	Concert refreshments	207	264			
	Music hire	1563	906			
	Other	0	268			
	Miscellaneous	500				
	Refreshments	0	83			
	Total Expenses	27248	27870	Total Income	25625	28364
	Asset Purchases			Folder sales	91	17
	Choir folders		0			
	Bow ties, scarves					
	Other	165				
	Total Payments	27413	27870	Total Receipts	25716	28381
	Shortfall	1697		Surplus		511
	Accounts 2023-2024					
	Assets at Year End	2023	2024			
	Cash Funds					
	Barclays Bank	4,172	7,986			
	Virgin Money deposit	24,001	20,699			
	Total	28,174	28,684	Paul Collis	###	



Nocturnes & Love songs				Alexander's Feast, Missa di Gloria				Messiah			
Concert Account	July 2023			Concert Account	Nov 2023			Concert Account	March 2024		
			Costs				Costs				Costs
Performers	Orchestra		0	Performers	Orchestra		1200	Performers	Orchestra		3705
	Soloists	Chitettes 1 singer	600 200		Soloists	3 singers	900		Soloists	4 singers	1350
Accompanists	NH		400	Accompanists	NH		400	Accompanists	NH		400
	Rachel Fryer		250								
Music Director	JH		650	Music Director	JH		650	Music Director	JH		650
Hall hire			415	Hall hire			690	Hall hire			690
Staging			420	Staging			460	Staging			520
Music hire			0	Music hire			4	Music hire			50
Ticket printing			22	Ticket printing			24	Ticket printing			24
Programme print			170	Programme print			170	Programme print			175
Posters, etc. print			212	Posters, etc. print			227	Posters, etc. print			301
Bouquets/Gifts			43	Bouquets/Gifts			42	Bouquets/Gifts			39
Ticket sale commission			22	Ticket sale commission			15	Ticket sale commission			94
TOTAL			3404	TOTAL			4782	TOTAL			7998
<u>Receipts</u>				<u>Receipts</u>				<u>Receipts</u>			
Ticket sales	Choir		225	Ticket sales	Choir		495	Ticket sales	Choir		760
	Welcome Centre		195		Welcome Centre		150		Welcome Centre		880
	Door		885		Door		1545		Door		1516
	WeGotTickets		30		WeGotTickets		255		WeGotTickets		800
Donation			0	Donation			950	Donation			3500
TOTAL			1335	TOTAL			3395	TOTAL			7456
	DEFICIT		2069		DEFICIT		1387		DEFICIT		542



**DAVID PAUL BARKER**

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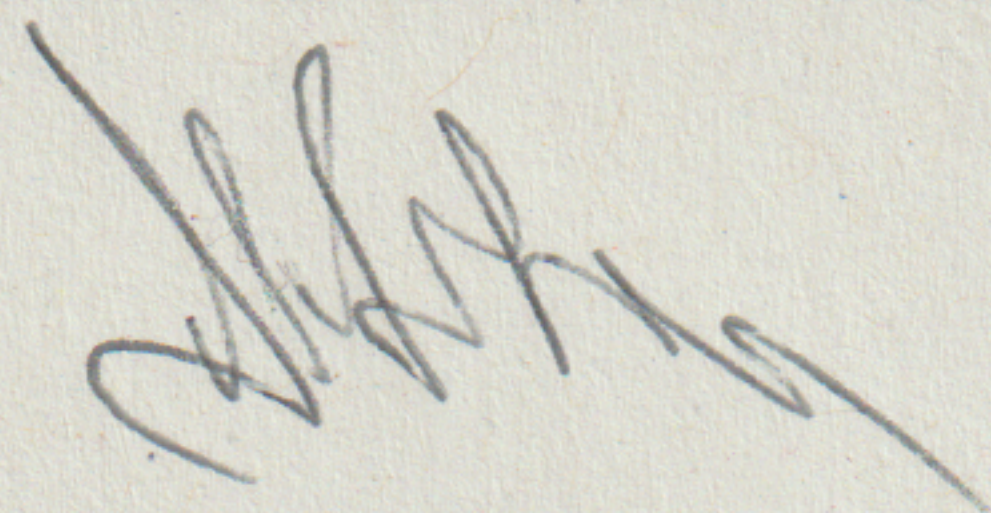
2nd<sup>h</sup> September, 2024  
Paul Collis (Hon Treasurer)  
Eastbourne Choral Society  
3 Benenden Close  
Seaford  
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**Eastbourne Choral Society**  
**Review of Accounts 2023-2024**

In accordance with instructions I have reviewed the accounts of the Eastbourne Choral Society for the period 2023/2024.

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**