



Company Registration number 03705788
Charity number 1080541

Trustees' Annual Report

&

Financial Statements

for the Year ending 28 February 2021

BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
Company Registration No: 03705788
Registered Charity No: 1080541

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The Trustees of the Charity (Directors of the Company) have pleasure in presenting their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year beginning 1 March 2020 and ending 28 February 2021.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name: BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA

Registered Charity number: 1080541, entered in the Central Register of Charities on 3 May 2000

Registered Company number: 03705788

Principal address (registered office):

Holcot House, Market Square, Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2JJ

The Trustees of the Charity, who are Directors of the Company, holding office through the year were:

Hilary Reid Evans (Chairman)

Gillian Mary French

Nicholas Garthwaite

Jeremy Peter Gray

Andrew Hugh Penny

Damian Edward Riddle

Michael St. John Parker

Of these Trustees, Gillian French and Jeremy Gray act unpaid as Artistic Directors.

Our Administrator, Anthony Hall, also acts as Company Secretary; he is not a Trustee of the Charity.

Website: www.bamptonopera.org

Bankers:

HSBC, The Peak, 333 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ

Independent Examiner:

Peter Saltiel, Church & Charity Accounts Service, Planchadeau, 23460 Saint-Pierre-Bellevue, France

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Company was incorporated in England and Wales on 2 February 1999, under registered number 03705788. It is limited by Guarantee and does not have a share capital.

There are currently 21 members of the Company.

Trustees, who must be or agree to become members of the Company, are appointed by existing Trustees. Trustees receive no salary or remuneration. The Company has introduced an induction programme for new Trustees.

The Board met eight times during the year: the Coronavirus pandemic necessitated that all meetings were held online. These were supplemented by the circulation of additional information and discussion as necessary, principally by email.

Our Patrons, whose role is honorary but who support us through their interest and attendance, are Bonaventura Bottone, Brian Kay, Sir Roger Norrington, Andrew Parrott, Sir David Pountney, Sir Curtis Price and Jean Rigby.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Company's Object set out in its governing document is "to advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular but not exclusively the art of opera". To further this Object the Company performs a short summer season of opera with regular venues in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and London, as well as occasionally by invitation and promotion at other venues and festivals. An annual concert is also held in Bampton Parish Church on or close to 21 December and other concerts and events are arranged when appropriate.

The Company specialises in rare classical-period repertory, sung in English with the libretti usually translated by the Artistic Directors. The Company has revived or given the UK premières of many significant rare operas from the later eighteenth century and is widely recognised for its expertise in this field.

The Company supports outstanding young professional singers and other practitioners early in their careers. Although we do not exclusively engage young artists, we endeavour to seek out and promote emerging talent. Many of our young singers find that their experience with us is educational as we nurture their talents in a supportive atmosphere. Through working with more established musicians and creative teams and receiving the interest of the public and press, their early careers are promoted. We established a biennial Young Singers' Competition in 2013 to further our support of young musicians.

We present opera in a relaxed and accessible atmosphere at reasonable prices, without the formal etiquette sometimes associated with opera-going.

The Company maintains membership of The Opera and Music Theatre Forum and of Making Music which provide support services and guidance on a wide range of issues.

The Company relies heavily on a wide range of services provided by volunteers, especially living in or near Bampton, and is very grateful for their enthusiastic work. Many local residents host musicians during the Bampton week. We thank our local volunteers by means of a lunchtime reception in Bampton in September.

A Risk Assessment, prepared by the Trustees, is kept under review. This covers issues, amongst others, relating to key personnel, liabilities for accident or damage to property, contractual problems, cancellation liability, venue unavailability, funding, safeguarding and compliance, notably regarding disability. Production-specific Risk Assessments are also drawn up and relate especially to health and safety on stage

and within the production action. The Company maintains insurance through the Making Music Insurance Scheme underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance, which includes £5 million public liability cover, £10 million employer's liability cover, and abandonment cover of £25,000.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

We offer identifiable benefits:

We stage opera productions (as well as occasional concerts) in rural locations (Bampton and Westonbirt) as well as in London; we thus enable local rural communities to experience a high standard of professional music-making, at reasonable prices. We make our operas accessible and enjoyable to those in the public who may not have knowledge of the genre. The high professional standard of our work is testified in press reviews both locally and nationally. Each performance is attended by several hundred people. We are delighted that our audiences include regular opera-goers along with a significant proportion of 'non-traditional' public, i.e. those who do not habitually attend live classical music or opera.

We advance the education of the public through our performances themselves, especially as they are generally of unusual and rarely-performed music. We support the educational aspect of these performances with free pre-performance talks, always well attended, by personnel involved in the productions or visiting academics. We also research and commission extensive educational notes to publish in our programme booklets; these notes are also available on our website. The quality of these notes has been praised by leading critics.

Our performers are professional musicians, often at an early stage of their careers. We deliver identifiable educational benefits to them through the process of rehearsal, discussion and performance, under the guidance of the Artistic Directors. We also provide an educational benefit to our volunteers – some of these are students, and others are adults up to and well beyond retirement age: these volunteers experience (often for the first time) different facets of operatic work under our supervision.

Our work has led to newly commissioned editions of previously unpublished music and new English translations (thus, in both cases, enabling greater understanding by the public). These editions and translations are listed on our website and have been used by other companies.

We are not aware that any detriment or harm arises from carrying out our activities.

We provide benefit to the general public:

We provide benefit to every member of the general public who attends a performance. There is no geographical restriction applied to the opportunity to benefit, although our venues are clearly in defined localities. We advertise very widely and, on our website, and attract the public from well beyond local areas in the UK (as well as some from Europe and the USA). Our venues are wheelchair-accessible. We believe there are no other restrictions to the opportunity to benefit.

The high cost of professional productions means that we must charge admission to the general public to attend most of our performances. Nevertheless, we have always aimed to keep ticket prices at a reasonable level in order to encourage access. Half-price tickets are available at Bampton and Westonbirt for people under 16. In Bampton we also offer a quota of free tickets, in agreement with Bampton Parish Council, to those local residents who may wish to attend a performance but cannot afford to do so. For our performance at St John's Smith Square concessions are available to a range of sections of the public. Our ticket prices are considered to be very reasonable in comparison to those of other opera companies of similar quality, and our perceived excellent value-for-money is frequently commented on favourably by the press and by our audiences.

We occasionally offer an entertainment (for example a recital or talk, with refreshments) to those who financially support us through our Friends' scheme, but this benefit is considered to be incidental. We offer a free programme booklet (otherwise sold at £4) to our Friends, if desired. There are no further material benefits to Friends.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES

The rapidly escalating effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and the consequent government restrictions on performance and the imposition of lockdowns had an unavoidable detrimental effect on our activity throughout a difficult year. Plans to perform Gluck's opera *Paris and Helen* (thus marking the 250th anniversary of its première in Vienna in 1770) had to be suspended, as decided at an emergency online meeting of the Board on 19 March 2020. Throughout the year we were concerned about the well-being of our musicians, and we offered modest 'learning fees' to some for preparatory work already undertaken. Hopes and disappointments concerning what might be possible fluctuated during the year, and plans were constantly reassessed with regard to the changing laws and the safety of musicians and the public.

Ultimately no large-scale work proved possible. Partial relaxation of government regulations in the summer permitted two small-scale open-air afternoon recitals entitled *A Potpourri of Pleasures and Passions*, given by soprano Lisa Howarth and harpsichordist Robert Howarth in the garden of Cobb House, Bampton, on 30 and 31 August. Audiences were restricted to 30, all of whom welcomed the opportunity to attend live music. A significant disappointment was the cancellation at less than a week's notice, owing to the November lockdown, of a concert performance at St John's Smith Square of Gluck's *The Crown (La corona)* – this was postponed and ultimately successfully performed in May 2021. Coronavirus restrictions necessitated adjustments to our planned St Beornwald's Day concert in December: this was held on 12 December in St Mary's Church, Witney, as our usual venue of St Mary's Bampton was deemed unsuitable. The afternoon concert, *Baroque Christmas Cantatas* (music by Alessandro Scarlatti and Caldara), was given to an audience restricted to 40 and employed three singers and three instrumentalists under the direction of Andrew Griffiths; again, both participants and audiences expressed warm gratitude for the opportunity. The performance was filmed and made available online afterwards for a donation. In addition to these public performances, we provided occasional video work for singers and used these for marketing purposes and for the benefit of our ever-supportive Friends' organisation. Opportunities were also taken for a major redesign of our website and logo, and to consolidate the extensive archive of BCO material going back to 1993. Our 2019 production of Storace's *Bride & Gloom* was shortlisted as a finalist in the Rediscovered Work category in the 2020 International Opera Awards.

HELPING YOUNG MUSICIANS TO FURTHER THEIR CAREERS

Bampton Classical Opera provides a supportive experience to young professional musicians and we follow with pride the growing careers of the talented artists who have worked with us. The pandemic prevented nearly all musicians and other artists from performing in any capacity, with very serious consequences for livelihood and health. However, we noted with pleasure that Galina Averina (first prizewinner of the 2015 Bampton Young Singers' Competition) sang Marzelline in Garsington Opera's filmed *Fidelio* and Robert Anthony Gardiner appeared in Northern Opera Group's filmed *Cinderella*.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the financial year was £61,071 (2019-20: £113,691).

Income earned from tickets was £3,785 (2019-20: £39,468 including programmes, bar and advertising).

Expenditure for the financial year was £29,029 (2019-20: £117,015) and reflected the severely reduced number of performances.

The trustees have reviewed the income for the financial year with consideration to the cancellation of opera performances and have recorded receipts as deferred income in the 28 February 2021 balance sheet where appropriate.

At the time the pandemic broke early in the financial year, considerable effort (but at low cost to the charity) had already been invested in raising funds to support our 2020 season. Grants received on this basis were received from Bampton Village Community Shop, Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Joyce Grenfell Memorial Trust and the Patrick Rowland Foundation: trustees of these were informed of the need to cancel most of our activity and all agreed that we should carry forward grants until such time as we were able to use them. We are also grateful for ongoing support from Bampton Parish Council. Our autumn plans (*The Crown* and St Beornwald concert) were additionally supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant: the subsequent postponement of *The Crown* from November 2020 to May 2021 was permitted by ACE. Although grants received totalled £18,050, £3,900 has been applied to this financial year with the remainder recorded as deferred income in the balance sheet. (2019-20: £23,050).

Further funding was provided by the Friends of Bampton Classical Opera, and we are indebted to the many individuals who maintained their support even when our activities were significantly curtailed. A very generous donation was made by one individual "to help BCO survive and give employment to their performers" – it was agreed that most of this would be carried forward to permit an additional second performance of *The Crown* in May 2021. Total income from the Friends was £22,613 of which £15,688 has been allocated to this financial year, and the remainder also recorded as deferred income (2019-20: £19,897). This has been supplemented by further donations of £15,418 of which £23,005 (that includes a previous year accrual) has been allocated to this financial year, and the remainder also recorded as deferred income (2019-20: £14,507). We again held a successful Big Give Christmas Challenge in December 2020, raising funds towards our future season. We again qualified for HMRC Gift Aid and Theatre Tax relief on the basis of donations and activity during the previous year.

In this traumatic year, the generosity and kind wishes of all donors have been crucial to our financial survival, providing stability and confidence for the future. We have consequently been able to plan enhanced activity for 2021-2, subject to considerations of the ongoing pandemic situation, and thus to maintain our ambitions and charitable Object.

A Treasurer Account is held with HSBC. We also hold a Reserve Account with COIF Charities Deposit Fund (CCLA Investment Management Ltd). We maintain a reserve of £20,000 as contingency, especially in case ticket sales are poor as a result of adverse weather at our open-air venue. The Trustees believe they have sufficient reserves.

We do not have any other investments and accordingly we do not have an investment policy.

RESULTS

The results for the year and the financial position at the end of the year are shown in the following financial statements.

This Annual Report was approved on 25 October 2021 by the Board of Trustees (the Directors of the Company) of Bampton Classical Opera, and is signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Jeremy Peter Gray, Trustee



Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees/Directors/Members of the Bampton Classical Opera Ltd
Charity no.: 1080541 Company no.: 03705788

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 28th February 2021 which are set out on pages 7-14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

Peter Saltiel
Church & Charity Accounts Service
Planchadeau, 23460 Saint-Pierre-Bellevue
France

*formerly, 69 Portland Place
Greenhithe, Kent, DA9 9FE*
Dated 27 October 2021



BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
Company Registration No: 03705788
Registered Charity No: 1080541

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 28th February 2021
(Including income & expenditure account)

| | <u>Notes</u> | Unrestricted & Total Funds <u>2021</u> £ | Unrestricted & Total Funds <u>2020</u> £ |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Income | 3 | | |
| <u>Income & endowments from:</u> | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3.1 | 56,981 | 74,000 |
| Charitable Activities | 3.2 | 3,785 | 39,468 |
| Investments | 3.3 | 305 | 223 |
| Total income | | <u>61,071</u> | <u>113,691</u> |
| Expenditure | 4 | | |
| <u>Expenditure on:</u> | | | |
| Charitable Expenditure | | 29,059 | 117,015 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>29,059</u> | <u>117,015</u> |
| Net movement in funds | | 32,012 | (3,324) |
| Total funds brought forward | | 32,155 | 35,479 |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>64,167</u> | <u>32,155</u> |

All activities are regarded as continuing.

The above statement includes all recognised gains and losses during the year.

The Notes to the Accounts on pages 9 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.

BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
Company Registration No: 03705788
Registered Charity No: 1080541

Balance Sheet as at 28th February 2021

| | <u>Notes</u> | <u>2021</u> £ | <u>2020</u> £ |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Equipment | 7 | - | - |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash at bank | | 104,712 | 59,616 |
| Debtors | 5 | - | 1,156 |
| | | <u>104,712</u> | <u>60,772</u> |
| CREDITORS | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 6 | <u>(40,545)</u> | <u>(28,617)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 64,167 | 32,155 |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>64,167</u> | <u>32,155</u> |
| FUNDS | | | |
| Unrestricted Fund | | 64,167 | 32,155 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>64,167</u> | <u>32,155</u> |

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 29th February 2020:

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 7.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The Notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the Trustees / Directors on 25 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Hilary Reid Evans
Chair



Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes(s), in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and subsequent amendments, and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has sufficient reserves and that the charity is a going concern.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

There have been no changes in the basis of accounting during the year.

1.4 Changes to previous accounts

There have been no changes to the previous accounts during the financial year.

1.5 Changes to accounting estimates

There have been no changes to accounting estimates.

1.6 Judgements and Estimations

The trustees have not made any significant judgements in the process of applying the accounting policies and there are no areas of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities.

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- a) Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without specific purpose and are available as general funds.
- b) Restricted Funds are to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund. There were no restricted fund income or expenditure amounts during the current and prior financial years.

2.2 Income

- a) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- b) Where income has related expenditure, the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
- c) Income tax recoverable as Gift Aid is accounted for on a claimed basis.
- d) Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable.

2.3 Expenditure

- a) Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the charity providing activities and services for its beneficiaries.
- b) Costs of generated funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, or incurred in trading activities undertaken to raise funds.
- c) Support and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity and includes any costs which cannot be specifically identified to another expenditure.
- d) Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis and creditor amounts are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.
- e) Provisions for liabilities are measured on recognition of their historical costs and then measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.
- f) Deferred income has been included as an accrual in the accounts and released in the following year.
- g) The charity is not registered for VAT, so all costs are inclusive of VAT charged.

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

2 Accounting policies (cont'd)

2.3 Expenditure (cont'd)

- h) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.
- i) Governance costs include the preparation and examination of statutory accounts plus the costs, if any, of legal advice to trustees on the governance or constitutional matters of the charity.

2.4 Assets

- a) Tangible fixed assets are for use by the charity in fulfilling its main charitable objects.
- b) Equipment over £500 is capitalised and depreciated over a period of three years.
- c) Debtors (including trade debtors and prepayments) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount, on a time-apportioned basis.
- d) Cash means cash in hand and at bank.

2.5 Liabilities

- a) Current liabilities are obligations to pay for goods or services within one year.
- b) There are no non-current liabilities.

2.6 Staff costs and transactions with related parties

There no employees and no transactions with related parties.

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

3 Analysis of income

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 3.1 <u>Donations & legacies</u> | | |
| Friends of Bampton Classical Opera | 15,689 | 19,897 |
| Sponsorship & grants | 3,900 | 23,050 |
| Other donations | 23,006 | 14,507 |
| Tax refund | 14,386 | 16,546 |
| | <u>56,981</u> | <u>74,000</u> |
| 3.2 <u>Charitable Activities</u> | | |
| Tickets, programmes, bar & advertising | 3,785 | 36,070 |
| Young Singers' Competition | - | 3,363 |
| Miscellaneous | - | 35 |
| | <u>3,785</u> | <u>39,468</u> |
| 3.3 <u>Investments</u> | | |
| Interest | 305 | 223 |
| | <u>305</u> | <u>223</u> |
| Total Income | <u>61,071</u> | <u>113,691</u> |

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

4 Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Performers Fees | 6,720 | 47,389 |
| Technical, Music, Set & Costume Costs | 3,387 | 26,973 |
| Accommodation, Catering & Storage | 2,071 | 3,939 |
| Design, Print & Marketing | 7,134 | 15,839 |
| Young Singers' Competition & Prizes | - | 8,777 |
| | <u>19,312</u> | <u>102,917</u> |

Support Costs

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Office Expenses & Administration | 6,559 | 8,410 |
| Administrative Support | 2,500 | 5,000 |
| Accountancy | 675 | 675 |
| Companies House | 13 | 13 |
| | <u>9,747</u> | <u>14,098</u> |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total Charitable Expenditure | <u>29,059</u> | <u>117,015</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total Expenditure | <u>29,059</u> | <u>117,015</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|

5 Debtors

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepaid Expenses | - | 1,156 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>1,156</u> |

6 Creditors

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Creditors | 675 | 675 |
| Deferred Income (released in full during the following year) | 39,870 | 27,942 |
| | <u>40,545</u> | <u>28,617</u> |

BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
Company Registration No: 03705788
Registered Charity No: 1080541

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

7 Capital purchases

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Balance | - | - |
| Less Depreciation | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

8 Staff costs

There are no employees and therefore no employee was paid more than £60,000 per annum.

9 Remuneration to Trustees:

The Trustees received no remuneration and no expenses were reimbursed.