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Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Section A - Reference & Administration Details

Charity name: The Mayfield Festival Choir Society
Other names charity is known by: MFCS
Registered charity number: 1109434
Charity's principal address: 1 Ward Close
Wadhurst
East Sussex TN5 6HU

Names of trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee Name	Office	Dates Acted
Jane Bolger	Chair	All year
Vacant	Vice Chair	-
David Hollands	Treasurer	All year
Wil Crittenden	Membership Registrar	All year
Simon Tayler	Concert Manager	All year
Tony Trevillion	Website & online ticket sales support	All year
Sandie McAndrew	Member without portfolio	From September 2022

Names and addresses of advisors:

Advisor	Name	Address
Bank	Lloyds TSB	Cliffe Lewes (309501) Branch, 8 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN27 2AD

Section B - Structure, Governance & Management

- Type of governing document:** Constitution adopted 25 November 2004
- How the charity is constituted:** Association consisting of over 80 members
- Trustee selection methods:** Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in February/March

Section C - Objectives & Activities

- Objects of the charity:** To educate the public in the art and science of music and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in music and to or for such other charitable purposes as the Committee may from time to time require
- Main activities of the charity:** Presentation of concerts and participation in music festivals.

Section D - Achievements & Performance

MFCS staged three concerts in 2022. On 27 March we performed Bach's St John Passion under the direction of Jeremy Summerly and with the Mayfield Baroque Orchestra and young soloists from the Royal College of Music. On 24 April, we opened the two week-long 2022 Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts with the world premier of O'Neill's Cantata of St Dunstan, commissioned to Celebrate the Festival's 50th Anniversary. We were directed by Jeremy Summerly and joined by the Chelsea Camerata and Royal Academy of Music graduate Angus McPhee. On 20 November we performed a programme by contemporary composers with Rutter's Magnificat and Stopford's Missa Deus Nobiscum, again directed by Jeremy Summerly with the London Primavera Orchestra and soloist Eloise Irving.

Wherever possible we choose to work with young professional orchestras and soloists from the London Conservatoires, giving them additional performing experience as they establish their careers. Mayfield Baroque is an instrumental collective of young professional players of period instruments, all of whom are based in and around London and Oxford. The group was formed in 2016 specifically to work with Mayfield Festival Choir and the choir of St Peter's Oxford. Chelsea Camerata is a similar orchestra, often working with the choir of St Luke's Chelsea.

With regard to our objectives of educating the public and developing appreciation of music we have sought to continue to develop both choir membership and audience size.

Despite impact of COVID, choir membership remains strong, with both the soprano and alto sections almost at full capacity. Potential singers are invited to attend two rehearsals before taking an informal voice assessment and joining. Through collaboration with Friends of Music in Mayfield, we have arranged for two free singing lessons to be available for those who want further guidance with their voice. To encourage young singers, no subscription is required for those under the age of 25.

Contd:

We have continued to develop our use of social media (particularly FaceBook and Instagram) to enhance our publicity campaigns, although audience numbers were still slightly lower than pre-pandemic levels. Online ticket sales now account for almost all sales to the public but we do still provide a local box office for those who prefer to select and buy tickets in person. For the choir's stand alone concerts, the popular centre aisle tickets are priced at £25 and £20, but all the side and rear aisle tickets are £10. All tickets are half price for those under 18.

Jane Bolger - Chair

Section E - Financial Review

Charity's policy on reserves: Surplus cash for the day to day running of the choir is held in the bank as unrestricted funds and placed on deposit whenever possible to earn gross interest. These funds are primarily held to meet any unforeseen expenditure and to cover any shortfall on concert ticket sales. A donation of £20,000 made in 2019 plus associated Gift Aid of £5,000 is held in a separate account as restricted funds for "special" projects in accordance with the donor's wishes. See note 7 on Notes to the Accounts.

Any funds materially in deficit: Not applicable.

Principal source of funds: Concert ticket sales, subscriptions from members, Patrons, Gift Aid, Josephine Baker Trust

Section F - Other Optional Information

None.

Section G - Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s):

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Full name(s):

Jane Bolger	
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Position:

Chair	
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Date:

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Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A - Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of: The Mayfield Festival Choir Society

On accounts for the year ended: 31 December 2023

Registered charity number: 1109434

Set out on pages: 6, 7, and 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act")) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under Section 43 of the Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directives given by the Charity Commission (under Section 43(7)9b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement: 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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

contd.

Independent examiner's statement: In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 41 of the Act),
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature:

Date:

Name: John Buddle

Relevant professional qualification: Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers

Address:

Walnut Tree House,
High Street
Mayfield
East Sussex
TN20 6AB

Statement of Financial Activities

Charity name: The Mayfield Festival Choir Society

Registered charity number: 1109434

For the period: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Income & Expenditure

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME	Notes					
Ticket sales	4	12258	--	--	12258	8550
Programme adverts & sales		1203	--	--	1203	1265
Josephine Baker Trust		990	--	--	990	600
Sale/hire of choir music		352	--	--	352	414
Subscriptions – members	3	8560	--	--	8560	8090
Subscriptions – patrons	3	2610	--	--	2610	4745
Donations received		58	--	--	58	100
Gift Aid		2321	--	--	2321	2415
Social events		1720	1140	--	2860	295
Bank interest		215	--	--	215	13
Total income:		30287	1140	0	31427	26487
EXPENDITURE						
Professional fees	5	8568	-	-	8568	9891
Publicity & advertising incl. www		1396	-	-	1396	1368
Programmes & covers		1249	-	-	1249	1068
Use of church facilities & Red X		2302	-	-	2302	2806
Purchase/hire of music		322	-	-	322	583
Equipment - staging		270	-	-	270	462
Making Music sub's & Insurance		678	-	-	678	390
Social events		190	-	-	190	236
Committee expenses		0	-	-	0	0
Donations		0	-	-	0	0
Orchestra		11552	-	-	11552	12300
Soloists		2380	-	-	2380	3148
Southwark Cathedral concert		0	10232	-	10232	0
Total expenditure:		28907	10232	0	39139	32252
Net surplus(deficit) for the year		1380	(9092)	0	(7712)	(5765)

Balance Sheet (as at 31 December 2023)

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes					
Current accounts		980	15908	0	16888	26120
Savings accounts		22737	0	0	22737	21217
Sundry assets and (liabilities)	6	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total:		23717	15908	0	39625	47337

CURRENT FUNDS

Balance as at 31.12.22		22337	25000	0	47337	53102
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1380	(9092)	0	(7712)	(5765)
Balance as at 31.12.23		23717	15908	0	39625	47337

Signed by one or two trustees on
 behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Name	Date of Approval

Notes to the Accounts

1) These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance **Accounting Policies** with applicable accounting standards and the Charity Commissioners' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

2) **Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses**

No elected or co-opted Committee member receives any income. Reimbursement for actual expenses incurred is made to Committee members.

3) **Subscriptions and Membership**

There were 84 singing members during 2023 paying a subscription of £105 each. Non-singing membership consisted of 12 gold patrons and 11 silver patrons.

4) Concert Ticket Sales	2022	2023
	£	£
May concert*	3718	6399
November concert	4833	5860
	<u>8551</u>	<u>12259</u>

*The Mayfield Festival occurs every two years.

5) Professional Fees

The Society does not employ any individual on a contract of employment. Payments are made to the musical director and rehearsal accompanist in respect of their services and to professional musicians in respect of performances at concerts.

	2022	2023
	£	£
Musical director and rehearsal accompanist	9891	8335
Orchestra	12300	11552
Soloists gross	3148	2380
	<u>25339</u>	<u>22267</u>

(6) Sundry Assets & Liabilities

2022	2023
£	£
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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Donations

In 2019 the choir received a very generous donation of £20,000. The donor does not wish the gift to be used for the day-to-day costs of running the choir. Suggested projects include workshops, commissioning of new music, a recording project, supporting visits/outings etc. The funds are held in a separate, restricted account.