

THE LEA SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1099155

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2003-08-28

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

Contact

Address 49 Southcott Village
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 2PS

Phone 01582764677

Email treasurer@leasingers.com

Website www.leasingers.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND WORKSHOPS; 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: Choral singing

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£21,095	£18,343	-	-
2024-07-31	£25,649	£24,914	-	-
2023-07-31	£26,770	£25,227	-	-
2022-07-31	£5,750	£4,191	-	-
2021-07-31	£12,212	£10,795	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anthony Timmins		2025-12-01
Dr Barry Flutter		2019-09-25
Penelope Jane Ward		2018-09-26

THE LEA SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1099155

Accounts



Lea Singers

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended **31st July 2024**

Registered Charity: 1099155

Lea Singers

Financial Statement for year ending 31st July 2024

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Legal and Administrative Details:

1. Registered Address: 50 Stewart Road, Harpenden, AL5 4QB
2. Charity Registration Number: 1099155
3. Key personnel and advisors:
 - a. Chair: Miriam McKay
 - b. Treasurer: Emily Lawrence
 - c. Marketing: Maddy Hardman
 - d. Secretary: Rupert Ainley
 - e. Librarian: Penelope Ward
 - f. Committee Members: Barry Flutter, Chris Wardle
4. Independent Examiner: Michael Timmins
5. Musical Director: Benjamin T. Kirk
6. Bankers: HSBC Bank

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts Financial Year 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2024.

Principal activity and objectives

The charity is governed by the rules laid down in a formal constitution. The trustees are selected from members of the Choir and conferred by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

The main objectives of the charity are to provide:

- Entertainment to the public by way of a varied programme of concerts and other performances
- Education, by hosting events with guest educators
- Enjoyment to the membership through rehearsals and other social activities

The charity maintains Banking facilities with HSBC Bank. The Bank Accounts have been maintained in credit throughout the year.

Financial Results

The financial statements for the year to 31 July 2024 are set out on pages 7 to 8. The net result for the year was a surplus of £735.12

The Trustees are satisfied with the results for the year and that adequate resources exist to meet the charity's day to day financial needs.

The choir is very grateful to the Williams Church Music Trust for its continuing financial support, particularly at this difficult time for the arts.

Review of Activities

We held our annual subscription this year at £330, with three interns paid for by fundraising by the choir, and three members paying at a student/unemployed rate of 50%. We also had one member who we waived the fee for due to compassionate circumstances.

We continued with the concert format this year which we called **Choral Discoveries**. The idea is to bring music that is not often performed to audiences in a short, accessible format. Each concert is around one hour, and we perform without an interval.

Our first concert of the 2023/2024 season in November was called *Found in Translation* and celebrated 60 years of town-twinning with Harpenden's [Friends of Alzey](#) and [Friends of Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire](#). The concert explored settings of texts in languages other than the composer's mother tongue. These include Händel's *Zadok the Priest* and Mäntyjärvi's *Four Shakespeare Songs*, as well as an intriguing selection of music from composers born as far apart as Estonia and Brazil.

The highlight of the concert was the premiere of a new piece we commissioned by Kim Porter, *Der Fluss*, which sets text from Hermann Hesse's *Siddharta*. We are grateful to the Friends of Alzey and Cosne for help sponsoring this commission. We made a loss of £2,000 on this concert, which was essentially the cost of the commission.

Our Christmas concert, FestiveLea, was in the Eric Morecambe Center again this year. We made a profit of £1,443, slightly less than last year as we had a smaller audience.

For our Spring concert we returned to the Lady Chapel at St Albans Abbey. This always has a good audience and is a lovely venue to sing in. We performed Händel's *Dixit Dominus* and Arvo Pärt's *Salve Regina*, with a professional orchestra. This is an expensive venue to hire, and we used professional musicians, supporting locally where we could, making this an expensive concert. We plan to do a concert like this every few years so we knew we would make a loss here and had budgeted for this. We are grateful to The Williams Trust for supporting this concert through a grant of £2,000. We made a loss of £5,530.

We tried another new venue for our summer concert, St. Leonard's Church, Flamstead. We were joined by pianist Greg May for an hour of French and German romantic music, including works by Brahms, Fauré and Debussy, and showcasing songs by two female French composers – Lili Boulanger and Melanie Bonis.

There was a retiring collection in support of the local Care4Calais group – The Markyate and Flamstead Asylum Support Group for which we raised £575. We also donated laptops and suitcases to this group.

Charity Donations

We donated £1,575 to charities. £575 for Care4Calais and £1,000 was raised for the Harpenden Trust at the Christmas concert. These were collected directly by the charity and didn't go through the Lea's bank account.

Reserves Policy

The choir retains sufficient reserves to cover major concert risks such as cancellations and to provide working capital to cover the costs of concerts incurred in advance of concert income.

We have an M&G Charifund investment of £5,603, £5,421 is in a savings account and the remainder is held as cash on deposit with HSBC.

Approval

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9th September 2024. Signed on behalf of all the Trustees.



Emily Lawrence
Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees and members of The Lea singers, registered Charity number 1099155

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of The Lea Singers on pages 7 and 8 relating to the year ended 31st July 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Lea Singers' 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 examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 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.

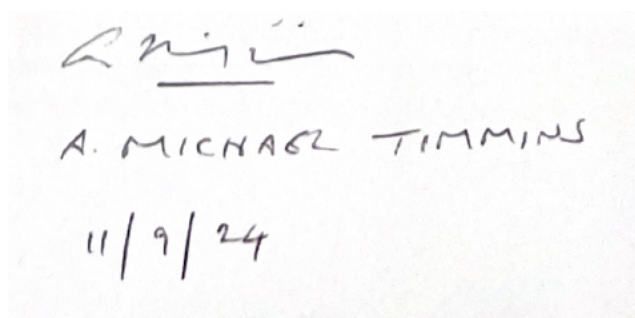
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Name:

Signature:

Date:



A. MICHAEL TIMMINS
11/9/24

Income & Expenditure:

Income & Expenditure		
	2023/2024	2022/2023
	£	£
Subscription Account		
Subscriptions	£8,554.35	£7,944.00
MD Rehearsal fees	-£6,118.00	-£6,539.00
Accompanist fees	-£560.91	-£150.00
Rehearsal venue hire	-£1,939.20	-£2,082.20
Total costs	-£8,618.11	-£8,771.20
Total	-£63.76	-£827.20
Concert Account		
Autumn	-£2,037.34	-£331.86
FestivLea	£1,443.96	£1,913.03
Spring	-£5,530.19	-£2,326.99
Summer	-£939.68	£66.91
Cathedral - St Albans	-£359.42	£250.00
Cathedral		-£690.67
Total	-£7,422.67	-£1,119.58
Income		
Ticket Income	£7,344.60	£8,467.60
Subscriptions	£8,554.35	£8,244.00
Grants	£4,720.00	£3,955.00
Cathedral Subs	£255.00	£1,900.00
Advertising	£0.00	£1,006.00
Programme Collection/revenue		£40.00
Online fundraising	£173.23	£273.69
Tax Rebate	£2,959.51	£708.80
Friends	£240.00	£230.00
Music library loans to other choirs	£254.56	£102.50
Music sales to choir members	£0.00	£80.44
Dividends	£316.18	£307.04
Unrealised investment gain/(loss)	£339.93	
Other	£360.00	£133.41
Charity Collection	£30.00	£1,321.62
Savings account interest	£102.23	
Total	£25,649.59	£26,770.10


Expenditure

Concert Costs	£12,230.53	£8,036.75
Rehearsal costs	£8,618.11	£8,771.20
Programme Printing	£724.26	£1,125.75
Music library storage	£74.87	£91.00
Music scores	£1,328.82	£980.92
Music Purchases for sale to Choir	£0.00	£144.99
Making Music subscription and insura	£482.65	£186.00
Gifts	£0.00	£670.00
Bank Charges	£60.80	£62.58
Sundry Stationary	£125.17	£125.70
Charity donation	£130.00	£1,321.40
MD committee attendance costs	£269.50	£334.28
Marketing & Publicity	£733.76	£3,164.95
Other	£136.00	£141.16

Total expenditure	£24,914.47	25,227.72
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SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£735.12	£1,043.08
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Balance Sheet:

The Lea Singers Balance Sheet for the period/year ended			
		2023-2024	2022-2023
FUNDS			
Funds at beginning of the year		£15,994.75	£14,951.67
Surplus/Deficit for the year		£735.12	£1,043.08
Total Funds		£16,729.87	£15,994.75
REPRESENTED BY			
ASSETS			
Bank and cash			
Current account		£5,609.31	£5,947.35
Deposit account		£5,421.10	£5,318.87
Cash		£1.92	
Total bank & cash		£11,032.33	£11,266.22
Charifund investments (cost £6,000)		£5,603.48	£5,263.55
Charifund change		£339.93	-£499.30
Debtors & prepayments			
Debtors and prepayments			£1,869.00
Total debtors		£0.00	£1,869.00
Stocks			
Music books		£94.06	£94.06
Cash			£1.92
Total		£94.06	£95.98
TOTAL ASSETTS		£16,729.87	£18,494.75
Liabilities			
advertising revenue - unearned			
Subs for Ely			
other			£2,500.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£0.00	£2,500.00
TOTAL FUNDS		£16,729.87	£15,994.75

THE LEA SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1099155

Accounts



Lea Singers

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended **31st July 2023**

Registered Charity: 1099155

Lea Singers

Financial Statement for year ending 31st July 2023

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Legal and Administrative Details:

1. Registered Address: 50 Stewart Road, Harpenden, AL5 4QB
2. Charity Registration Number: 1099155
3. Key personnel and advisors:
 - a. Co-Chair: Karen Cardy & Miriam McKay
 - b. Treasurer: Emily Lawrence
 - c. Marketing: Maddie Hardman
 - d. Secretary: Karen Cardy & Miriam McKay
 - e. Librarian: Penelope Ward
 - f. Committee Member: Barry Flutter
4. Independent Examiner: Michael Timmins
5. Musical Director: Benjamin T. Kirk
6. Bankers: HSBC Bank

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts Financial Year 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2023.

Principal activity and objectives

The charity is governed by the rules laid down in a formal constitution. The trustees are selected from members of the Choir and conferred by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

The main objectives of the charity are to provide:

- Entertainment to the public by way of a varied programme of concerts and other performances
- Education, by hosting events with guest educators
- Enjoyment to the membership through rehearsals and other social activities

The charity maintains Banking facilities with HSBC Bank. The Bank Accounts have been maintained in credit throughout the year.

Financial Results

The financial statements for the year to 31 July 2023 are set out on pages 7 to 8. The net result for the year was a surplus of £1,043.08 (2022: surplus of £1,558.28).

The Trustees are satisfied with the results for the year and that adequate resources exist to meet the charity's day to day financial needs.

The choir is very grateful to the Williams Church Music Trust for its continuing financial support, particularly at this difficult time for the arts.

Review of Activities

We increased our annual subscription this year from £300 to £330 after several years keeping it the same. Several expenses have increased this year including fees we pay our Musical Director, plus cost of hiring venues, travel and cost of professional musicians. We expect these to continue to rise next year.

We decided to try a new concert format this year which we called **Choral Discoveries**. The idea is to bring music that is not often performed to audiences in a short, accessible format. Each concert is around one hour, and we perform without an interval.

Our first concert of the 2022/2023 season was in November at Our Lady of Lourdes in Harpenden. This was our first proper concert with our new Musical Director, Benjamin Kirk. The audience was small, but the costs were kept low and it was a good start to our musical collaboration. We made a loss of £330.

Our Christmas concert FestiveLea was back to its pre-Covid audience. In the new Harpenden venue, the Eric Morecambe Center, again this year. We had a very good audience and made a profit of £1,900.

For our Spring concert we returned to the Lady Chapel at St Albans Abbey. This always has a good audience and is a lovely venue to sing in. We decided to record this as we were performing some little performed pieces. This concert made an overall loss of £2,300, due to the cost of lighting and recording.

We tried a new venue for our summer concert, The Palladian Church at Ayot St. Lawrence. This was a small venue which we filled. This represented the final concert of the season for our Choral Discoveries programme. This concert broke even.

We commissioned a new piece of music this year from Kim Porter at a cost of £2,000. £500 of the cost of this was covered by grants from Harpenden's town twinning associations, Friends of Alzey and Friends of Cosne. We will perform this piece in November 2023 at a concert to celebrate these town twinning relationships.

Large expenses for this year were:

1. Music Scores - nearly £1,000
2. Marketing costs - over £3,000. This includes publicity and promotion, two sets of choir photographs, and the recording of the Spring concert.
3. Programme costs - £1,125 - but income was £1,006- so these largely cover their costs as long as we can keep selling advertising.
4. Bank charges are relatively high, we will look into finding a new bank next year with lower charges.
5. Deputy singers - £585

We received nearly £4,000 in grants this year: £3,000 from The Williams Church Music trust, £500 from the town twinning associations, and £375 in donations to support our intern scheme.

Charity Donations

We donated £1,321 to charities. £370 was raised for Harpenden Child Contact Centre in November, £1,060 was raised for the Harpenden Trust at the Christmas concert, and £552 to British Ukraine in Spring.

Reserves Policy

The choir retains sufficient reserves to cover major concert risks such as cancellations and to provide working capital to cover the costs of concerts incurred in advance of concert income.

We have an M&G Charifund investment of £5,263, £5,318 is in a savings account and the remainder is held as cash on deposit with HSBC.

Approval

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30th August 2023. Signed on behalf of all the Trustees.



Emily Lawrence
Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees and members of The Lea singers, registered Charity number 1099155

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of The Lea Singers on pages 7 and 8 relating to the year ended 31st July 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Lea Singers' 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 examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 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.

Independent Examiner

Name: Anthony Michael Timmins

Signature: *A Michael Timmins*

Date: 23 September 2023

Income & Expenditure:

The Lea Singers - Income & Expenditure	
Subscription Account	2022/2023
Subscriptions	£7,944.00
MD Rehearsal fees	-£6,539.00
Accompanist fees	-£150.00
Rehearsal venue hire	-£2,082.20
Total costs	-£8,771.20
Total	-£827.20
Concert Account	
Autumn	-£331.86
FestivLea	£1,913.03
Spring	-£2,326.99
Summer	£66.91
Cathedral Weekend - Ely	£250.00
Cathedral Weekend - St Davids	-£690.67
Total	-£1,119.58
Income	
Ticket Income	£8,467.60
Subscriptions	£8,244.00
Grants	£3,955.00
Cathedral Subs	£1,900.00
Advertising	£1,006.00
Programme Collection/revenue	£40.00
Online fundraising	£273.69
Tax Rebate	£708.80
Friends	£230.00
Music library loans to other choirs	£102.50
Music sales to choir members	£80.44
Dividends	£307.04
Other	£133.41
Charity Collection	£1,321.62
Recovery of debt previously written down	
Total	£26,770.10
Expenditure	
Concert Costs	£8,036.75
Rehearsal costs	£8,771.20
Programme Printing	£1,125.75
Music library storage	£91.00
Music library purchases	£980.92
Music Purchases for sale to Choir	£144.99
Making Music subscription and insurance	£186.00
Accommodation	£670.00
Gifts	£62.58
Bank Charges	£71.04
Sundry Stationary	£125.70
Charity donation	£1,321.40
MD committee attendance costs	£334.28
Marketing & Publicity	£3,164.95
Other	£141.16
Total expenditure	£25,227.72
Charifund worth gain/loss	-£499.30
surplus/deficit	£1,043.08

Balance Sheet:

The Lea Singers			
Balance Sheet			
for the period/year ended		2022-2023	2021-2022
FUNDS			
Funds at beginning of the year		£14,951.67	£13,393.39
Surplus/Deficit for the year		£1,043.08	£1,558.28
		£15,994.75	£14,951.67
REPRESENTED BY			
ASSETS			
Bank and cash			
	Current account	£5,947.35	£7,596.97
	Deposit account	£5,318.87	£5,281.95
	Total bank & cash	£11,266.22	£12,878.92
Charifund investments (cost £6,000)		£5,263.55	£5,762.85
Charifund change		-£499.30	
Debtors & prepayments			
	Debtors and prepayments	£1,869.00	£107.17
	Total debtors	£1,869.00	£107.17
Stocks			
	Music books	£94.06	£94.06
Cash		£1.92	-
	Total	£95.98	£94.06
TOTAL ASSETTS		£18,494.75	£18,843.00
Liabilities			
	advertising revenue - unearned		£383.00
	Subs for Ely		£540.00
	other	£2,500.00	£2,968.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£2,500.00	£3,891.33
TOTAL FUNDS		£15,994.75	£14,951.67
Registered Charity Number 1099155			