

## **2021-22 AGM – Chairman's Report**

Good evening everybody and welcome to our Annual General Meeting for the year ending in July 2022, our first AGM in our new home at the Highbury Roundhouse.

### **Overview**

This was our first full year back after Covid and I want to begin by celebrating. It is tremendous to be back together again in person, rehearsing, performing and enjoying each other's company.

We didn't know during Covid quite how things would be when we re-started physical meetings. We could not be certain about numbers, and this carried through into uncertainties about venues and repertoire.

Yet here we are, back at full strength, membership numbers rising, singing familiar and new pieces and giving some of our best concerts. A capacity to return and re-form where we left off underlines the enduring character and strength of the choir in this, our fiftieth year.

### **2021-22 Concerts**

Our concerts last year spanned a wide genre, from well-known to wholly novel. We began at St Andrews Holborn with an old favourite, Benjamin Britten's *St Nicholas*, to mark Christmas 2021.

This was followed at Easter with *Songs of Gratitude*, featuring Handel, Purcell and Bach, which took place during the second peak of Covid. There were many last minute cancellations from singers, pinging and we finished up with just 53 singers, the fewest for many years. However, the choir rose to the occasion and produced a wonderful performance.

We ended the year in June with a performance of Todd's *Mass in Blue* which, with its novelty, challenge and sheer joyful newness marked a new milestone in our performances. Our June concert also marked the first time we have performed at LSO St Luke's, and our first concert in the Borough of Islington for many years. I would like to record our thanks and

appreciation to Michael and Laurence for their guidance and enthusiasm in leading us through an eventful and very successful year.

## **Financial Report**

Turning to the financial position of the choir, Katie Halling has kindly taken over as our new treasurer.

Overall, with membership numbers increasing more quickly than imagined and concerts being exceptionally well-attended (three sell outs), our financial position remains strong, ensuring we retain future resilience. The Committee is confident that this will enable us to hold membership fees unchanged in the coming year.

## **Committee**

I will report on developments in Committee membership in a moment. I want to begin, however, by saying that after much thought I have decided that the perfect time to pass on the Chairmanship is this July, at the end of this choir year.

As Chairman, above all, I have enjoyed getting to know so many people, all of us coming together to support one another and share our enjoyment of singing. It has given me a great deal, as well as offering me many learning opportunities.

Now, with our amazing musical team of Michael Waldron and Lawrence Williams firmly in place, Covid more or less behind us and, finally our new rehearsal venue up and running I feel it is time to hand on the baton. I certainly intend to stay part of the choir and will do whatever I can to help the new team.

In this context, I am delighted that Christopher Catling has agreed to take over from me as Chairman.

At the end of this choir year, Sarah Matthias our long-standing Membership Secretary and Anna Markham, the choir's long-standing Secretary have also decided to stand down from the Committee. Sarah and Anna, together with our librarian, Chris Rose, have been on the Committee for the whole of my time as Chairman

The four of us have been through thick and thin together, forming a central core of responsibility for the committee and the choir. I cannot

overstate my gratitude to Sarah, Anna and Chris for all their support, work and friendship over the years.

All other members of the Committee are willing to stand again. In addition, Milton Bevan, Liz Stock, Kym Randall have agreed to stand for election to the Committee. We look forward to welcoming them and to their input and support in running the choir.

Bryan Stevens who has acted as our independent Trustee for many years has decided to stand down at the AGM. Bryan has been a wonderful Trustee and I am grateful to him for his suggestions and support over the years. I am happy to say that Tricia George has agreed to stand as Independent Trustee at today's meeting.

In this, my last AGM, I want to express my thanks to everyone who helped me during my time as Chairman. I am personally grateful to all of you for your support and energy.

## **Looking Ahead**

Looking ahead, it is encouraging to see that our membership, currently 150, has bounced back so strongly. After literally years of delay, our recent move to the Roundhouse gives us a more suitable rehearsal space which accommodates us more comfortably.

And coming up is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert at Cadogan Hall when we will be celebrating choral music with the epic, Elijah. Ticket sales so far suggest a possible record audience and I am sure it will be a wonderful occasion.

ICS has been known as the friendliest choir in London. The value of us coming together, week in, week out, year in, year out, decades in decades out for some of us, being together focusing on beautiful music and holding such joyful concerts is such a positive force for the world and it has been a pleasure to play a part in it.

# ISLINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure for 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022

	Year Ending 31 July 2022 £	Prior year £	Difference
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Membership subscriptions	21,770.00	1,533.89	20,236.11
Members' Donations	1,760.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid (received after year end)	5,342.96	0.00	5,342.96
<b>Total Membership Income</b>	<b>28,872.96</b>	<b>1,533.89</b>	<b>25,579.07</b>
<b>Concert income</b>			
Concert 1	6,981.58	0.00	6,981.58
Concert 2	5,360.73	0.00	5,360.73
Concert 3	7,119.60	0.00	7,119.60
	<b>19,461.91</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>19,461.91</b>
Miscellaneous	403.95	160.49	243.46
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>48,738.82</b>	<b>1,694.38</b>	<b>45,284.44</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
<b><u>Rehearsals</u></b>			
Conductor	4,500.00	5,820.00	(1,320.00)
Accompanist	3,950.00	3,300.00	650.00
Rehearsal venue hire	5,990.00	0.00	5,990.00
	<b>14,440.00</b>	<b>9,120.00</b>	<b>5,320.00</b>
<b><u>Concert expenses</u></b>			
Concert 1	8,800.66	0.00	8,800.66
Concert 2	8,152.27	0.00	8,152.27
Concert 3	8,409.24	0.00	8,409.24
	<b>25,362.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,362.17</b>
<b><u>Other expenditure</u></b>			
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Making Music membership and insurance	183.00	434.00	(251.00)
Music purchase	0.00	674.63	(674.63)
Miscellaneous expenditure	0.00	94.60	(94.60)
	<b>183.00</b>	<b>1,203.23</b>	<b>(1,020.23)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>39,985.17</b>	<b>10,323.23</b>	<b>29,661.94</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>8,753.65</b>	<b>(8,789.34)</b>	<b>17,542.99</b>

**ASSETS: FUNDS FLOW FOR THE YEAR**

Balance b/f from prior year	45,683.00
<b>Surplus for current year</b>	<b>8,753.65</b>
	<b>54,436.65</b>

**REPRESENTED BY:**

Money Market Account	10,175.48
Money Manager Account HSBC	8,775.03
Current Account HSBC as at 31 July 2022	24,227.58
Petty cash balance	0.00

Add Gift Aid received on 28/09/2022 5,342.96

Add ticket sales for Concert 3 received on  
31 August 2022 6,913.75

Add programme sales for concert 3 197.00

Less payments shown in accounts for  
21/22 but paid in 22/23 **1,039.50**

**54,417.00**

**Overseas Tour Accounts**

HSBC account ending 6186	298.15
HSBC account ending 5929	2,957.08
	<b>3,255.23</b>





**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

ISLINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY.

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 JULY 2022

Charity no  
(if any)

1068263

Set out on pages

2.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation  
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act  
2011 ("the Act").

Independent  
examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with  
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material  
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of  
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

31/2/23.

Name:

PAULA DENTON.

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

N/A.

Address:

23, ST. PETER'S STREET,  
LONDON, N1 8TP.



**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE.