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### **Chair's Report Sept 2024 - 2025**

Another year of lovely music making has passed by so quickly with so many very enjoyable moments. We were pleased to welcome some new members to the choir, and sorry to see some leave, the latter usually due to work commitments or family needs. However, although member numbers fluctuate, we have gradually built up the choir again after the devastating effect the Covid pandemic had on so many individuals and organisations. For the first time in six years, last Spring term we were singing with 80 members.

Our first concert of the season was given in November and had the title of Advent. We sang several pieces, some of which were new to the choir – Bob Chilcott - On Christmas Night, and Cecilia McDowall - Christus Natus Est, along with more well known music including Bach Sleepers Wake, and Advent carols for the audience to join in singing. The accompaniment by a small group of young brass players was a new departure for ECS and one which singers and audience appreciated very much. This concert was followed by our usual carol singing events -Palm Court care home for their Christmas party, carol singing in the Beacon Centre which raised well over £500 for the Eastbourne branch of the Samaritans, All Souls' church lunch time carol service, and finally, singing carols whilst the newly arrived guests at the Star Hotel in Alfriston drank champagne on Christmas Eve. At all events we were warmly received, indeed some residents at The Star said we had made their Christmas!!

The Spring term was rather different for us. Elizabeth Muir Lewis who founded the choir in 1993 and who conducted it for ten years before she handed over to John, asked if she might conduct the choir one last time with a performance of Mozart Requiem. John paired this with Haydn Nelson Mass and we had a wonderful term rehearsing and then performing these two beautiful works with Elizabeth and John respectively. The concert was a memorable evening in many ways! The soloists and orchestra were brilliant and we sang to a packed church. Mozart Requiem can always be sure to attract a large audience!

The summer term found us singing something very different with Purcell's semi opera - King Arthur. Although we started off rather hesitantly with what was totally a new genre for us, we gradually got to enjoy the piece more and more, and the concert at the end of term was a huge success, The soloists and the small group of instrumentalists were wonderful, our narrator, Charlie, was amazing, and so we were inspired to give of our best. Sadly, an unknown piece does not bring such a large audience as something like the Mozart, but judging from the the very positive and incredibly appreciative comments I have received

since the performance, choir members and audience all seemed to have had a wonderful evening!

I am aware that we did not have many social/ fundraising events this last year, and we would be grateful for any suggestions for these in the future. We did have a very enjoyable choir meal at Pomodorros in January, and Barbara organised a wonderful cake sale in the Spring term which raised well over £200 one choir evening. Thank you to Barbara and her assistant, Alec!! We held a lovely bring and share food evening in the summer break when we watched a video that Alec had made of our Mozart Concert. Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable event.

I believe that Eastbourne Choral Society is a great community, but steering the good ship ECS is no mean task. I am so grateful to my fellow Trustees, Claire our choir secretary, who is such a constant support, especially on concert days, and to Paul, our choir treasurer who handles all things financial so expertly. Thanks also to my committee members - Eleanor our brilliant librarian, and Caroline who joined the committee last year and has been finding out how things happen! I would also like to thank several people who are not committee members - Alison for all her work as our press officer and who helps in so many other ways at rehearsals and concerts, to Lesley who helps at rehearsals each week and on concert days, to Tracy and Hugh who help Eleanor with the music scores, to Ann who sets up the refreshments at rehearsals each week, and to Tina who always steps in to help when I am in need! I am so grateful to all of them. More help is always needed though so please consider coming to work with us on the committee, or offering to do a particular task.

My heartfelt thanks to John and Nick for their inspirational leadership, encouraging us to sing such a variety of beautiful music to the best of our ability. We are so fortunate to have two such experienced, professional musicians to lead us through rehearsals, and to coax the best possible performance from us at concerts.

Finally my thanks to you, our members, for the friendship, the singing, and the loyalty you show to ECS. Long may it continue.

Liz Barker  
Chair Eastbourne Choral Society



Receipts and Payments 2024-2025

<u>Payments</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
		£	£			£	£
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	5,060	5,343	Members' subscriptions		12,544	12,670
	Accompanists	2,030	2,420	Gift Aid		0	4,479
	Rent of hall	1,980	3,390	Bank interest		197	414
	Piano tuning	150		Rehearsal tea monies		690	888
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)			Concert refreshments		621	408
	Website	158	0	Ticket sales		7,615	6,085
	Insurance	339	347	Donations		4,475	5,790
	Other	35	25	Music hire (members)		1,041	1,274
Concert expenses	Artistes & orchestra	11,955	10,223	Workshop fees		60	90
	Commission on ticket sales	130	12	Socials		421	
	Flowers/gifts	85	108	Fund raising		701	457
	Venue hire	1,895	1,400	Other income			500
	Press adverts	0	0				
	Staging	1,400	940				
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	1,131	1,124				
	Concert refreshments	264	186				
	Music hire	906	1,397				
Other	Socials, etc.	268	0				
	Refreshments		61				
	Miscellaneous	83	0				
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>27,870</b>	<b>26,976</b>	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>28,364</b>	<b>33,055</b>
Asset purchases	Choir folders	0	188	Folder sales		17	96
	Bow ties, scarves		140				
	Other		78				
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>27,870</b>	<b>27,382</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>28,381</b>	<b>33,151</b>
	Shortfall			Surplus		511	5,769

Accounts 2024-2025

Assets at year-end	2024	2025
Cash funds	£	£
Barclays Bank	7,986	3,241
Virgin Money deposit	20,699	31,212
Total	28,684	34,453

P A Collis      ###



Concert Accounts    November 2024 - Concert for Advent

			<u>Costs</u>
Performers	Orchestra	Meantime Brass	1,000
	Soloists	Andrew Robinson	200
		Katie Brown	200
Accompanists		Nick Houghton	400
Music Director			650
Hall hire			690
Staging			480
Music hire			137
Ticket printing			26
Programme print			135
Press advertising			
Posters, etc. print			332
Bouquets/Gifts			14
Ticket sale commission			56
TOTAL			4,320

			<u>Receipts</u>
Ticket sales	Choir		420
	Agency		555
	On Line		300
	Door		1,140
Donation			250
TOTAL			2,665
	DEFICIT		1,655

April 2025 - Mozart requiem/Nelson mass

			<u>Costs</u>
Performers	Orchestra		5,205
	Soloists	Replacement cost	200
		Danni O'Neill (for Clara Orif)	)
		Anna Helena Maclachlan	) Sponsored
		Owen Lucas	)
		Christopher Dixon	)
Accompanists		Nick Houghton	400
Music Director			663
Hall hire			690
Staging			460
Music hire			50
Ticket printing			26
Programme print			220
Press advertising			
Posters, etc. print			355
Bouquets/Gifts			94
Ticket sale commission			95
TOTAL			8,458

			<u>Receipts</u>
Ticket sales	Choir		1,480
	Agency		860
	WeGotTickets		760
	Door		1,620
Donation			5,400
TOTAL			10,120
	SURPLUS		1,662



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26<sup>h</sup> August 2025

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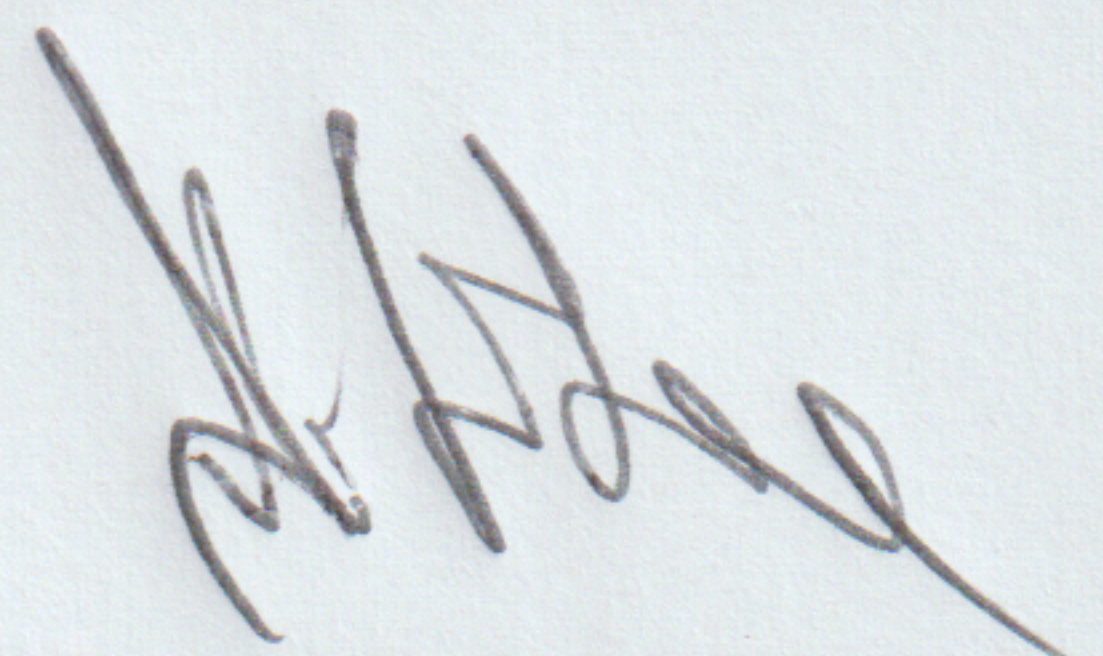
Dear Paul

**Eastbourne Choral Society  
Review of Accounts 2024/2025**

In accordance with instructions I have reviewed the accounts of the Eastbourne Choral Society for the period 2024/2025.

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**