

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

Trustees' Annual report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Registered Charity Number 1085042

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity

Charity Name:	The Parliament Choir
Charity Registration Number:	1085042
Contact Address:	4-17 Millbank House, 1 Millbank, House of Lords, London, SW1P 3LX.
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 OBE (Chair) Baroness Jolly (Treasurer) Mary Macleod (Vice Chair) Hugh Merrill MVO (Vice Chair) Baroness Hayman of Ullock Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC MP Sir Bernard Jenkin MP Michael Switsur (appointed 30 th January 2023) Lesley Titcomb CBE (appointed 30 th January 2023) Anna Yallop
Trustees who resigned during the year:	Mark Prisk (resigned 30 th January 2023)
Bankers:	Metro Bank plc, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA
Solicitors:	Withers LLP, Third Floor, 20 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7AN
Chief Executive:	Anna Yallop
Choir Manager:	Virginia Hawkins
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	Dipesh Giri BSc (Hons) BFP ACA, Arnold Hill & Co LLP, 6 th Floor, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RT

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 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 was sought from the Charity Commission in 2021 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. The Charity Commission's response is awaited.

The 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.

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.

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Trustees' Report (*continued*)

Achievements, Performance and Future Plans

Following the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions the choir was able to return to a full programme of activities in 2022-23:

A residential weekend in Keble College, Oxford concluding with concerts in the Keble chapel and at St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the RAF in London, featured performances of Duruflé's *Requiem* and a new piece commissioned by the Choir, *Sight Adjusts Itself to Darkness* by Nicholas O'Neill (a work reflecting the impact of the Pandemic). A concert with the Bar Choral Society at St John's Smith Square celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The Choir was invited to be the core of a large chorus at St Albans Cathedral in a Celebration Concert organised by the St Albans International Organ Festival and the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The annual Westminster Christmas was held at St John's Smith Square and then the choir travelled to Slovenia for a Christmas concert with the Choir of the National Assembly of Slovenia.

Following successful performances at Coventry and Westminster Cathedrals in November 2019, the Choir was invited to perform Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at the Vatican. The Pandemic delayed taking up the invitation, and the concert is now the centrepiece of the 2023-24 programme which also includes: a performance of *Messiah* at St John's Smith Square; the Rachmaninoff *Vespers* at Coventry and Southwark Cathedrals; and Westminster Christmas at St John's Smith Square.

Financial Review

Income and expenditure can vary significantly from year to year, depending on the number and scale of the concerts the Choir organizes. In the year to 31 March 2023 the Choir took part in six concerts (2022: two) of which it organised four (2022: two).

The charity's excess of income over expenditure for the year was £2,406 (2022: deficit £14,299). Its unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £45,949 (2022: £63,939). Its restricted reserves were £21,628 (2021: £1,232). This reflected the level of financial support received towards the 2023-24 Vatican concert which was carried forward in the restricted reserve funds. The excess of expenditure over income in the charity's unrestricted funds for the year was £17,990 (2022: deficit £14,469).

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 and undertaking international cultural exchanges as part of its public role.

All donations, grants and sponsorship are considered for appropriateness by the trustees to ensure there are no ethical concerns or conflicts of interest which might prevent the Choir from accepting them. The source of all donations, grants and sponsorship are reported to The Speaker and Lord Speaker annually. The Choir continues to recruit for its Friends scheme to build a stream of income to support its regular operating costs. The Choir receives no public funding.

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 and to undertake international cultural exchanges such as its concerts at the Bundestag in Berlin, Notre Dame in Paris and the Vatican. These are expensive and carry significant risks, but the Choir does not commit to undertaking them until enough financial support has been committed. 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.



Lord German
Chair

Date: 15th January 2024

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees, are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statement in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees elected to prepare the financial statement in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of allocation of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE PARLIAMENT CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Parliament Choir ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with 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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or

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 financial statements to be reached.



Dipesh Giri BSc (Hons) BFP ACA
Arnold Hill & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
6th Floor, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RT

Date: 15th January 2024

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
Income and endowments from:							
Donations/Grants		19,668	33,092	52,760	22,106	8,269	30,375
Charitable Activities	2	61,807	-	61,807	38,422	-	38,422
Other trading activities		492	-	492	3,895	-	3,895
Investments		6	-	6	13	-	13
Total		81,973	33,092	115,065	64,436	8,269	72,705
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3	5,527	-	5,527	11,843	-	11,843
Charitable activities	4,5	94,436	12,696	107,132	67,062	8,099	75,161
Total		99,963	12,696	112,659	78,905	8,099	87,004
Net income/(expenditure) & Net movement in funds		(17,990)	20,396	2,406	(14,469)	170	(14,299)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		63,939	1,232	65,171	78,408	1,062	79,470
Total funds carried forward		45,949	21,628	67,577	63,939	1,232	65,171

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.

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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Fixed Assets			
Instruments and performance equipment	9	1,200	1,600
Total fixed assets		1,200	1,600
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	12,386	14,730
Cash at bank and in hand		55,561	63,927
Total current assets		67,947	78,657
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	1,570	15,086
		1,570	15,086
Net current liabilities		66,377	63,571
Total assets less current liabilities and total net assets		67,577	65,171
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12,13	21,628	1,232
Unrestricted funds	13	45,949	63,939
Total charity funds		67,577	65,171

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th January 2024 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 2023

Notes to the Accounts

1) Accounting Policies

i) The Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Trust Deeds, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

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)

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

- 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

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) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

vi) 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.

vii) 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.

viii) 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.

ix) 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.

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Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2) Analysis of income from charitable activities

	2023 4 concerts	2022 2 concerts
Membership subscriptions	19,062	18,422
Performance fees/Ticket income	25,451	16,861
Study days	12,438	2,509
Music Scores/Red folder sales	1,791	618
Miscellaneous	3,065	12
Total	61,807	38,422

3) Raising funds

	2023	2022	Note
Direct costs	2,128	8,941	
Support costs	3,221	2,106	6
Governance costs	178	796	7
Total	5,527	11,843	

4) Charitable activities

	2023			2022			Note
	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	Musical performances	Supporting young musicians	Total	
Direct costs	89,361	-	89,361	63,212	-	63,212	
Grant-making	-	600	600	-	-	-	5
Support costs	9,664	-	9,664	6,319	-	6,319	6
Governance costs	7,457	50	7,507	5,630	-	5,630	7
Total	106,482	650	107,132	75,161	-	75,161	

5) Grant-making activities

	2023	2022
Bursaries	600	-
Total	600	-

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

6) Support costs

	2023		2022	
	Administration fees and expenses	Total	Administration fees and expenses	Total
Charitable Activities: Musical Performances	9,664	9,664	6,319	6,319
Raising funds	3,221	3,221	2,106	2,106
Governance	3,221	3,221	2,106	2,106
Total	16,106	16,106	10,531	10,531

7) Governance Costs

	2023	2022
Charitable activities: musical performances	7,457	5,630
Charitable activities: supporting young musicians	50	-
Raising funds	178	796
Total	7,685	6,426

8) Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
Accountancy fees	3,600	3,600
Independent Examiner's Remuneration	864	720
Depreciation	400	400
Total	4,864	4,720

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Notes to the Accounts (continued)

9) Fixed Assets

	2023		2022	
	Instruments and performance equipment	Total	Instruments and performance equipment	Total
Cost or valuation				
At beginning of the year	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Additions	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Depreciation				
At beginning of the year	800	800	400	400
Depreciation	400	400	400	400
At end of the year	1,200	1,200	800	800
Net book value at beginning of the year	1,600	1,600	2,000	2,000
Net book value at end of the year	1,200	1,200	1,600	1,600

10) Debtors

	2023	2022
Other debtors	7,535	5,925
Prepayments	4,851	8,805
Total	12,386	14,730

11) Creditors

	2023	2022
Accruals	1,345	1,620
Income received in advance	225	13,466
Total	1,570	15,086

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Notes to the Accounts (continued)

12) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
Durufié Concert Fund	-	125	125	-	-
Vaughan Williams Concert Fund	100	2,522	2,622	-	-
Slovenia Concerts Fund	-	9,824	9,824	-	-
Dream of Gerontius Vatican Concert Fund	-	18,750	-	-	18,750
Rehearsals and Study Day Fund	-	125	125	-	-
Piano Fund	422	-	-	-	422
Young Musicians' Fund	710	1,746	-	-	2,456
	1,232	33,092	12,696	-	21,628

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
Bach Concert Fund	-	6,884	6,884	-	-
Piano Fund	1,062	-	640	-	422
Rehearsals and Study Day Fund	-	575	575	-	-
Vaughan Williams Concert Fund	-	100	-	-	100
Young Musicians' Fund	-	710	-	-	710
	1,062	8,269	8,099	-	1,232

Income for the Young Musicians' Fund is raised from donations for programmes at the Choir's concerts. The cost of producing the programmes is borne by the Choir so the whole amount of donations received go to the fund. The income of £1,746 (2022- £710) includes £489 (2022 - £Nil) raised at a joint concert with the Bar Choral Society.

13) Analysis of Charity Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
Restricted Funds	1,232	33,092	12,696	-	21,628
Unrestricted Funds	63,939	81,973	99,963	-	45,949
	65,171	115,065	112,659	-	67,577

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
Restricted Funds	1,062	8,269	8,099	-	1,232
Unrestricted Funds	78,408	64,436	78,905	-	63,939
	79,470	72,705	87,004	-	65,171

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Notes to the Accounts (*continued*)

14) Trustees

The total amount of expenses reimbursed to Trustees in the year was £854 (2022: £807)

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 (2022: £Nil).

15) Related party transactions

The aggregate amount of donations received from trustees and related parties during the year was £8,167 (2022: £3,107). No conditions were attached to these donations.

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

16) Employees

The charity has no employees (2022: Nil)

