

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

**Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Registered Charity Number 1085042

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity

Charity Name:	The Parliament Choir
Charity Registration Number:	1085042
Contact Address:	The Parliament Choir, Portcullis House, London, SW1A 2LW
Constitution:	Charity governed by Trust Deed dated 15 February 2001 (amended 18 January 2011, amended and consolidated 15 January 2013, amended 25 January 2016, 13 January 2020 and 25 January 2021)
Trustees as at date report approved:	Lord German (Chair) Viscount Bridgeman (Treasurer) Hon Sir Bernard Jenkin MP (Vice Chair) Mark Prisk Lady Heald Hugh Merrill Mary Macleod Michael Switsur Denise Westbury Haines Anna Yallop
Bankers:	Metro Bank plc, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA
Solicitors:	Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7EG
Chief Executive:	Anna Yallop
Choir Secretary:	Aileen Walker (resigned 28 February 2021)
Choir Manager:	Virginia Hawkins (appointed 22 January 2021)
Music Director:	Simon Over MA FRCO
Chorus Master and Composer-in-Residence:	Nicholas O'Neill MA FRCO
Finance & Accounts:	David McBride BA BFP FCA
Independent Examiner	Stephanie Clegg, Partner, Arnold Hill & Co LLP, Craven House, 16 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5AP

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parliament Choir is a charity governed by a Trust Deed dated 15 February 2001 (amended 18 January 2011, amended and consolidated 15 January 2013, amended 25 January 2016, 13 January 2020 and 25 January 2021).

Under a Memorandum of Understanding dated 11 February 2020 the Choir became an autonomous group under the patronage of the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament. The Memorandum is subject to review biennially.

The governance of the Choir was reviewed during the year and the constitution was amended on 25 January 2021.

The Board of Trustees has between three and twelve members comprising the Chair, up to three Vice-Chairs, Treasurer and up to seven other members elected at the annual general meeting. At all times at least one member of the Board of Trustees must be a member of the House of Commons and at least one a member of the House of Lords.

The Chair, normally a Parliamentarian, is elected to serve for a three-year term, renewable once other than in exceptional circumstances. The Vice-Chairs and Treasurer are elected for a term of no longer than three years other than in exceptional circumstances.

The Board of Trustees may appoint up to four trustees who are not Parliamentarians and in addition one or more co-opted members to fill any skill or vacancy that may arise from time to time. Such appointments last until the next Annual General Meeting, where the appointment of the trustee must be put to the vote of the members of the Charity.

Members of the Board of Trustees retire from office by rotation at the end of the annual general meeting three years after the date on which they came into office, but they may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term other than in exceptional circumstances.

Nominations for election to the Board of Trustees must be in the hands of the Chief Executive at least 14 days before the annual general meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election is by ballot.

The Trustees meet at least 3 times a year to review the charity's plans, performance, finance and risk.

Day-to-day activities are overseen by the Chief Executive and the Choir Manager.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects ("the objects") are:

- (1) the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance
- (2) the promotion of the art of singing and music by means of assistance to young singers and musicians and by the provision of scholarships bursaries and prizes for singers.

Approval has been sought from the Charity Commission to add a third object reflecting the new status of the Choir as an autonomous group under the patronage of the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament.

Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and ensure that the objectives and activities of the charity are carried out for the benefit of the public.

The Parliament Choir has an ongoing relationship with the orchestral academy Southbank Sinfonia (charity number: 1092461) which provides the orchestra for most of its concerts. The Choir also awarded a grant of £4,000 (2020: £8,000) to the artist development programme at Southbank Sinfonia which supports their young musicians and helps prepare them for a career in music.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees' Report (continued)

At most of the Choir's performances concertgoers are invited to contribute to a collection, the proceeds of which go either in full towards the charity's work supporting young musicians or, if another relevant charity is involved in the event, are split between the organisations.

The Choir tries to ensure that its performances are accessible to those on lower incomes and sets entry level ticket prices accordingly. Members of the Choir are encouraged to donate tickets to enable music students to attend the Choir's concerts free of charge.

Achievements and Performance

In common with other performing arts organisations, the Choir's activities during 2020-21 were severely curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic and rehearsals had to move online.

A concert of opera choruses and an ambitious performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, both of which were due to take place in the Queen Elizabeth Hall at the South Bank Centre in London, were cancelled. The plan to perform Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at the Vatican following the previous year's successful performances at Coventry and Westminster Cathedrals had to be postponed.

The partial lifting of restrictions allowed the Choir to stage a limited, socially distanced, Christmas Carol concert at St John's Smith Square in aid of Shelter. This was made available for viewing online.

The plan for 2021-22 includes a performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and the annual Christmas Carol concert at St. John's Smith Square. Fundraising to cover the costs of performing Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at the Vatican will be a significant activity, with the aim of including this event in the 2022-23 programme. The Choir has also been invited to take part in a Christmas concert with the Parliament Choir of Slovenia, which is now planned for December 2022.

Financial Review

Income and expenditure in a particular year is normally dependent on the number and scale of the concerts the Choir organizes. In the year to 31 March 2021 this was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Choir took part in just one concert (2020: four) which it organised (2020: three). A governance review was conducted during the year and the Choir's website moved to the Making Music platform. These changes in the mix of activities have affected the apportionment of support costs in the financial statements with a higher proportion being allocated to governance than in previous years.

The charity's excess of expenditure over income for the year was £15,031 (2020: deficit £3,314). Its unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £78,408 (2020: £94,501). Its restricted reserves were £1,062 (2020: £Nil).

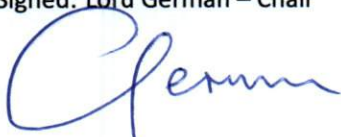
The charity seeks donations and sponsorship from a wide range of sources to support the ambitious concerts it produces. It is particularly dependent on sponsorship and donations when it is responsible for staging national events as part of its public role. It continues to recruit to its Friends scheme to build a stream of income to support its regular operating costs.

The Choir was left a piano in the will of Caroline Robertson a popular and much-missed member. The trustees wish to place on record their gratitude to her, both for her generosity and for remembering the Choir in this way.

Risk management and reserves policy

Part of the Choir's public role is to stage major national events such as Parliament's Armistice Centenary commemoration in Westminster Hall, but these are expensive and carry significant risks. The trustees are conscious of the need to manage the risks to which the charity is exposed and these are regularly considered at their meetings. Their risk mitigation strategy includes seeking opportunities to take part in collaborative events and staging exciting and musically ambitious concerts to increase the Choir's audience. The trustees aim to increase the charity's reserves to provide better protection against the risks it faces and ensure it remains on a sound financial footing.

Signed: Lord German – Chair



Date: 17th January 2022

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of the Parliament Choir

I report on the financial statements of The Parliament Choir (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of s144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities 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.
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

The rapid and fluid development of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the global economy and businesses around the world (as explained in the Directors' Report), indicate the existence of uncertainty which may cast doubt about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the charity was unable to continue as a going concern.



Stephanie Clegg
Arnold Hill & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Craven House
16 Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5AP

Date: 18/01/2022

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted Funds	2021 Restricted Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Unrestricted Funds	2020 Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds
Income and endowments from:							
Donations/Grants		15,491	3,081	18,572	34,941	8,369	43,310
Charitable Activities	2	21,229	-	21,229	79,929	-	79,929
Other trading activities		-	-	-	9,680	-	9,680
Investments		21	-	21	149	-	149
Total		36,741	3,081	39,822	124,699	8,369	133,068
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3	1,311	-	1,311	6,010	-	6,010
Charitable activities	4,5	53,467	75	53,542	117,153	13,219	130,372
Total		54,778	75	54,853	123,163	13,219	136,382
Net income/(expenditure)		(18,037)	3,006	(15,031)	1,536	(4,850)	(3,314)
Transfers between funds	14	1,944	(1,944)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(16,093)	1,062	(15,031)	1,536	(4,850)	(3,314)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		94,501	-	94,501	92,965	4,850	97,815
Total funds carried forward		78,408	1,062	79,470	94,501	-	94,501

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than the net surplus/(deficit) included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
Fixed Assets			
Instruments and performance equipment	9	2,000	-
Total fixed assets		2,000	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	9,666	14,360
Cash at bank and in hand		74,823	80,861
Total current assets		84,489	95,221
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	7,019	720
		7,019	720
Net current liabilities		77,470	94,501
Total assets less current liabilities and total net assets		79,470	94,501
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		1,062	-
Unrestricted funds		78,408	94,501
Total charity funds		79,470	94,501

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17th January 2022 and were signed on their behalf by:


 Lord German – Chair

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1) Accounting Policies

i) The Basis of the Preparation of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on an accruals basis.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- Charities SORP (FRS 102), governing accounting practices for charities
- The Charities Act 2011

The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

ii) Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised as follows:

- Performance fees, ticket income and programme income: in the period in which the performance takes place
- Membership subscription payments: in the period in which the payment becomes due (subscription payment periods run from 1 April each year)
- Donations: in the period in which the donation is received. Where the proceeds from collections at concerts are split with other charities, the amount due to other charities is not recognised as income of the charity.
- Sponsorship payments: in the period in which the payment becomes due, provided the charity is sufficiently certain of receipt of the agreed amount
- Study day fees: in the period in which the study day rehearsal takes place (not the period when the associated performance occurs, which may be different)
- Sale of music scores to Choir members: in the period in which the sale takes place (not the period in which the associated performance, if any, occurs, which may be different)
- Gift Aid: in the period in which the associated donation is received, provided the Choir is sufficiently certain that the donation fulfils all of the necessary requirements for a gift aid claim to be submitted in due course

iii) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised as follows:

- Performance costs: in the period in which the performance takes place, provided the cost is related to the concert day itself and cannot be considered an activity in its own right (eg. a rehearsal or study day)
- Rehearsal and study day costs: in the period in which the rehearsal or study day takes place (not when the associated performance takes place, which may be different)
- Fees to music and administration staff: the period in which the work takes place (paid in arrears)
- Finance and accounting fees: the period in which the work takes place
- Independent Examiner's Remuneration: the period to which the work relates
- Support costs: the period to which the expenditure relates – this will usually be the period in which the expenditure takes place
- Grants awarded: as soon as a constructive obligation is deemed to exist to make the award in a future period

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Support costs are apportioned across the activities as follows:

- Administration fees and general office expenses: on the basis of the time spent by the Choir Secretary/Manager on each activity

Governance costs are apportioned across the activities as follows:

- Proportion of direct expenditure on each activity

iv) Assets Policy

Fixed assets which provide an ongoing benefit to the charity are capitalised at their cost value and depreciated according to the estimated useful lifetime of the asset, taken to be:

- Instruments and performance equipment 6 years

v) Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

vi) Financial Instruments

As per FRS 102 Section 11, the charity makes use of only basic financial instruments which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at settlement value. Financial instruments held by the entity comprise debtors, creditors and cash.

vii) Taxation

No provision has been made for taxation as The Parliament Choir is a public benefit entity which is exempt from UK direct taxation on its charitable activities.

viii) Going Concern

The Trustees have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and potential implications on future operations. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

2) Analysis of income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	1 concert	3 concerts
Membership subscriptions	20,299	23,671
Performance fees/Ticket income	930	52,002
Study days	-	1,450
Music Scores/Red folder sales	-	2,806
Total	21,229	79,929

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

3) Raising funds

	2021	2020	Note
Direct costs	-	3,550	
Support costs	1,311	2,292	6
Governance costs	-	168	7
Total	1,311	6,010	

4) Charitable activities

	2021			2020			Note
	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	
Direct costs	38,473	-	38,473	108,834	-	108,834	
Grant-making	-	4,000	4,000	-	8,000	8,000	5
Support costs	3,849	-	3,849	8,020	-	8,020	6
Governance costs	6,540	680	7,220	5,140	378	5,518	7
Total	48,862	4,680	53,542	121,994	8,378	130,372	

5) Grant-making activities

	2021	2020
Grant to Southbank Sinfonia	4,000	8,000
Total	4,000	8,000

6) Support costs

	2021		2020	
	Administration fees and expenses	Total	Administration fees and expenses	Total
Charitable Activities: Musical Performances	3,849	3,849	8,020	8,020
Raising funds	1,311	1,311	2,292	2,292
Governance	2,650	2,650	1,146	1,146
Total	7,810	7,810	11,458	11,458

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

7) Governance Costs

	2021	2020
Charitable activities: musical performances	6,540	5,140
Charitable activities: supporting young musicians	680	378
Raising funds	0	168
Total	7,220	5,686

8) Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
Accountancy fees	3,600	3,600
Independent Examiner's Remuneration	720	940
Depreciation	400	-
Total	4,720	4,540

9) Fixed Assets

	2021		2020	
	Instruments and performance equipment	Total	Instruments and performance equipment	Total
Cost or valuation				
At beginning of the year	-	-	-	-
Additions	2,400	2,400	-	-
At end of the year	2,400	2,400	-	-
Depreciation				
At beginning of the year	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	400	400	-	-
At end of the year	400	400	-	-
Net book value at beginning of the year	-	-	-	-
Net book value at end of the year	2,000	2,000	-	-

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

10) Debtors

	2021	2020
Other debtors	5,652	9,164
Prepayments	4,014	5,196
Total	9,666	14,360

11) Creditors

	2021	2020
Accruals	1,484	720
Income received in advance	5,535	-
Total	7,019	720

12) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
Piano Fund	-	3,081	75	(1,944)	1,062
	-	3,081	75	(1,944)	1,062

	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2020
Young Musicians' Fund	-	3,139	3,139	-	-
Guards' Chapel concert	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Dream of Gerontius concerts	4,850	4,230	9,080	-	-
	4,850	8,369	13,219	-	-

Note 14

13) Analysis of Charity Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
Restricted Funds	-	3,081	75	(1,944)	1,062
Unrestricted Funds	94,501	36,741	54,778	1,944	78,408
	94,501	39,822	54,853	-	79,470

	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2020
Restricted Funds	4,850	8,369	13,219	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	92,965	124,699	123,163	-	94,501
	97,815	133,068	136,382	-	94,501

Note 14

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

14) Transfers between funds

During the year the Choir was bequeathed a piano by Caroline Robertson. This is included under donations and as a fixed asset in the unrestricted funds of the charity.

An appeal for a Piano Fund to cover the costs of refurbishment, delivery and future maintenance raised £3,081 and is included under donations in the restricted funds of the charity.

The costs of refurbishment and delivery before the piano was brought into use amounted to £1,944. These costs have been transferred from the restricted Piano Fund to the unrestricted funds of the charity and capitalised under fixed assets as part of the fair value of the piano.

15) Trustees

The total amount of expenses reimbursed to Trustees in the year was £Nil (2020: £932)

Membership subscriptions and ticket sales made to Trustees were on the same basis as to other members of the Choir.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration (2020: £Nil).

16) Related party transactions

The aggregate amount of donations received from trustees and related parties during the year was £3,050 (2020: £13,860). No conditions were attached to these donations.

There were no additional related party transactions other than those disclosed in the Trustees note above.

17) Employees

The charity has no employees (2020: Nil)