

VASARI SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1071299

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1998-09-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Flat 5
Banks House
2 Clifton Road
Isleworth
Middlesex
TW7 4FH

Phone 07490421792

Email treasurer@vasarisingers.org

Website www.vasarisingers.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS: AND FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF SUCH CHARITABLE BODIES OR FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE AS THE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

Activities: To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the performance of public concerts.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£32,838	£37,398	-	-
2024-03-31	£34,836	£28,825	-	-
2023-03-31	£38,411	£39,641	-	-
2022-03-31	£33,512	£38,650	-	-
2021-03-31	£21,784	£19,466	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Mark Edward Robertson	Chair	2021-01-13
Daniel James Burges		2026-01-28
Elena Carlton Jones		2024-01-24
Elizabeth Sarah Limb		2023-01-25
Giles Peter Charles Gabriel		2023-01-25

VASARI SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1071299

Accounts

Vasari Singers - Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-25 (Year ending 31st March 2025)

Review of the Year

The Board met regularly throughout the year to discuss the priorities for the coming year and beyond, as we reached the half-way point of the Five-Year Plan which will culminate in the retirement of Musical Director, Jeremy Backhouse. We broadly maintained the same strategic priorities as those set out for the previous financial year.

These priorities, in no particular order, are:

1. Programming and budgeting for a full season of diverse engagements
2. Regular communication with members through letters from the Chair and other means
3. Continuing to commission and champion new music
4. Succession planning
5. Planning the tour to New York for 2025
6. Songs of Farewell project – commissioning seven contemporary composers to create reimagined works based on texts set by CHH Parry
7. Making the choir fit for the next generation
8. Creative use of members and their gifts to support the choir
9. Developing and optimising the use of social media and our digital presence
10. Maintaining strong and transparent governance and financial regulation

Much progress has been made against these priorities, some of which are by nature medium- to long-term goals. As ever, there is more to be done, and we acknowledge the support and encouragement of all members as we continue to work towards these goals.

Significant efforts have gone into planning for our tour to New York in April 2025, and we are indebted to members who have volunteered to coordinate arrangements for the tour, avoiding the use of a costly tour company and with the aim of making the tour accessible to all budgets. Our week will be centred around a performance of the Bach B minor Mass with the choir of St Thomas' Fifth Avenue, and we will join them again for services on Palm Sunday as well as performing our own concerts in St Thomas' and in Ridgewood, NJ with Ramapo College's CantaNOVA ensemble.

We continue to work with the seven long-standing friends of Vasari selected as composers for the reimagined Songs of Farewell project. Gabriel Jackson, Will Todd, Francis Pott, Cecelia McDowall, Roxanna Panufnik, Bob Chilcott and Jonathan Rathbone will each compose a movement setting the texts used by Parry in his 1916 composition, with an additional *Requiem Aeternam* movement to close the work.

Performance highlights in the first part of the year included a weekend in Exeter Cathedral, where we were made most welcome; a joyful concert in Owslebury (for which we thank Nicky and Jon Scott); and our usual end-of-season weekend in Canterbury Cathedral.

After the summer break we hosted another hugely successful Come and Sing event, “Dixit vs Singet”, and returned to St Luke’s Battersea for their All Souls’ service in November. Between these two engagements we spent an enjoyable weekend in Tonbridge School, recording our next album of close-harmony pieces – this will be released on Naxos later in 2025 and is provisionally titled “The Music Never Ends”. We ended the year with our traditional Christmas concerts with the Michael Varah Memorial Fund (this year in St Mary-le-Bow whilst St Stephen Walbrook was being refurbished), and our own promotion in St Paul’s, Covent Garden.

We finished off the year with a pre-tour Lenten concert in St Bride’s, Fleet Street. The programme featured several works that Vasari will be performing in New York in April, as well as Frank Bridge’s extended anthem, *A Prayer*, recorded by Vasari 25 years ago and released on an album alongside Parry’s *Songs of Farewell*. This theme of revisiting works from the choir’s history will continue in the coming years by way of tribute to all the wonderful achievements of the choir under its founding MD, Jeremy Backhouse.

Financial position

The financial results of the Charity are reported on pages 5-7. Our reserves of £24.2k at the end of the reporting year are considered consistent with our reserves policy to maintain funds sufficient to support the ongoing operations of the Charity for a period of between three and six months and to ensure funds are accumulated to support larger projects on a periodic basis.

Under Sections 144 and 145 of the Charities Act 2011 an audit is not required for this year; the Trustees of the Charity have elected for the accounts to be examined by an independent examiner and their report is on page 4.

Governance and administration

Vasari Singers is a Society and a UK registered charity (number 1071299) and is governed by a constitution. The primary object of Vasari Singers is “to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts”.

The Society’s members are those that have been invited to join the choir as a full member, paying the relevant annual subscription. Its management is vested in a board that comprises the Officers of the Charity (being the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer) and up to three other members, all of whom are elected by and from the members on an annual basis. The board may co-opt a member onto the board, pending election at the next AGM. The Music Director may attend all board meetings.

The Board has simplified the management of our Risk Register, mitigated many of the previously identified risks and resolved to review the Risk Register at six monthly intervals.

During the reporting year and subsequently (except as otherwise indicated), the board comprised the following members:

Chair	Paul Robertson
Secretary	Elena Carlton Jones
Treasurer	Imants Auziņš
Vice-chair	Giles Gabriel
Librarian	Liz Limb
Choir Fixer	Alison Benton

The Music Director is Jeremy Backhouse.

The choir's registered address and contact details are:

Vasari Singers
c/o St Luke's Church Office
194 Ramsden Road
London SW12 8RQ
secretary@vasarisingers.org or info@vasarisingers.org
www.vasarisingers.org

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VASARI SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Vasari Singers for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out in pages 2 - 4.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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


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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Vasari Singers as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Robinson ACA
47 Holmdene Avenue
London
SE24 9LB

22 January 2026

Vasari Singers

Income and expenditure account 2024/25

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)	
Concert income	14,543	Concert expenditure	9,023
		Close harmony recording	10,615
CD sales	253	Cathedral expenditure	3,727
Royalties received	151	Music purchase	575
Sponsorship/donations	2,182	Publicity etc	329
Subscriptions	15,371	Fees	11,498
		Administration	1,338
Interest	338	Miscellaneous	293
Total income	32,838	Total expenditure	37,398
Excess of income over expenditure	-4,560		

Vasari Singers

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2025

	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024
Current account	2,644	3,931
Deposit account	8,938	24,899
Debtors		
<i>2023/24 subscriptions tax relief due</i>	<i>2,503</i>	
<i>2023/24 subscriptions due</i>	<i>687</i>	
<i>2023/24 donations tax relief due</i>	<i>491</i>	
<i>Exeter Apr '24 expenses</i>	<i>123</i>	
<i>Owslebury Jun '24 expenses</i>	<i>80</i>	
<i>Close harmony recording Oct '24 expenses</i>	<i>165</i>	
<i>CD float</i>	<i>50</i>	
		4,099
2024/25 subscriptions tax relief due	2,512	
2024/25 subscriptions due	342	
2024/25 donations tax relief due	182	
Songs of Farewell expenses '27	7,500	
NY Tour Apr '25 expenses	1,661	
Close harmony CD Launch Jul '25	3,000	
Men's shirts paid in 2024/25	1,724	
CD float	50	
	16,971	
Creditors		
<i>2024/25 advance subs</i>	<i>1,836</i>	
<i>Fees paid in 2024/25</i>	<i>1,397</i>	
<i>Owslebury Jun '24 advance ticket income</i>	<i>933</i>	
		4,167
2025/26 advance subs	1,368	
Fees paid in 2025/26	2,321	
NY Tour Apr '25 income received	660	
	4,349	
Net current assets	24,204	28,763
Reserves		
Unrestricted reserve	24,204	28,763
Restricted reserve	0	0

Analysis of reserves

	Unrestricted reserve	Restricted reserve
Brought forward at 1 Apr 2024	28,763	0
Result for year	-4,559	
Unrestricted reserves used in year		
Restricted reserves used in year		
Carried forward at 31 March 2025	24,204	0

VASARI SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1071299

Accounts

Vasari Singers - Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 (Year ending 31st March 2024)

Review of the Year

The Board met regularly throughout the year to discuss the priorities for the coming year and beyond, working to implement the Five Year Plan leading up to the retirement of Musical Director, Jeremy Backhouse. We broadly maintained the same strategic priorities as those set out for the previous financial year.

These priorities, in no particular order, are:

1. Programming and budgeting for a full season of diverse engagements
2. Regular communication with members through letters from the Chair and other means
3. Continuing to commission and champion new music
4. Succession planning
5. Planning the tour to New York for 2025
6. Songs of Farewell project – commissioning seven contemporary composers to create reimagined works based on texts set by CHH Parry
7. Making the choir fit for the next generation
8. Creative use of members and their gifts to support the choir
9. Developing and optimising the use of social media and our digital presence
10. Maintaining strong and transparent governance and financial regulation

Much progress has been made against these priorities, some of which are by nature medium- to long-term goals. As ever, there is more to be done and we acknowledge the support and encouragement of all members as we continue to work towards these goals.

A tour to New York around Palm Sunday has now been confirmed, centred around a performance of the Bach B minor Mass with the choir of St Thomas' Fifth Avenue. We are also hoping to sing the Palm Sunday services in St Thomas' and additional concert opportunities are also being explored.

We have also confirmed the involvement of seven long-standing friends of Vasari as composers for the reimagined Songs of Farewell project. Gabriel Jackson, Will Todd, Francis Pott, Cecelia McDowall, Roxanna Panufnik, Bob Chilcott and Jonathan Rathbone will each compose a movement setting the texts used by Parry in his 1916 composition, with an additional *Requiem Aeternam* movement to close the work.

Performance highlights in the first part of the year included a weekend in Southwell Minster, where we were made most welcome; a packed Come and Sing event featuring Coronation Anthems from across the centuries; a wedding and summer's evening concert in Duns Tew in Oxfordshire, and our usual end-of-season weekend in Canterbury Cathedral.

After the summer break we performed a sell-out concert of the Rachmaninov *Vespers* with soprano Rebekah Jones and tenor Mārtiņš Šmaukstelis, followed by our annual All Souls' service at St Luke's Battersea, and our traditional Christmas concerts with the Michael Varah Memorial Fund in St Stephen Walbrook, and our own promotion in St Paul's, Covent Garden. Our St Paul's concert this year also saw the launch of our latest recording, *Music on Christmas Morning*, which is the second of our two releases with baritone Roderick Williams. On this disc he can be heard most memorably in Gerald Finzi's haunting *In Terra Pax*, which also features our own Jocelyn Somerville as soprano soloist. The title track for this recording, by young British composer Helena Paish, is the latest entry on the list of Vasari commissions.

We finished off the year with a contemplative Lenten concert in St Bride's, Fleet Street. The programme featured several works that Vasari has performed and recorded in its history, including the Pizzetti *De Profundis* and *Messa di Requiem*, and Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir* which is a choir favourite. This theme of revisiting works from the choir's history will continue in the coming years by way of tribute to all the wonderful achievements of the choir under its founding MD, Jeremy Backhouse.

Financial position

The financial results of the Charity are reported on pages 5 to 7. Our reserves of £28.8k at the end of the reporting year are considered consistent with our reserves policy to maintain funds sufficient to support the ongoing operations of the Charity for a period of between three and six months and to ensure funds are accumulated to support larger projects on a periodic basis.

Under Sections 144 and 145 of the Charities Act 2011 an audit is not required for this year; the Trustees of the Charity have elected for the accounts to be examined by an independent examiner and their report is on page 4.

Governance and administration

Vasari Singers is a Society and a UK registered charity (number 1071299) and is governed by a constitution. The primary object of Vasari Singers is "to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts".

The Society's members are those that have been invited to join the choir as a full member, paying the relevant annual subscription. Its management is vested in a board that comprises the Officers of the Charity (being the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer) and up to three other members, all of whom are elected by and from the members on an annual basis. The board may co-opt a member onto the board, pending election at the next AGM. The Music Director may attend all board meetings.

The Board has simplified the management of our Risk Register, mitigated many of the previously identified risks and resolved to review the Risk Register at six monthly intervals.

During the reporting year and subsequently (except as otherwise indicated), the board comprised the following members:

Chairman	Paul Robertson
Secretary	Stephanie May (until 24 th January 2024) Elena Carlton Jones (from 24 th January 2024)
Treasurer	Imants Auziņš
Vice-chair	Giles Gabriel
Librarian	Liz Limb

The Music Director is Jeremy Backhouse.

The choir's registered address and contact details are:

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c/o St Luke's Church Office
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London SW12 8RQ
secretary@vasarisingers.org or info@vasarisingers.org
www.vasarisingers.org

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VASARI SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Vasari Singers for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out in pages 5 - 7.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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


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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Vasari Singers as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Robinson ACA
47 Holmdene Avenue
London

SE24 9LB

28 January 2025

Vasari Singers

Income and expenditure account 2023/24

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)	
Concert income	15,283	Concert expenditure	11,089
CD sales	1,680	Cathedral expenditure	3,872
Royalties received	87	Music purchase	525
Sponsorship/donations	2,691	Publicity etc	383
Subscriptions	14,825	Fees	10,949
		Administration	1,658
Interest	270	Miscellaneous	328
Total income	34,836	Total expenditure	28,825
Excess of income over expenditure	6,011		

Vasari Singers

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2024

	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
Current account	3,931	4,560
Deposit account	24,899	20,230
 Debtors		
<i>2022/23 subscriptions tax relief due</i>	1,605	
<i>2022/23 subscriptions due</i>	194	
<i>2022/23 donations tax relief due</i>	417	
<i>Xmas CD recording income due</i>	1,192	
<i>Southwell Apr '23 expenses</i>	10	
<i>Come and Sing May '23 expenses</i>	11	
<i>CD float</i>	50	
		3,479
2023/24 subscriptions tax relief due	2,503	
2023/24 subscriptions due	687	
2023/24 donations tax relief due	491	
Exeter Apr '24 expenses	123	
Owslebury Jun '24 expenses	80	
Close harmony recording Oct '24 expenses	165	
CD float	50	
	4,099	
 Creditors		
<i>2023/24 advance subs</i>	1,590	
<i>Fees paid in 2023/24</i>	1,240	
<i>Xmas CD recording expenses paid in 2023/24</i>	1,626	
<i>Come and Sing May '23 advance ticket sales</i>	561	
<i>Duns Tew Wedding Jun '23 advance deposit</i>	500	
		5,517
2024/25 advance subs	1,836	
Fees paid in 2024/25	1,397	
Owslebury Jun '24 advance ticket income	933	
	4,167	
Net current assets	28,763	22,752

Analysis of reserves

	Unrestricted reserve	Restricted reserve
Brought forward at 1 Apr 2023	22,752	0
Result for year	6,011	
Unrestricted reserves used in year		
Restricted reserves used in year		
Carried forward at 31 March 2024	28,763	0

VASARI SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1071299

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for 2022-23 (Year ending 31st March 2023)

Review of the Year

The Board met early in the year to discuss the priorities for the coming year and beyond, as we finally felt as if we were throwing off the shackles of the Covid pandemic and could reliably plan for a full programme once again.

These priorities, in no particular order, are:

1. Programming and budgeting for a full season of diverse engagements
2. Regular communication with members through letters from the Chair and other means
3. Continuing to commission and champion new music
4. Succession planning, including the "Five Year Plan"
5. Consideration of a possible tour to New York in 2025
6. Making the choir fit for the next generation
7. Creative use of members and their gifts to support the choir
8. Developing and optimising the use of social media and our digital presence
9. Maintaining strong and transparent governance and financial regulation

Much progress has been made against these priorities, some of which are by nature medium- to long-term goals. As ever, there is more to be done and we acknowledge the support and encouragement of all members as we continue to work towards these goals.

On the subject of succession planning, the Board met in July 2022 to discuss the plans for the next five years, leading to Jeremy's planned retirement in 2027. These include a proposed tour to New York, linking up with long-standing Vasari friend Jeremy Filsell at St Thomas' Fifth Avenue, and an ambitious commission of a reimagined *Songs of Farewell* – six new pieces using the same texts set by CHH Parry. An EGM was convened on 21st September 2022 to inform members of our plans, and to gather support for more formal succession planning activities that will be needed over the coming years.

Our first musical engagement of the year was a slightly unconventional Cathedral weekend in Coventry. Due to the Cathedral being booked out for a BBC orchestra concert on the Saturday, we were obliged to relocate to the nearby Holy Trinity Church for Saturday evensong, and this made the weekend feel slightly disjointed. Despite last-minute Covid absences we managed to put on a good show, and we were brilliantly supported by George Castle on the organ.

This was followed in May with 'Songs and Sonnets' in Guildford, promoted by Hennessey Brown Music. It was lovely to sing to a full church again, and to support the local Oakleaf charity. We then returned to lovely Fairwarp to join their Platinum Jubilee celebrations, with Covid rearing its ugly head once again as Jeremy succumbed and the choir were subjected to a stand-in conducting Chair for a couple of rehearsals! Despite this, the concert went

really well and welcome was as warm as ever. We finished the season with our long-awaited 'Radical Masses' concert in St Peter's Eaton Square, combining Palestrina and Panufnik with a sprinkling of tubular bells, harp and organ – we were blessed yet again with some truly first-class young soloists, it truly is a joy to be able to collaborate with such excellent musicians.

We returned after the summer break to our regular reauditions and then it was straight into preparations for the launch concert for our latest recording, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* (and other British choral anthems). This is the first of our two albums featuring ex-Vasari (tenuous but true) Roderick Williams, and it was an absolute delight to welcome Roddy to St Luke's where we performed to a packed house and rapturous applause.

Next on the agenda was a guest appearance with Vivace, Jeremy's "other" choir, for a performance of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* along with the RVW *Five Mystical Songs*. What a treat to hear Thomas Nießer (with whom we have worked previously) as the baritone soloist in both works, and we are grateful to Vivace for welcoming us so warmly and allowing us to share in a wonderful evening.

And then into the Christmas season, with the Michael Varah Memorial Fund concert in St Stephen's, Walbrook followed by a return to Guildford for a joint venture with Hennessey Brown Music, and then our own promotion Christmas with Vasari concert in St Paul's, Covent Garden. Both London concerts were affected by rail and tube strikes, so we were fortunate to be able to offer a live-stream option for the Covent Garden concert, which was well received. We were joined by Jonny Hennessey-Brown on the 'cello for the latter two concerts, performing the RVW *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*.

Finally, in February we returned to Tonbridge School to complete the recording of Christmas music that will form the second of our Roddy Williams collaboration albums. We also recorded our most recent commission, *Winter Song* by Dominique Le Gendre, and a trio of pieces by Greco-Australian composer Nestor Taylor, *Children's Garden*, setting texts by R L Stevenson. We were privileged again to be accompanied by Martin Ford, and to have Adrian Peacock and Dave Rowell as producer and engineer. This album will be released later in 2023 on the Naxos label.

We remain deeply grateful for all the support offered to the choir by our Patrons and Friends, and we marked the retirement of long-standing supporter and Patron, Robert Willis, from his post as Dean of Canterbury Cathedral with a letter from the choir, thanking him for his support and encouragement over so many years.

Financial position

The financial results of the Charity are reported on pages 6 - 8. Our reserves of £22,752 at the end of the reporting year are considered consistent with our reserves policy to maintain funds sufficient to support the ongoing operations of the Charity for a period of between

three and six months and to ensure funds are accumulated to support larger projects on a periodic basis.

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Chairman	Paul Robertson
Secretary	Stephanie May
Treasurer	Imants Auziņš
Vice-chair	Giles Gabriel (from 18 th May 2022)
Concert Manager, Choir Fixer & Publicity	Alison Benton (until 25 th January 2023)
Librarian and Technology	Yvonne Connell (until September 2022)
Librarian	Liz Limb (from September 2022)

The Music Director is Jeremy Backhouse.

The choir’s registered address and contact details are:

Vasari Singers
c/o St Luke’s Church Office
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www.vasarisingers.org

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VASARI SINGERS

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Rachel Robinson ACA
47 Holmdene Avenue
London
SE24 9LB

31 January 2024

Vasari Singers

Income and expenditure account 2022/23

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)	
Concert income	20,035	Concert expenditure	13,843
CD sales	1,522	Cathedral expenditure	1,439
Royalties received	268	Christmas CD recording	7,970
Sponsorship/donations	2,797	DLG commission	2730
Restricted donations	1,677	Music purchase	429
		CD purchases	210
Subscriptions	12,063		
Interest	50	Publicity etc	546
Total income	38,411	Fees	10,748
		Administration	1,517
		Miscellaneous	210
Excess of expenditure over income	1,230	Total expenditure	39,641

Vasari Singers

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2023

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
Current account	4,560	1,805
Deposit account	20,230	21,680
Debtors		
<i>2021/22 subscriptions tax relief due</i>	2,533	
<i>2021/22 donations tax relief due</i>	652	
<i>2021/22 restricted donations tax relief due</i>	2,525	
<i>SPES Jul '22 expenses</i>	400	
<i>Guildford May '22 expenses</i>	150	
<i>Coventry Apr '22 expenses</i>	27	
<i>CD float</i>	50	
		6,337
<i>2022/23 subscriptions tax relief due</i>	1,605	
<i>2022/23 subscriptions due</i>	194	
<i>2022/23 donations tax relief due</i>	417	
<i>Xmas CD recording income due</i>	1,192	
<i>Southwell Apr '23 expenses</i>	10	
<i>Come and Sing May '23 expenses</i>	11	
<i>CD float</i>	50	
	3,479	
Creditors		
<i>2021/22 royalties payable</i>	4	
<i>2022/23 advance subs</i>	1,775	
<i>Fees paid in 2022/23</i>	2,175	
<i>GBA #2 recording expenses paid in 2022/23</i>	1,473	
<i>SPES Feb '21 expenses paid in 2022/23</i>	289	
		5,716
<i>2023/24 advance subs</i>	1,590	
<i>Fees paid in 2023/24</i>	1,240	
<i>Xmas CD recording expenses paid in 2023/24</i>	1,626	
<i>Come and Sing May '23 advance ticket sales</i>	561	
<i>Duns Tew Wedding Jun '23 advance deposit</i>	500	
	5,517	5,716
Net current assets	22,752	24,107
Reserves		
Unrestricted reserve	22,752	23,982
Restricted reserve	0	125

Analysis of reserves

	Unrestricted reserve	Restricted reserve
Brought forward at 1 Apr 2022	23,982	125
Result for year	-1,230	1,577
Unrestricted reserves used in year		
Restricted reserves used in year		1,702
Carried forward at 31 March 2023	22,752	0

VASARI SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1071299

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for 2021-22 (Year ended 31st March 2022)

Review of the Year

Early in the year the Board identified some new priorities as we began to emerge from the strictures of the Covid pandemic.

Priorities (1-5 in order; others not in any particular order)

1. Planning for recovery of the choir and a return to face to face singing
2. Planning for a hybrid future
3. Programming and budgeting going into the future
4. Regular Communication with members through 'View from the Chair'
5. Making the choir fit for the next generation
6. Creative use of members and their gifts who are not on the Board
7. Digital Presence
8. Developing and optimising social media
9. Developing the Friends Scheme
10. Commence succession planning by inviting guest conductors as and when appropriate
11. Outreach, recruitment and diversity
12. Continuing to improve governance and financial regulation

We continue to make progress on these priorities but are aware that there is always more to be done; some are by their nature medium to long term goals and others are permanently ongoing.

The Board worked very hard to develop and become more collaborative, flexible and collegiate and improve the way of working as we face the challenges which we had identified. In particular, the Board now gets permanent access to the financial position of the choir and a formal report at every Board meeting; the budgeting of each activity is agreed formally by the Board as a whole. The Treasurer has facilitated this and continues to develop and improve this essential part of our financial governance. We have worked on the Risk Register, dealt with many of the outstanding items and simplified its format. It has been agreed that this will be formally reviewed at a Board meeting every six months.

We used Zoom to produce a video to present our recording of Dupré's *De Profundis* to a new audience. The project was done in collaboration with St Thomas, 5th Avenue, New York where the organist who played for our original recording, Dr. Jeremy Filsell, is now Director of Music. Some of the movements were recorded anew in New York. The recording was streamed in June and the film was very ably produced by one of our Board members, Alison Benton. In May we delivered, by Zoom, a 'Come and Sing' focussing on C.V. Stanfords's *Three Motets* which was well attended by an international audience. In these difficult months we adapted as best we could and, against the sector trend, not only maintained a togetherness and community but also expanded our horizons in terms of both activities and supporters using both Zoom and YouTube.

We were able to forge a relationship with Hennessey-Brown music. In light of our responsibility as a Registered Charity, we note this is no ordinary agency. Their strap line is 'Creativity, diversity and empathy in music management'. They have a heart for mental illness and diversity. We have undertaken fee paying engagements with them and one of the co-founders, Jonathan Hennessey-Brown played cello with us in the February Concert in St Peter's Eaton Square. (www.hennesseybrownmusic.com)

Zoom cannot replace the real thing and it was an absolute delight to return to 'in-person' singing and performance. The Board spent much time working on a recovery plan for the choir for when the pandemic receded and also working out how we could safely return to in-person singing. Plans were made so that, as soon as possible, the choir would once again be able to get back to its core activity.

Some of our members found the obligation to wear masks and keep social distance during rehearsal to be rather onerous but to the best of our knowledge, we did not spread covid due to any rehearsal or performance and we have also had very little hesitancy from choir members about attending rehearsals even among those members who are most vulnerable.

Despite everything we managed to rehearse for and sing very well in Canterbury Cathedral in July even though socially distanced and wearing masks except when singing.

Against all the odds we also engaged in two hugely successful weekends of recording in Tonbridge School and the recording will be released and launched in October 2022 on the Naxos label. In this venture we were strongly supported financially by a most generous anonymous donation of 10K + gift aid. We were thrilled to be able to engage Roderick Williams and none of us will ever forget the moment when he first came into the chapel where we were recording, gave a winning smile, and opened his voice-box - pure magic.

We were then into the Christmas cycle and on the very night when we sang a delicious concert in St Stephen's, Walbrook, for the Michael Varah Memorial Fund, it was clear that the Omicron clouds were gathering. As a result we had regrettably to cancel our concert in St Paul's, Covent Garden. We produced a brief 'Christmas with Vasari' video which we streamed to compensate for the cancelling of the Covent Garden concert with some Carols which we had, auspiciously as it turned out, recorded during our recording sessions in Tonbridge School for just such an eventuality.

Inevitably, an event as big as the Covid pandemic has meant that a few people have not kept in touch with us for all sorts of reasons. The door has remained open to them and we expect to see some return as society at large resumes a degree of normality. The Board aspires to be more active in recruitment and in trying to increase diversity in the membership. We are delighted to have recruited a number of new members.

As Omicron infections decreased and winter turned to spring the Board felt able to relax protocols again in early 2022.

We were able to perform a concert of French music, including a very emotional Duruflé Requiem in St Peter's Eaton Square in February which really felt as though we were getting back to some sense of normality. This was followed in early March by Evensong in St Luke's church, where we regularly rehearse.

The musical year ended on a sad note for Vasari, as we had the privilege of singing at the funeral of Bidy Backhouse, Jeremy's beloved mum. Bidy was a staunch supporter and friend of Vasari, and it was deeply moving to join singers from many generations of her church choirs to pay a fitting musical tribute to a wonderful woman who will be greatly missed.

We remain deeply grateful for all the support that our Patrons and Friends provide to the choir. Vasari Singers relies on funding from sources other than subscriptions to put on concerts and events and to sing Cathedral services, so every little helps. As well as the financial support, it is lovely to see so many familiar smiling faces at our events - thank you.

Financial position

The financial results of the Charity are reported on pages 2 to 4. Our reserves of £24,106 at the end of the year are considered consistent with our reserves policy to maintain funds sufficient to support the ongoing operations of the Charity for a period of between 3 and 6 months and to ensure funds are accumulated to support larger projects on a periodic basis. The Covid epidemic has had a mixed effect on our finances: on the one hand, there has been little income except for donations and subscriptions; on the other hand, expenses (both those for concerts etc and those relating to rehearsals) have been reduced for much of the year, although there have been some increased expenses to deliver a number of online projects. Additionally, pre-COVID income projections for own-promotions concerts have been unattainable with less ticket buyers than before the pandemic, despite increased marketing efforts.

Under Sections 144 and 145 of the Charities Act 2011 an audit is not required for this year; the Trustees of the Charity have elected for the accounts to be examined by an independent examiner and their report is on page 1.

Financial policy

As a matter of accounting policy, the Board has decided to not hold CD stock on the balance sheet going forward to better align with stock accounting practices for charities and for simplified financial reporting.

Governance and administration

Vasari Singers is a Society and a UK registered charity (number 1071299) and is governed by a constitution. The primary object of Vasari Singers is “to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts”.

The Society’s members are those that have been invited to join the choir as a full member, paying the relevant annual subscription. Its management is vested in a board that comprises the Officers of the Charity (being the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer) and up to three other members, all of whom are elected by and from the members on an annual basis. The board may co-opt a member onto the board, pending election at the next AGM. The Music Director may attend all board meetings.

The Board has simplified the management of our Risk Register, mitigated many of the previously identified risks and resolved to review the Risk Register at six monthly intervals.

During the reporting year and subsequently (except as otherwise indicated), the board comprised the following members:

Chairman

David Jackson (Until 26th
January 2022)
Paul Robertson (Elected 26th January
2022)

Secretary

Stephanie May

Treasurer

Imants Auziņš

Concert Manager, Choir Fixer & Publicity

Alison Benton

Librarian and Technology

Yvonne Connell

The Music Director is Jeremy Backhouse.

The choir's registered address and contact details are:

Vasari Singers

c/o St Luke's Church Office

194 Ramsden Road

London SW12 8RQ

secretary@vasarisingers.org or info@vasarisingers.org

www.vasarisingers.org

Paul Robertson

Chair, Vasari Singers

25th January 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VASARI SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Vasari Singers for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out in pages 6 - 8.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Vasari Singers as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Rachel Robinson ACA
47 Holmdene Avenue
London
SE24 9LB

28 January 2023

Vasari Singers

Income and expenditure account 2021/22

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)	
Concert income	3,784.66	Concert expenditure	6,771.39
CD sales	459.84	Cathedral expenditure	1,728.58
Royalties received	336.96	GBA #2 recording	14,824.12
Sponsorship/donations	5,118.13	Music purchase	461.24
Restricted donations	12,625.00	CD purchases	182.40
		CD stock write off	1,663.00
Subscriptions	11,184.68	Royalties paid	4.00
Interest	2.68	Publicity etc	418.00
Total income	33,511.95	Fees	10,590.40
		Administration	1,375.94
		Miscellaneous	631.23
Excess of expenditure over income	5,137.61	Total expenditure	38,649.56

Vasari Singers
Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2022

	31 Mar 2022 (£)	31 Mar 2021 (£)
Current account	1,805.11	1,153.41
Deposit account	21,679.90	24,236.99
CD stock	0.00	1,663.00
Debtors		
<i>2020/21 subscriptions tax relief due</i>	1,877.90	
<i>2020/21 donations tax relief due</i>	757.75	
<i>CD float</i>	50.00	
		2,685.65
2021/22 subscriptions tax relief due	2,533.18	
2021/22 donations tax relief due	651.67	
2021/22 restricted donations tax relief due	2,525.00	
SPES Jul '22 expenses	400.00	
Guildford May '22 expenses	150.00	
Coventry Apr '22 expenses	27.32	
CD float	50.00	
	6,337.17	
Creditors		
<i>2020/21 royalties payable</i>	219.00	
<i>2020/21 advance subs</i>	276.00	
		495.00
2021/22 royalties payable	4.00	
2022/23 advance subs	1,774.50	
Fees paid in 2022/23	2,175.00	
GBA #2 recording expenses paid in 2022/23	1,473.38	
SPES Feb '21 expenses paid in 2022/23	288.80	
	5,715.68	
Net current assets	24,106.50	29,244.05
Reserves		
General reserve	0.00	6,820.96
Sponsorship reserve	0.00	22,423.09
Unrestricted reserve (legacy general and sponsorship reserve combined)	23,981.50	0.00
Restricted reserve	125.00	0.00

Analysis of reserves

	Unrestricted reserve (legacy general and sponsorship reserve combined)	Restricted reserve
Brought forward at 1 Apr 2021	29,244.05	0.00
Result for year	737.45	12,625.00
Unrestricted reserves used in year	6,000.00	
Restricted reserves used in year		12,500.00
Carried forward at 31 March 2022	23,981.50	125.00