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The Association of English Singers & Speakers

Registered Charity No 1106279

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

and

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

31 JANUARY 2021



The Association of English Singers & Speakers

Honorary Presidents

*Sir Thomas Allen CBE; Michael Chance CBE; Sir Nicholas Hytner; Graham Johnson OBE;
Dame Cleo Laine DBE; Dame Patricia Routledge DBE; Professor Robert Saxton; Dame Harriet Walter DBE*

Registered Charity No. 1106279

www.aofess.org.uk

ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH SINGERS AND SPEAKERS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

STRUCTURE; GOVERNANCE; MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

AESS is a Charitable Unincorporated Association, governed by a written Constitution adopted in 2002 and subject to later amendments, a copy of which is lodged with the Charity Commission. Membership is by annual subscription. There are no employees and the Association does not use the services of third party volunteers; all management and administration functions are carried out by the Trustees who are elected annually.

The Trustees constitute the Committee of the Association and as such make all the decisions for the Association that do not need ratifying by Members under the terms of the Constitution.

The following have served as Trustees of AESS during the year:

Sarah Leonard – Chairman (acts as Chief Executive Officer for the day-to-day running of the Association)
Stephen Varcoe - Vice Chairman
Lynda Morgan - Secretary
Patricia Williams - Membership Secretary
Stephen Miles (as Website Administrator and Competitions Coordinator)
Carolyn Richards (as Festivals Coordinator)
Jane Roberson
Jonathan Courage
Gavin Roberts
Brian Parsons
Colin Drage – Treasurer

New Trustees may be proposed and seconded in time for the Annual General Meeting and voted for by those attending. They must already be members of the Association. The Committee comprises 5 Officers and up to 8 other Trustees. The Committee itself may co-opt up to three specialist members in any one year for that year.

All Trustees are volunteers; the Association has no premises so all activities are carried out by the Trustees from their own private premises. The registered contact address is 62 The Rise Sevenoaks

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Association was established for the purpose of encouraging the communication of English words in speech and singing with clarity, understanding and imagination. The Association endeavours to fulfil such objectives through the holding of meetings and discussions, the provision of recitals in English song, the holding of national competitions and awarding of prizes for the singing and speaking of English and for the composition of music to accompany English poetry. The Trustees have taken due account of the guidance of the Charity Commission to give proper regard to the provision of public benefit in the activities of the Association.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

AESS organizes educational events such as masterclasses, workshops, concerts and five national competitions, covering an age range from 13 to 32 years; competitions are normally arranged as a preliminary round followed by a final round. The Association has a good relationship with all Music Colleges who frequently provide venues free of charge. All competition finals, masterclasses and concerts are admission-free for AESS members and are open to the public. There is a modest fee for contestants in the AESS competitions to contribute towards administrative costs. Our National Senior English Song Competition for Music Students is sponsored by Dame Patricia Routledge; an additional sponsorship has been provided by Mr Rodney Gibson for a future section covering early English music. Our National Intermediate Competition, The Courtney Kenny Award, is sponsored by pianist and entertainer Courtney Kenny. Our Junior Recital Prize is sponsored by Catherine Lambert, with additional sponsorship being provided by Coral Gould. Both Courtney Kenny and Catherine Lambert have made long-term provision for their sponsorship. The Speech Competition is sponsored by Timothy West and Prunella Scales with additional sponsorship being provided by Julia Dewhurst. After several years in abeyance, the Association's Composers' Competition was reinstated in 2018; the prizes are presently funded by the Association.

A Prize Winners' Concert, funded currently by the Association, is organized annually with invitations to selected prize-winners from recent Competitions. The Association also offers sponsorship to a number of independent regional arts festivals which arrange competitive classes including a specific AESS class for young performers.

The year under review has seen the Association's activities severely curtailed by the national pandemic restrictions. This is shown below by the table of the scheduled Association events:

March 2020 – Final of the Courtney Kenny Award at Tonbridge School (AESS Intermediate Competition); completed.

April 2020 Annual General Meeting and Dinner; postponed until September 2020 and ultimately then held as an online meeting.

April 2020 – Final of the Timothy West and Prunella Scales Speech Competition; cancelled.

October 2020 – Final of the Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition (AESS Senior Competition); postponed from its original date; held at St Marylebone Parish Church, London but without public attendance due to the restrictions.

July to October 2020 – Entries for, adjudication and announcement of winners of AESS Composers' Competition; completed.

November 2020 – Final of the Catherine Lambert Junior Recital Prize (AESS Junior Competition); cancelled.

December 2020 – Prizewinners' Concert; postponed, with no re-arranged date set, at the time of preparation of this Report.

Regional Arts Festivals have been curtailed during the pandemic.

Educational links continue with the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Jackdaws Educational Trust and the Association of Teachers of Singing. Links are also maintained with all past winners of the competitions. Winners of the Senior Competition are offered honorary lifetime membership of AESS. Constructive and encouraging feedback is given to all entrants to the Association competitions. Copies of the CD of Betty Roe's musical compositions and the final three volumes of "A Century of English Song", which have been supported by AESS, continue to be available for purchase.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Association activities and events are funded from sponsorship and from subscriptions, both of which income sources qualify to benefit from Gift Aid tax refunds. Where funds are received for specific activities, such funds are held as restricted funds; any shortfall on such specific activity is funded from unrestricted general funds. The Trustees maintain a continuing review of the principal risks faced by the Association; it is the general policy of the Trustees to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover unsponsored competition costs for a minimum period of two to three years pending any necessary re-arrangement of sponsorships.

The results of the year under review show that there was a small deficit of £191 on the revenue account, after allowing for support from general reserves to shortfalls on specific sponsored activities. The Trustees consider that the financial results and the state of affairs of the Association are satisfactory.

In the year under review, the Association has also received a substantial bequest from a deceased member and has received formal advice that a further bequest will be received in the near future from another deceased member; plans are in hand for a large part of such funds to be invested to produce income to support ongoing additional activities to reinforce the objectives of the Association.

In the light of the national pandemic restrictions over most of the year under review and the consequent loss of income many of those involved in the performing arts were suffering, the Trustees decided to defer the collection of subscriptions, which would otherwise have been due on 1 April 2020, until 1 January 2021.

DECLARATIONS

The Report above and the accompanying Statement of Accounts ^{were} ~~was~~ approved by the Trustees on
23rd June 2021

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sarah Leonard

SARAH LEONARD
Chairman

23rd June 2021

IRENE REA ACMA
Chartered Management Accountant

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS EXAMINER
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH SINGERS AND SPEAKERS
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1106279

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the Accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 January 2021 which report net assets of the Trust at that date amounting to £77,596 and which are attached to the Trustees' Report for the year.

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me 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 (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 to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 12/4/2021

Name IRENE REA ACMA

Address ...X3 Rea Accounting Ltd 16 Letterbox Lane Sevenoaks TN13 1RP



The Association of English Singers & Speakers

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

31 JANUARY 2021

	NOTE	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments		1,545	22
Income tax recoverable		-	1,547
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>76,111</u>	<u>26,633</u>
		77,656	28,202
less			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Sundry creditors		<u>60</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>77,596</u>	<u>28,130</u>
Represented by:			
RESERVES			
Restricted reserves	2	5,867	4,181
Unrestricted and designated reserves		<u>71,729</u>	<u>23,949</u>
<u>TOTAL RESERVES</u>		<u>77,596</u>	<u>28,130</u>

Sarah Leonard
.....
Sarah Leonard (Chairman)

23-6-2021
Date.....


.....
Colin J F Drage (Treasurer)

23/06/2021
Date.....

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 JANUARY 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Accounts are prepared under the historical cost accounting convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charity Accounts - SORP FR102

Accruals basis

Income and expenditure are reflected in the Accounts in the year to which they relate except that subscription income is shown in the year in which it is received.

Funds

Grants and donations including related gift aid recoveries which are received for specific purposes are treated as Restricted Funds; associated prizes and costs are charged to the relevant Funds. Subscriptions received, including related Gift Aid, and other income and expenditure comprise Unrestricted Funds. Shortfalls in Restricted Funds are re-imbursed from Unrestricted Funds.

Exemptions

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small charity. For the same reason, the Charity has previously been exempt from submitting Accounts to the Charity Commission.

2 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 February 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer from Unrestricted Funds	At 31 January 2021
Patricia Routledge Senior Competition	-	6,400	5,150	-	1,250
Courtney Kenny Intermediate Competition	2,745	2,705	2,900	-	2,551
Catherine Lambert Junior Competition	-	500	(0)	-	500
Fell Musical Theatre Competition	40	-	-	-	40
Timothy West and Prunella Scales Speech Competition	546	1,000	-	-	1,546
Prize Winners' Concert	200	-	-	-	200
Composers' Competition	650	-	1,220	350	(220)
TOTAL	4,181	10,605	9,269	350	5,867

The Fell Musical Theatre Competition prizes was cancelled; movements relate to entry fees received and refunded.

The transfers from Unrestricted funds comprise adjustments for prior year's gift aid recoveries incorrectly allocated (Intermediate and Junior Competitions) and re-imburement of shortfalls (Musical Theatre and Speech Competitions).

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM AND EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total Incoming Resources	Total Expenses
Senior Competition	6,400	5,150
Intermediate Competition	2,705	2,900
Junior Competition	500	(0)
Fell Musical Theatre Competition	-	-
Timothy West and Prunella Scales Speech Competition	1,000	-
Prize Winners' Concert	-	-
Composers' Competition	350	1,220
Total re Competitions including Transfers from Unrestricted Funds (see above)	10,955	9,269
Members' contributions (subscriptions)	1,040	-
Donations	49,611	-
Publications	30	-
Trophies to regional festivals	-	25
Grants and awards	-	400
Events	-	-
Total re Other Activities	49,641	425
TOTAL	60,596	9,694

4 OTHER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Total Incoming Resources	Total Expenses
Bank interest	22	-
Bank charges	-	63
Advertising	-	380
Subscriptions	-	440
Meeting expenses	-	10
	22	893

5 TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

Three Trustees were paid expenses totalling £182 (2020 - Six Trustees - £976) by the Charity in the period under review, in respect of travel to Association events and other related costs.