

Bath Minerva Choir

Trustee's report 2023

This time last year, we were about to embark on our Spring concert, Haydn's *The Seasons*, which we'd previously sung virtually during lockdown. It's Haydn's last big work which includes bounteous blessings to nature and the landscape, alongside romantic pastoral song, a cataclysmic storm punctuated by heartfelt cries for safety (mostly from the sopranos!) and an autumn landscape notable for its highly theatrical hunting scene ('Halloo now!') which had us all enjoying the grape harvest ('Cheers now!') Our soloists and Bath Phil did us proud and it will be wonderful to hear baritone, Johannes Moore, sing with us again for the St. John Passion in 2024.

Our summer concert provided a complete contrast when we sang Samuel Coleridge Taylor's greatest success, his cantata *'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast'*, a choral setting of Longfellow's poem. Most of us were not familiar with this work beforehand, but really came to enjoy it and hear how SC-T dramatized the key characters musically: wise Nokomis, the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis and the idle Yenadizze. We also enjoyed Bob Chilcott's *Aesop's Fables* which were a sheer delight and more musically demanding than many of us expected. It will be great fun to revisit them on the Sweden tour in June 2024.

Our ambitious autumn concert included an eclectic programme of 13 choral pieces, 12 songs by our baritone soloist, as well as piano and organ solos from Steve. It proved a wonderful musical exploration from the more familiar works of Elgar and Sibelius to the unjustifiably ignored Valborg Aulin's *'Pie Jesu Domine'* and including moving contemporary works from Paul Mealor and the celestial Ola Gjeilo. We also revisited some firm Minerva favourites, Paul Carr's poignant *'I Offer You Love'* and *'Go Lovely Rose'*, before finishing with Gavin's resounding arrangement of *'Amazing Grace'*. We always have terrific soloists but Florian Störtz and Mark Rogers were truly exceptional and our audience particularly warmed to their performances.

So here we are about to embark on arguably our greatest and most demanding work to date, Bach's St. John Passion and it's been a long time coming. It was originally scheduled Spring 2021 and then we sang it virtually in lockdown. We are so fortunate to have James Gilchrist as our Evangelist, arguably the foremost interpreter of the role.

There would be no Bath Minerva Choir without the contributions from many people in so many ways and often largely unseen. Putting on concerts and securing top rate soloists doesn't come cheap, so fundraising is key. Apart from our annual subs and ticket income, our main sources of income are the Friends scheme, CDWM, the weekly raffle, the 100 Club and external sponsorship. We were also fortunate to receive one last year of sponsorship for £1000 from our sponsors who have generously sponsored Minerva since 2016.

So looking ahead, we have our first BMC tour to Stockholm in mid-June when we will be revisiting much of the English and Scandinavian repertoire we sang in the Autumn- which is very exciting. Our July summer workshop will explore some of Eric Whitacre's works, including the very moving work, *When David Heard*.

BATH MINERVA CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Number 1098142

BATH MINERVA CHOIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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BATH MINERVA CHOIR

TRUSTEES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Trustees	F Ansell	
	W Starling	
	S Strang	Treasurer
	C Smith	
	R Hawkes	
	L Ware	Secretary
	J Seeger	
	C McGrail	
	H Stanton	Chair

Registered Address 4 The Cleeve
Corsham
Wiltshire
SN13 9JG

Independent Examiner of Financial Accounts

M Harley

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

TSB
Midsomer Norton Branch
2 Silver Street
Midsomer Norton
Bath
BA2 2HB

BATH MINERVA CHOIR

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees and Members of Bath Minerva Choir, Charity Number 1098142

I hereby report on the accounts of Bath Minerva Choir for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts of the charity. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and an independent examination is appropriate.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out taking in accordance with General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's 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 requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with regulations made under section 130 of the 2011 Act;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met or

- 2 To which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



M J Harley MA ACMA CGMA

Date:

BATH MINERVA CHOIR

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Contributions from members (including tax refunds) and donations		16,632	17,632
Receipts from fund-raising and sponsorship		7,555	5,320
Income from concerts		14,148	13,641
Other income		371	438
Activities for generating funds			
Interest receivable		1,412	286
Total incoming resources		40,118	37,317
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Cost of generating voluntary income			
Costs in furtherance of charitable objects	2a	43,967	33,681
Management & administration	2b	1,814	1,371
Total resources expended		45,781	35,052
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources and net movement in funds		-5,663	2,265
Funds brought forward		73,393	71,128
Funds carried forward		67,730	73,393

All activities of the Charity are classed as continuing
All current year income and expenditure is unrestricted.

The notes on pages 6 & 7 form part of these financial statements

BATH MINERVA CHOIR

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Total funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current Assets			
Debtors & Prepayments	3	2,773	3,396
Cash at bank and in hand		74,086	72,802
		<u>76,859</u>	<u>76,198</u>
Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>9,129</u>	<u>2,805</u>
Total assets less liabilities		<u>67,730</u>	<u>73,393</u>
Represented by:			
Surplus on statement of financial activities		<u>67,730</u>	<u>73,393</u>

These financial statements were approved
and are signed on on their behalf by:

H Stanton
Chairman

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued July 2014, and with the Charities Act 2011.

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are for use for the purpose for which they were donated.

c) Incoming resources

Income comprises amounts received in the form of subscriptions, donations and gifts, plus amounts arising from fund-raising activities and events

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Expenditure includes any VAT which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates

2 RESOURCES USED

		Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
2a			
	Costs in furtherance of charitable objects		
Rehearsal costs:	Conductor	7,310	5,568
	Accompanist	3,752	2,960
	Room hire	2,670	2,082
Fundraising costs		300	320
Concert expenditure:	Previous year		643
	Spring	18,862	11,709
	Autumn	7,205	5,597
	Summer	3,868	4,802
		43,967	33,681
2b			
	Management & administration		
NFMS subs, library membership & insurance		588	582
Postage & stationery		52	22
Web site and marketing		204	180
Refreshments & sundry expenditure		970	587
		1,814	1371

BATH MINERVA CHOIR

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Total Funds		Total Funds	
	2023		2022	
	£		£	
3	DEBTORS			
	Income tax recoverable	1,629	1,767	
	Prepayments & other debtors	1,144	1,629	
		<u>2,773</u>	<u>3,396</u>	
4	CREDITORS			
	Amounts falling due within one year			
	Other creditors	800	50	
	Accruals and deferred income	8,329	2,755	
		<u>9,129</u>	<u>2,805</u>	
5	TRUSTEES REMUNERATION			
	The charity did not remunerate any Trustee during the year.			
6	MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS			
	Opening	Income	Expenditure	Closing
	Balance	in year	in year	Balance
	At 1 Jan 2023			At 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	73,393	40,118	(45,781)
		<u>73,393</u>	<u>40,118</u>	<u>(45,781)</u>
				<u>67,730</u>

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