

# EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1084724

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2001-01-26

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

## Contact

---

**Address** 138b High Street  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1XS

**Phone** 01273487221

**Website** [www.eastsussexbachchoir.org](http://www.eastsussexbachchoir.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS; 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:** The choir aims to benefit its members and the wider community by the performance of a varied repertoire, principally Baroque, to a very high standard. It uses professional soloists and orchestral players who bring to performances a wide experience with some of the best-known ensembles in the country. On occasions the choir also collaborates with other choirs for special projects.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE, THE UNITED KINGDOM
- East Sussex

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£46,793	£45,354	-	-
2024-08-31	£31,026	£30,793	-	-
2023-08-31	£28,320	£28,416	-	-
2022-08-31	£36,175	£38,809	-	-
2021-08-31	£9,826	£6,518	-	-
2020-08-31	£13,584	£10,980	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>MIKE DAWNEY</b>	Chair	
Frances Margaret McLean		2022-10-29
Jannine Jones		2022-10-29
Jenny Cobley		2018-11-08
MARIA FRIEDERIKE SOPER		2011-03-26
Val Davies		2018-11-11

**EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

England & Wales - Charity number 1084724

---

# Accounts

---

## East Sussex Bach Choir Trustee Report 2024/2025

ESBC has had a busy year. Despite the main focus of our attention being the performances of Bach St Matthew Passion in Lewes and in Germany, our concerts in November (Purcell and Handel to celebrate St Cecilia's Day) and June (Purcell again for Dido and Aeneas) were both successful sell out concerts with memorable moments, of which Rebecca Leggett's Dido was probably the highlight.

The year was dominated, musically and financially by the challenges of the St Matthew Passion, and we were delighted to share the experience here, and in Waldshut, with our friends in the Kantorei Hochrhein in Lewes's Twin Town.

In Lewes, we sold out a month before the performance, emphasising yet again the lack of a decent performance space in the town. However, by opening part of our rehearsal to people who had been unable to buy tickets, we did manage to meet at least some of the demand. This also enabled attendance for those for whom evening concerts are less easy to attend.

Both performances were exceptional, and we must thank the excellent trans-national cooperation between our two music directors, John Hancorn in Lewes and Matthias Flierl in Waldshut, for managing to blend the two choirs so successfully at a distance.

The financial challenge of performing the work inspired considerable efforts from a number of members, with lasting consequences. Two groups were formed with linked though separate objectives; the fundraising group and the education group. The fundraising group, through activities such as talks and recitals and with very generous support from members and external supporters, and support from the Twinning Association, was so successful that our financial worries all but disappeared. The Education Group seized the opportunity to work with local schools with talks and even some impromptu performances to try to inspire our future members and audiences. We hope that this work will continue in future years in collaboration with other music groups in the area.

Largely as a result of the efforts to prevent a disastrous loss on the St Matthew Passion, we, as our treasurer's report shows, ended the year in a relatively strong position. This enables us to plan future repertoire that we all want to sing and perform, with exceptional professional musicians, to give the special concerts our audiences have come to expect.

The Committee continues to show total commitment to maintaining our high standards and to develop a programme of events for our audiences. We continue to work to try to expand audience engagement, particularly with a view to addressing a younger and

more diverse audience and to sustain the contribution of the Choir to the musical life of the community in the future.

With this in mind, over the summer the committee shared some ideas on how we can sustain ESBC over the next 5 years or so. We will introduce some of these as time permits, with a strategy of widening our repertoire. We also aim to introduce workshops and other activities to help engage with other singing groups as well as the wider community.

Membership of the choir remains strong, and we are delighted to continue to receive a number of new applications. We remain concerned, however, that the decline, nationally and locally, in school and community music education continues to erode a significant part of the country's music life.

However, thanks to the dedication of its membership, we are pleased to report that the position of the East Sussex Bach Choir, moving forward, is robust, musically and financially, and despite the wider financial context, we are confident that we will sustain our charitable activities and continue to contribute to the musical and cultural life of our community.

Income				Expenditure			
Subs			£11,535.80	Rehearsal Venue Hire			(£1,576.75)
Gift Aid			£2,616.38	Rehearsal Fees			(£7,346.00)
Donations			£2,705.00	Making Music			(£602.00)
<b>Concert</b>	St Cecilia		£2970.07	<b>Concert</b>	St Cecilia		(£4041.81)
	Carols		£2459.05		Carols		(£2,768.60)
	St Matthew		£18,462.09		St Matthew		(£22,832.51)
	Dido		£6,045.00		Dido		(£5,587.11)
					General *		(£599.43)
					* Bank charges, score hire, course fees, running costs		
Total Income			£46,793.39	Total Expenditure			(£45,354.21)
				Year End Total			£1,439.18

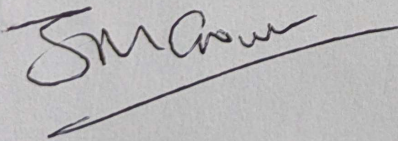
E A S T  
S U S S E X  
B A C H  
C H O I R

<b>Balance as at August 31 2024</b>		
Balance Current Account		£12,346.24
Balance Reserve Account		£11,326.40
<b>Balance as at August 31 2025</b>		
Current Account		£15,946.42
Reserve Account		£11,530.61
Current Account Surplus		£3,600.18
Reserve Account Surplus		£204.21
<b>Choir Funds Total as at August 31 2025</b>		<b>£27,477.03</b>

I have examined, without carrying out an audit, the attached accounts with the books and accounting record supplied by the Hon. Treasurer and confirm that they reflect the true financial position for the year ended August 31 2023.

Signed

Date

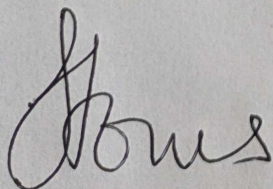


15/9/25.

**John Gower**

Signed

Date



15/9/25

**Jannine Jones** Treasurer East Sussex Bach  
Choir

**EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

England & Wales - Charity number 1084724

---

# Accounts

---

## East Sussex Bach Choir

### Annual report

Concert Schedule 2023-2024

December 2023 - **Advent music: Bach and Charpentier** in Alfriston

January 2024 - **A celebration of the music of Mr Handel** in Lewes Town Hall

March 2024 - **Bach St John Passion** in Lewes Town Hall

July 2024 - **Workshop on Purcell The Fairy Queen** in Firle Parish Church

This year has been challenging, both musically, as we would expect, and financially, as we have come to expect. While we have recovered well from the problems of lockdown in terms of our music-making, and the loyalty of our audiences, the impact of financial issues is a concern for the future as all of our costs continue to rise, with a 13% increase in the Musician's Union rate for orchestral players, and a similar increase in the hire costs for both concert and rehearsal venues. At the same time, it is difficult to increase revenue either from member subscriptions or from audiences because of the general cost of living increases.

Each of our concerts involve professional musicians and soloists and while this results in exceptional quality in the music that we offer to audiences, it is inevitable that each of our concerts run at a significant loss. However, in order to maintain our schedule of high-level performances for our audiences in Sussex, as well as maintaining our commitments to support young singers and performers, we are actively engaged in fund raising and trying to attract longer term sponsorship.

Members of the committee continue to show total commitment to maintaining very high standards and sustaining a rewarding programme of events for our audiences. We continue to work to try to expand audience engagement, particularly with a view to involvement of a younger and more diverse audience in order to sustain the contribution of the Choir to the musical life of the community in the future.

In particular, with the stimulus of the St Matthew concerts next spring, we have introduced a fund raising group which is developing a programme of events to engage the wider community, and especially young people. To this end, we have also asked a small group of members to work with schools and other groups to encourage the engagement of young people in the music we love.

Overall, our financial management is sound and, with careful planning, we succeed in maintaining a solid footing for our continuing activities.

Membership of the choir remains strong, and we are delighted to receive applications from a number of new members - we hope we will continue this with a nationwide hunt for tenors!

We had the sad occasion in November hearing of the death of Peter Wylie, former chair and loyal choir member, and also of the death of Val Winslade, long term secretary to the choir.

The Choir are, as always, grateful for the exceptional contribution made by our Music Director, John Hancorn, in sustaining and developing our standard of performance and in creatively leading us through the pathways of Baroque music. We have also welcomed the supportive presence of our regular accompanist, Claire Williams, whose own knowledge and experience has enhanced the rehearsal process.

Thank as always to all members of the committee for their support, commitment and wisdom in sustaining all that we do – Val, Maria, Helen, Maggie, Jenny, Liffey, David and Jannine. We also thank Ollie for his poster designs, and his ongoing work on the choir website.

And we thank all members who, in so many ways, make the choir what it is.

Mike Dawney, Chair, East Sussex Bach Choir



E A S T  
S U S S E X  
B A C H  
C H O I R

<b>Balance as at August 31 2023</b>		
Balance Current Account		£12,113.24
Balance Reserve Account		£11,109.34
<b>Balance as at August 31 2024</b>		
Current Account		£12,346.24
Reserve Account		£11,326.40
Current Account Surplus		£233.00
Reserve Account Surplus		£217.06
<b>Choir Funds Total as at August 31 2024</b>		<b>£23,672.64</b>

I have examined, without carrying out an audit, the attached accounts with the books and accounting record supplied by the Hon. Treasurer and confirm that they reflect the true financial position for the year ended August 31 2023.

Signed

Date



20/9/2024.

**John Gower**

Signed

Date



20/9/24

**Jannine Jones** Treasurer East Sussex  
Bach Choir

**EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

England & Wales - Charity number 1084724

---

# Accounts

---

## **East Sussex Bach Choir**

### **Trustees' report 2022-2023**

This year was the first year since the pandemic that our programme and our objectives were able to be fulfilled without restrictions, and the strength of purpose that sustained the Choir during that period enabled us to build fully on our strengths.

Our first concert of the season was the Choir's very successful visit in December to the German town of Waldshut to reciprocate the visit to Lewes of the Kantorei Hochrhein. This was undertaken with support from the Waldshut/Lewes Twinning Association. The Choir repeated the performance for our local audience in January to a sell-out audience.

The Choir's performances of Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem in Lewes and Alfriston received high praise and again sold out in both venues. It was especially pleasing to return to Alfriston after a break of many years.

The singing year ended with a performance of Purcell King Arthur in Lewes Town Hall, with somewhat reduced attendance because of an overcrowded musical calendar in Lewes in June. This has led us to reconsider the timing of concerts in future years.

Each of our concerts involved a professional musicians and soloists and while this results in exceptional quality in the music that we offer to audiences, it is inevitable that each concert ran at a significant loss. However, it is clear that, in order to maintain our schedule of high-level performances for our audiences in Sussex, as well as maintaining our commitments to support young singers and performers, we are actively engaged in fund raising and trying to attract longer term sponsorship. Overall, our financial management is sound and, with careful planning, we succeed in maintaining a solid footing for our continuing activities.

In order to continue to develop the quality of singing, a sequence of developmental auditions was held for all members of the Choir, and this will lead to the establishment of ongoing sectional workshops and training, in small groups, focussing on aspects of vocal development identified in the audition process.

The Trustees and other members of the committee have shown total commitment to maintaining very high standards and sustaining a rewarding programme of events for our audiences and we continue to work to try to expand audience engagement, particularly with a view to involvement of a younger and more diverse audience in order to sustain the contribution of the Choir to the musical life of the community in the future.

The Choir and Trustees are, as always, grateful for the exceptional contribution made by our Music Director, John Hancorn, in sustaining and developing our standard of performance and in creatively leading us through the pathways of Baroque music. We have also welcomed the supportive presence of our regular accompanist, Claire Williams, whose own knowledge and experience has enhanced the rehearsal process.

Mike Dawney, Chair, East Sussex Bach Choir, for the Trustees

Income			Expenditure		
Subs		£11,700.84	Rehearsal Venue		-£850.00
Gift Aid		£1,974.87	Rehearsal Fees		-£5,925.00
Donations		£90.00	Making Music		-£429.35
Concert	Oratorio	£6,201.27	Concert	Oratorio	-£8,979.68
	Requiem I	£2,993.25		Requiem I	-£2,048.90
	Requiem II	£2,074.60		Requiem II	-£2,811.70
	King Arthur	£3,284.74		King Arthur	-£7,013.66
			General *		£129.41
			* Bank charges, refunds, web hosting, score hire and returns, taxis		
			German Trip		-£487.44
<b>Total Income</b>		£28,319.57	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		-£28,416.32
			<b>Year End Total</b>		<b>-£96.75</b>

E A S T  
S U S S E X  
B A C H  
C H O I R

<b>Balance as at August 31 2022</b>		
Balance Current Account		£12,209.99
Balance Reserve Account		£10,968.51
<b>Balance as at August 31 2023</b>		
Current Account		£12,113.24
Reserve Account		£11,109.34
Current Account Surplus		-£96.75
Reserve Account Surplus		£140.83
<b>Choir Funds Total as at August 31 2023</b>		<b>£23,222.58</b>

I have examined, without carrying out an audit, the attached accounts with the books and accounting record supplied by the Hon. Treasurer and confirm that they reflect the true financial position for the year ended August 31 2023.

Signed

Date



22nd Sept 2023

**John Gower**

Signed

Date



22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023

**Jannine Jones** Treasurer East Sussex Bach Choir

**EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

England & Wales - Charity number 1084724

---

# Accounts

---

## **East Sussex Bach Choir**

### **Trustees' report 2021-2022**

As with all choirs, the impact of Covid has been quite severe, both financially in terms of lost performances and in terms of our ability to meet and sing together. This year has seen us trying to recover much of this lost ground. We have been helped by maintaining close links during lockdowns, including zoom rehearsals and outdoor meetings, and the gradual introduction of distanced rehearsals and performances as permitted. We have been very grateful for the continuing loyalty of our members, and, unlike some similar choirs, the choir returned post-lockdown at full strength. This meant that we were in a strong position to restart major public performances, albeit with some continuing restrictions on the size and distancing of audiences.

We were able to hold (restricted) sell-out concerts on four occasions during the year. The first, memorably, involved a powerful performance of Mozart's Requiem which proved highly emotional for performers and audience. In June 2022, we welcomed a choir from Lewes' twin town in Waldshut, Germany for a performance of Mozart C Minor Mass, an event delayed for 2 years by the pandemic. This was an important civic event, supported by the Town Council and Mayor, and marked the re-opening of exchanges between the towns. A reciprocal visit by ESBC to Waldshut is planned for December 2022.

Each of our concerts involved a full orchestra and soloists and while it was gratifying that we achieved maximum permitted audiences under the circumstances, it was inevitable that each concert ran at a significant loss. We were assisted with covering some of the losses by a small legacy from a long-time supporter of the choir, and a small grant from the Town Council. However, it is clear that, in order to maintain our schedule of high-level performances for our audiences in Sussex, as well as maintaining our commitments to support young singers and performers, we will need to actively engage in fund raising.

During the year, there has been a focus on trying to improve further the quality of singing across the choir, particularly after the long gap in singing together as a choir. Choir members are required to maintain regular attendance at all rehearsals to improve and maintain standards, and the commitment and enthusiasm shown by members has led to performances that achieved considerable praise from audiences as well as our professional soloists and orchestral players.

The Trustees and other members of the committee and Music Director have shown total commitment to maintaining very high standards and sustaining an excellent programme of events for our regular and new audiences. We have been pleased to welcome a new regular accompanist

on a long-term basis who brings a wealth of experience with period instrument ensembles to help our performance preparation.

The choir and Trustees are, as always, grateful for the exceptional contribution made by our Music Director in sustaining and developing our standard of performance and in creatively leading us through the pathways of Baroque music.

Mike Dawney, Chair, East Sussex Bach Choir, for the Trustees

# **EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

## **Accounts 2021-2022**

### **INCOME**

Ticket income	£20805.06
Sponsorship	£1800
Subscriptions	£9112.34
Lewes TC Grant	£600
Legacy	£2500
Advert income	£150
Gift Aid	£1207.29
Interest from Reserve Account	£34.67

**TOTAL INCOME**      £ 36209.36

### **EXPENDITURE**

Insurance -MM	£322
Music Hire	£398.58
Orchestra Fees	£20658.2
Publicity	£1601.64
Accompanist	£2260
Bank Charges	£42.48
Hospitality – Waldshut	£134.55
Music Director	£6120
Venue Hire	£2271.2
Soloist Fees	£5000

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**      £38808.65

TOTAL LOSS YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2021 £2599.29

## **EAST SUSSEX BACH CHOIR**

### **BALANCE SHEET 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

Bank balance current account at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 £14843.95

Bank balance current account at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 £12,209.99

Income £36174.69

Expenditure £38808.65

Interest from Reserve Account £34.67

Loss on year £2,599.29

Bank balance reserve account at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 £10964.84

Bank balance reserve account at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 £10,999.51

Interest accrued £34.67

Choir funds (Bank total) on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 **£23,209.50**

**East Sussex Bach Choir**  
**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 examiners statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



31 May 2023

.....  
Andrew M Wells FMAAT  
99 Western Road  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1RS