

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 1150514

Details

Other names	VOX HOLLOWAY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2013-01-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	48 Ambler Road London N4 2QU
Phone	02072265782
Email	voxhollowayn7@gmail.com
Website	www.voxholloway.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE: 1. TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS; 2. TO FURTHER SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SHALL THINK FIT BUT IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE MAKING OF GRANTS AND DONATIONS.

Activities: Vox Holloway (Latin: "the voice of Holloway") is a community choral society founded in 2009 by Justin Butcher. Vox Holloway is a choir open to all: there are no auditions and members are not required to have previous experience of choral singing, belong to any particular faith or live in any particular postcode.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Islington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£100,907	£95,972	-	-
2023-12-31	£48,020	£48,875	-	-
2022-12-31	£83,784	£79,900	-	-
2021-12-31	£45,279	£42,320	-	-
2020-12-31	£51,571	£58,996	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caroline Rohais Millar		2019-06-04
Eleanor Charlotte Whittaker		2025-06-23
Jonathan Wylie Sedgwick		2019-06-04
Joshua Ansel Sidney Winfield		2023-06-27
Lucy Watson		2022-09-20
PATRICIA MARY ZIPFEL		2014-02-10
Polly Ruth Barker		2018-03-27
Sheena Aluinn O'Regan Cruse		2016-05-24

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1150514

Accounts

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31st DECEMBER 2024

CHARITY NO: 1150514

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name N7 Community Choir

Charity Number 1150514

Correspondent Address Jonathan Sedgwick
41 Foxham Road
London
N19 4RR

Trustees During the year the following served as trustees:

Polly Barker	Trustee
Sheena Cruse	Trustee - Secretary
Caroline Millar	Trustee
Jonathan Sedgwick	Trustee - Treasurer
Lucy Watson	Trustee - Co-opted
Joshua Winfield	Trustee - Co-opted
Tricia Zipfel	Trustee - Chair

Bankers Lloyds Bank
48-49 Strand
London
WC2N 5LL

Independent Examiner Graeme Tait
35 Fortismere Avenue
London
N10 3BN

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Organisation

Vox Holloway is a charitable unincorporated association, registered as charity number 1150514 under the name '**N7 Community Choir**', and adopted its constitution (governing document) on 25 September 2012. It is managed by a Committee of up to nine people, comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the *Officers*); not more than 2 other members (the *Other Committee Members*); and not more than 4 co-opted members (the *Co-opted Members*). Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and members of the choir. Committee members are nominated and elected by members of the choir at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial management and day-to-day running of the choir. Trustees are supported by choir members, who help to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals, performances, fund-raising, publicity and other activities. All Trustees and choir members offer their services on a voluntary basis. We employ no staff members but contract on a project by project basis for the services of our Musical Director and Associate Director, and the musicians and soloists who perform with us.

We are based at St Luke's church, West Holloway and the church supports us in various ways, including by providing rehearsal and performance space and by helping develop our links with the local community. Each year we make a donation to the church to cover some of the costs involved. From time to time we perform in other venues, mainly in London.

Objectives of the charity as stated in the constitution

The Trustees are confident that we have furthered our objects, which are:

- 1) to promote, improve and advance public education and participation in, and the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects within the community by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specifically written works, in public concerts and recitals and in such other ways as the Choir shall determine from time to time; and
- 2) to advance other such charitable purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in particular by making of grants and donations.

We also confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Aims of the charity

Vox Holloway is committed to being a genuine 'community choir' and welcomes anyone who loves to sing. There are no auditions and members are not required to have previous singing experience, belong to any faith, or live in a particular postcode. We recruit by word of mouth, and new members often come because they have been inspired by one of our concerts. We have a core membership of around 180 singers, around 100 of whom will sing with us each term, and a much larger network of supporters and occasional participants. We have a good balance of different voices, including strong tenor and bass sections. At times we have had to limit recruitment in the alto and soprano sections. We are committed to achieving excellence in all we do and work hard to help members improve and develop their skills. We want all our performances to be uplifting and, while our main audience is our local community, we often sing in other larger venues and constantly seek to reach out to new audiences.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Aims of the charity (continued)

Our basic programme is to perform three or more times per year, singing an eclectic range of classical, ecclesiastical, folk, pop, and world music. Vox has built a reputation for developing exciting and innovative work, written by our Musical Director, Harvey Brough and our founder, Justin Butcher. The compositions have tackled contemporary themes such as mental health (*Music on the Mind*), slavery (*The Year of Jubilee / Freedom Song*), poverty (*The Stony Field*), and climate change (*Ona's Flood*). Our aim is to strengthen that aspect of our work and to extend the scope of what we can present, both to local audiences and more widely. In addition to the creative work of our Musical Director and founder, we are greatly helped by working regularly with nationally and internationally recognised singers and musicians, who are committed to working with Vox in a community setting, and who see this partnership as mutually beneficial.

Vox has always been committed to highlighting social issues and to supporting other charities through our fund-raising activities. Since we began in 2009, we have supported more than 20 partner charitable organisations and raised over £80,000 to support their work. This remains a core part of our vision and a distinguishing feature of our choir.

Our story over the past 15 years is a very positive one, but we do not want to be complacent. The wider context for the arts in general is challenging and we are clear that we need to think carefully about our future direction. Openness to change is part of being a dynamic and relevant organisation. So, building on what we believe to be strong foundations, in 2024, Trustees initiated a Strategic Review to look at the aims and purpose of the charity, our governance and operations and our longer-term vision. (see below)

REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Concerts

Our 2024 artistic programme was exciting and full of highlights. It was also incredibly busy. We began in February, with a packed concert, at St Luke's, performing *In The Studio With The Special AKA*, which Jerry Dammers himself attended. After the concert he said how moving it was to have his ground-breaking music revived by Harvey and sung by Vox. In March, we took *The Sun Does Shine* to Hackney Empire for another thrilling performance. With funding from the Arts Council and Backstage Trust we were able to enhance the staging to increase the drama and power of this amazing story.

Rather than opting for a relaxed summer term, we performed Harvey's adaption of the Kinks' *Village Green Preservation Society* and *Arthur (Or The Decline And Fall Of The British Empire)* at Alexandra Palace theatre. We managed to achieve another packed house and were thrilled to have Sir Ray Davies join us for the second time with his team

In the Autumn, we shifted our focus to classical music and performed Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* on 30 November, at St James's Piccadilly alongside Harvey Brough's *Now We are Six*, an original work based on AA Milne's nursery rhymes. Earlier in November, the Chamber Choir had performed *Freedom Song* at the Ragged School Museum in Tower Hamlets, very near the site where the Fisk Jubilee Singers performed to orphan children in 1873. The venue and intimate, old-fashioned classroom setting was particularly powerful, and we are building on our links with the Museum. Finally, in December, the Chamber Choir performed a beautiful Christmas concert at St Luke's, featuring a range of medieval to modern carols, unfamiliar music as well as songs that everyone could join in singing. We were supported throughout the year by the musicians and soloists who regularly work with Vox, and the Christmas concert enabled some of our own choir members to step forward as soloists.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

REVIEW OF PROGRESS (continued)

Funding

We did not make any new funding applications during 2024, but our concerts were supported by existing grants from the Arts Council and Backstage Trust. At the request of Matt Evan Smith's family, we established a Foundation in his name to help us work more extensively with professional musicians. Maurice Wren was the first person to benefit from this scheme which is funded by a regular donation from Matt's family, enhanced by other contributions.

Awards

Another high point in the year was winning the Making Music National Award for best Project of the Year for our documentary *Between the Bars*. It tells the story of how we made *The Sun Does Shine*, and following the award, Harvey and Tricia (chair) contributed to a seminar organised by Making Music for people from choirs around the country. One commented: *I have heard you talk or read about this project a handful of times now and I only feel more in awe of what you managed to achieve each time!* This reinforced our sense that Vox Holloway is breaking new ground in the topics we are engaging with and the music that we are creating.

Radio project

The origins of *The Sun Does Shine* go back to 2019, but it has created ripples and new projects that were unforeseen when we embarked on the oratorio. We had always been determined to get the story and the music into prisons and, with funding from the Arts Council, we worked directly with Anthony Ray Hinton to create a 30-minute radio programme that combined his voice and our music. In summer 2024 National Prison Radio broadcast the programme across the UK prison estate three times. Shortly afterwards, it came to the attention of a producer at the BBC, and we were invited to adapt it for the Radio 4 Illuminated programme in November. This felt like a strong endorsement of the project, made even more thrilling when it was also selected for Pick of the Week. The team who worked on this project included Anthony Ray Hinton in Alabama, five Vox members and an external co-director in London, and his trainee editors based in Makeni in Sierra Leone.

Partnerships

From the outset, we have tried to relate Anthony Ray Hinton's story to long-term prisoners in the UK, and in 2024, we linked up with the Irene Taylor Trust (ITT), an arts charity that takes music into prisons and supports ex-offenders through the arts. Our Hackney Empire concert raised over £700 to support their work. In addition, we provided 50 free tickets for ex-offenders, their families and vulnerable groups linked to ITT and other community organisations. ITT members contributed to the radio programme and their stories will form the basis of a second podcast in 2025. In February, we again worked with staff at Whittington Hospital to put together their annual service of remembrance for families who have lost babies and children.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

REVIEW OF PROGRESS (continued)

Strategic review

The pace at which Vox has developed, our level of ambition and our capacity for innovation have been managed to date by members who are all volunteers working with our musical director. We had decided in 2023 that we should take a step back and assess how well we were doing as an organisation, how sustainable we were, and what our vision for the future looked like. Our aim was to be more proactive in terms of planning and fund-raising and to better manage both risks and opportunities. In summer 2024, we commissioned two consultants from Accenture to undertake a survey of current and former members. They offered their services *pro bono* and completed their work in December. We also hired a consultant to interview Trustees, our director and other professionals and key stakeholders, on a one-to-one basis. This work began in November 2024. The response from everyone has been impressive and we planned to complete the process by March 2025. Even before we draw conclusion from the review, ideas for improvement have emerged and the fact of asking members for their views has had a positive impact.

Personnel, communications and administration

Throughout 2024, choir numbers have remained high. Our social media presence is stronger, and we are more focused on promoting the choir to wider audiences both within and beyond our local community. Between January and September, Harvey was supported by Rick Leigh, a former Vox singer, who is a professional musician and accompanist. During the Autumn term, another long-term colleague, James Murray, took on that role as well as assistant conductor. Other than our professional music leaders, Vox operates on a voluntary basis without any paid administrative support. Choir members are committed and always willing to help, but the demands on trustees are considerable and concern about sustainability is one of the factors leading to the Strategic Review.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financially 2024 was a strong year. Vox put on four well-attended concerts, one in St Luke's and three at larger venues, and the first *The Sun Does Shine* podcast was completed, culminating in a BBC broadcast. Choir membership has remained steady at between 85 and 100 singers each term.

The spring term was popular with both choir members and audiences with 100 singers signed up for one or both of the concerts. Audience numbers were strong with the *Special AKA* concert filling St Luke's with around 320 tickets sold and the staging of *The Sun Does Shine* at the Hackney Empire achieving almost 80% of capacity. As part of the broader project to bring *The Sun Does Shine* story and music to a wider audience, we received generous funding from Arts Council England and, with particular emphasis on enhanced staging and presentation, the Backstage Trust. We are deeply grateful for their support for this project. Strong membership and ticket income generated a significant surplus for the term.

The summer term was focused on taking our *Kinks* program to a wider audience at Alexandra Palace theatre. 91 choir members signed up - a strong showing for a summer term, traditionally the quietest. An effective marketing campaign helped achieve close to 80% of seats in the theatre being sold, contributing to another surplus for the term.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

The autumn term saw Vox return to St James's Piccadilly for a concert of pieces by Benjamin Britten and Harvey Brough. 86 singers signed up and ticket sales were close to 60% of capacity. This concert was the first to receive support from the Matt Evan Smith Memorial Fund (described elsewhere) and we are grateful to the contributors to the fund for their generosity. We again saw a small surplus on the term.

Completion of the *Sun Does Shine* podcast triggered the drawdown of the balance of Arts Council funding and the subsequent adaption for BBC broadcast generated a small surplus for Vox. Vox continues to support the musical education of a local student and the infrastructure of our home venue St Luke's through contributing to new lighting systems for the church. We also commissioned a combination of pro-bono and paid assistance to support the Strategy Review. The cost was partly borne in the year with the balance to be incurred in 2025 covered in Designated Funds.

As a result of the strong financial performance, unrestricted net income for the year was £7,770, meaning that total reserves and cash balances have risen to over £22,000. Vox is well placed to fund the plans for new works and other projects arising from the Strategic Review.

Independent examiner

Graeme Tait, a retired member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand who has no involvement in the charity, has indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees regularly assess the **overall risks** to which the charity is exposed, especially those relating to the management of our rehearsal process and concerts, additional one-off projects, our finances and the governance of the charity. 2022 was a transition year, following the pandemic; 2023 was a time to get the choir back onto a normal footing. In 2024 we seized several opportunities to raise our profile, expand the type of work we did, and increase our capacity for ambitious performances

Careful **management** is crucial. Trustees met six times during the year and held an AGM in June. Inevitably much of our attention focuses on the logistics of organising, promoting and delivering high quality performances throughout the year, and on managing various related projects like the radio podcasts. We work hard to build strong relationships with partner organisations—without their trust it would be impossible to do many of the more innovative projects that we have undertaken.

We have always put a lot of effort into regular **communications** with the wider membership and with those who are singing each term. The weekly email Newsletter is much appreciated, and the quality of our website continues to improve. Our Vox Instagram account has strengthened our external professional links, increased the numbers who follow Vox and improved our internal communications with members. The audio aids provided every term mean that everyone can learn quickly whether or not they read music, and this encourages many people to join Vox who might be intimidated by other choirs.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

We continue to review our **data-base** information and update our records in line with GDPR requirements. We also review our policies regularly and make incremental improvements to ensure high overall standards, good governance and scope for future succession.

The Trustees have begun the process of **incorporating** the charity by transferring its assets to a charitable incorporated organisation. This will allow the charity to contract in its own name, as well as providing limited liability for the Trustees.

SUMMARY

in 2024, we extended our reach by performing in five key venues across central, north and east London. We won a national award for our documentary, our radio podcast was broadcast on the BBC, and it featured on Pick of the Week. We strengthened our partnerships both here and the USA, working with the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, UK Prison Radio, the Irene Taylor Trust and the Ragged School Museum. We blended classical works with our own original repertoire. And we initiated a thorough Strategic Review that asked difficult questions and scrutinised how we operate with a view to an even better future for the choir.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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).

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature

P M Zipfel. (CHAIR)

Name

PATRICIA M. ZIPFEL

Date

24th June 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of N7 Community Choir ("The Trust") (Registered Charity Number 1150514) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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").

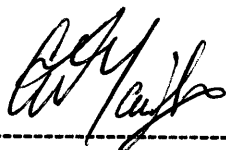
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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) Regulation 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.



Graeme Tait B Com (NZ)
35 Fortismere Avenue
London N10 3BN



Date

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

		2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 £
	Note				
INCOME FROM:					
Voluntary Income from Donors	2a	31,054	21,652	52,706	28,279
Charitable & Trading Activities	2b	48,201	-	48,201	19,741
TOTAL INCOME		<u>79,255</u>	<u>21,652</u>	<u>100,907</u>	<u>48,020</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Grants Made	3a	1,924	-	1,924	2,235
Direct Charitable Expenditure	3b	66,390	24,487	90,877	46,104
Cost of Generating Funds	3c	816	-	816	216
Other Expenditure	3d	2,355	-	2,355	320
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>71,485</u>	<u>24,487</u>	<u>95,972</u>	<u>48,875</u>
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)		7,770	(2,835)	4,935	(855)
Balances Brought Forward		12,078	5,235	17,313	18,168
Balances Carried Forward		<u>19,848</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>22,248</u>	<u>17,313</u>

Movements on Reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.
Details of restricted income and expenditure are set out in Notes 2 to 4.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)" (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted but are shown separately.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided as appropriate.

1c) Matching of income and expenditure to termly projects

Each financial year consists of Spring, Summer and Autumn terms with specific projects in each.

Income and expenditure relating to each term's project(s) are recognised within the financial year in which the term falls, subject to the notes below on timing of recognition and recoverability of amounts.

Where the commitment of expenditure relating to a project spans more than one financial year then the expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred with funds to cover the later year's expenditure shown in reserves as Restricted or Designated as appropriate.

1d) Income

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the charity are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain, unless they relate to a specific project in a future period, in which case recognition is deferred.

1e) Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the charity.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1f) Current assets

Amounts owing to the charity at the year end in respect of programme advertising or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that are considered to be uncollectable.

Advances made in respect of material for projects falling into future financial periods are shown as prepayments. The valuation of such advances is reviewed and written down as necessary.

1g) Current liabilities

Amounts owed by the charity at the year end in respect of musicians, concert staging or other expenditure relating to projects in the year are shown as creditors.

Grants, donations and subscriptions received in the year relating to projects or terms falling into future financial periods are shown as deferred income.

1h) Designated funds

The balance shown as designated funds represents expenditure on current or prior year projects which it is intended to incur in following years, or on planned future projects. This includes the costs of finalising recordings made in prior years for public release, the balance of the costs of the Strategic Review project to be completed early in 2025, musical development costs for planned future commissions and the anticipated costs of a second podcast as part of the Sun Does Shine outreach project.

2. INCOME	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
2a) Voluntary Income from Donors				
Voluntary Subscriptions from Choir	22,655	-	22,655	19,610
Donations received	3,390	390	3,780	2,843
Grants received or recognised in the year	-	21,262	21,262	1,400
Reclaimable Gift Aid	5,009	-	5,009	4,426
	<u>31,054</u>	<u>21,652</u>	<u>52,706</u>	<u>28,279</u>
2b) Charitable & Trading Activities				
Sale of Tickets	36,617	-	36,617	15,042
Programmes, CDs & Merchandise sales	2,220	-	2,220	664
Programme Advertising	1,250	-	1,250	-
Donations for Refreshments	4,248	-	4,248	3,937
Radio Programme Fee	3,750	-	3,750	-
Between The Bars film showing net income	-	-	-	98
Bank interest earned	116	-	116	-
	<u>48,201</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,201</u>	<u>19,741</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

3. EXPENDITURE	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
3a) Grants Made				
St Luke's Church	1,599	-	1,599	1,599
Safe Passage	-	-	-	411
Citizen's Theatre	100	-	100	-
Young Musician Sponsorship	225	-	225	225
	1,924	-	1,924	2,235
3b) Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Purchase of Refreshments	2,185	-	2,185	1,816
Scores & Audio Aids	8,220	-	8,220	6,350
Design & Photography	2,204	-	2,204	1,040
Composition, Arrangement & Libretto	3,000	-	3,000	1,750
Musicians (main choir rehearsals)	7,379	3,690	11,069	7,605
Musicians (performances)	9,022	4,800	13,822	10,470
Musicians (chamber choir rehearsals)	3,800	-	3,800	2,350
Venue Hire & Services	11,303	6,757	18,060	2,705
Hire of Instruments & Tuning	1,676	-	1,676	565
Printing Expenses	1,878	-	1,878	2,927
Audio-visual Professionals	2,689	-	2,689	400
Music Licences	2,295	-	2,295	509
Merchandising materials	-	-	-	127
Stage Management Professionals	-	3,900	3,900	-
Hire of Van, Staging & Chairs	5,109	-	5,109	-
Podcast / Outreach Project Costs	(544)	5,340	4,796	-
Radio Program Costs	3,350	-	3,350	-
Audio / Lighting equipment for St Luke's	500	-	500	200
CD Production Costs	1,853	-	1,853	-
Between The Bars Film Production	-	-	-	6,850
Making Music Membership	471	-	471	440
	66,390	24,487	90,877	46,104
3c) Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising & Publicity	816	-	816	216
	816	-	816	216
3d) Other Expenditure				
Office costs	2,355	-	2,355	320
	2,355	-	2,355	320

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

4. MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Funds Brought Forward		5,235	10,585
Funds Received			
The Sun Does Shine Project			
Arts Council England re Outreach	915		-
Choir donations re Podcast	190		-
Arts Council England re Film	-		1,400
Arts Council England re Performance	9,547		-
Backstage Trust Grant	10,800		-
	<u>21,452</u>		<u>1,400</u>
Matt Evan Smith Memorial Fund			
Donations Received		200	-
		-	-
Total Received		<u>21,652</u>	<u>1,400</u>
Funds Disbursed			
The Sun Does Shine			
Rehearsal / Concert costs	18,997		-
Outreach / Podcast costs	5,340		-
Between the Bars film costs	-		6,750
	<u>24,337</u>		<u>6,750</u>
Matt Evan Smith Memorial Fund			
Musician Performance Fees		150	-
Total Disbursed		<u>24,487</u>	<u>6,750</u>
Balance of Restricted Funds Held		<u>2,400</u>	<u>5,235</u>

The balance of Restricted Funds represents £1,000 for any remaining design work in respect of the Freedom Song outreach project, £1,350 in respect of the Sun Does Shine prison workshop being delivered in 2025 and a £50 balance on the Memorial Fund.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1150514

Accounts

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31st DECEMBER 2023

CHARITY NO: 1150514

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name	N7 Community Choir
Charity Number	1150514
Correspondent Address	Jonathan Sedgwick 41 Foxham Road London N19 4RR
Trustees	During the year the following served as trustees: Polly Barker Trustee Sheena Cruse Trustee - Secretary Caroline Millar Trustee Jonathan Sedgwick Trustee - Treasurer Lucy Watson Trustee - Co-opted Joshua Winfield Trustee - Co-opted 20th September 2023 Tricia Zipfel Trustee - Chair
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 39 Piccadilly 1V 0AA
Independent Examiner	Graeme Tait 35 Fortismere Avenue London N10 3BN

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Organisation

Vox Holloway is a charitable unincorporated association, registered as charity number 1150514 under the name '**N7 Community Choir**', and adopted its constitution (governing document) on 25 September 2012. It is managed by a Committee of up to nine people, comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the *Officers*); not more than 2 other members (the *Other Committee Members*); and not more than 4 co-opted members (the *Co-opted Members*). Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and members of the choir. Committee members are nominated and elected by members of the choir at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial management and day-to-day running of the choir. Trustees are supported by a team of choir members, who help to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals, performances, fund-raising, publicity and other activities. All Trustees and choir members offer their services on a voluntary basis. We employ no staff members but contract on a project by project basis for the services of our Musical Director, Associate Director, Sectional Leaders and musicians and soloists who perform with us.

We are based at St Luke's church, West Holloway and the church supports us in various ways, including by providing rehearsal and performance space and by helping develop our links with the local community. Each year we make a donation to the church in order to cover some of the costs involved. From time to time we perform in other venues, mainly in London.

Objectives of the charity as stated in the constitution

The Trustees are confident that we have furthered our objects, which are:

to promote, improve and advance public education and participation in, and the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects within the community by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specifically written works, in public concerts and recitals and in such other ways as the Choir shall determine from time to time; and

to advance other such charitable purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in particular by making of grants and donations.

We also confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Aims of the charity

Vox Holloway is committed to being a genuine 'community choir' and welcomes anyone who loves to sing. There are no auditions and members are not required to have previous singing experience, belong to any faith, or live in a particular postcode. We recruit by word of mouth, and new members often come because they have been inspired by one of our concerts. We have a core membership of around 180 singers, around 100 of whom will sing with us each term, and a much larger network of supporters and occasional participants. We have a good balance of different voices, including strong tenor and bass sections. At times we have had to limit recruitment in the alto and soprano sections. We are committed to achieving excellence in all we do and work hard to help members improve and develop their skills. We want all our performances to be uplifting and, while our main audience is our local community, we often sing in other larger venues and constantly seek to reach out to new audiences.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Aims of the charity (continued)

Our basic programme is to perform three or more times per year, singing an eclectic range of classical, ecclesiastical, folk, pop, and world music. Covid 19 interrupted that pattern. However, we kept Vox going online throughout that difficult period and created a wider online membership, maintained links via Zoom and streamed several virtual concerts. Since then, we have tried to build on these wider connections.

Vox has built a reputation for developing exciting and innovative work, written by our Musical Director, Harvey Brough and our founder, Justin Butcher. The compositions have tackled contemporary themes such as mental health (*Music on the Mind*), slavery (*The Year of Jubilee / Freedom Song*), poverty (*The Stony Field*), and climate change (*Ona's Flood*). Our aim is to strengthen that aspect of our work and to extend the scope of what we can present, both to local audiences and more widely. In addition to the creative work of our Musical Director and founder, we are greatly helped by working regularly with nationally and internationally recognised singers and musicians, who are committed to working with Vox in a community setting, and who see this partnership as mutually beneficial.

Vox has always been committed to highlighting social issues and to supporting other charities through our fund-raising activities. Since we began in 2009, we have supported more than 20 partner charitable organisations and raised over £80,000 to support their work. This remains a core part of our vision and a distinguishing feature of our choir.

Review of progress

Following the ambitious programme achieved in 2022, 2023 was a slightly less demanding year. We continued to rebuild our membership post-Covid; we performed a range of works, classical and modern; and we took forward two wider projects that had evolved from *The Sun Does Shine (TSDS)* and for which we received significant funding from Arts Council England (ACE).

Concerts

The choir focused on producing three exciting and well-received concerts through the year. In March, *Lost and Found* featured works by Purcell, Handel and Brough and was performed to a large audience at St James's, Piccadilly. We brought together a baroque ensemble of 11 musicians, 5 soloists and a children's choir, alongside the Vox Holloway choir. The concert was in aid of Safe Passage, a charity working to reunite young migrants with family members in the UK. They spoke movingly about their work with refugees and a 'bucket collection' generated a significant donation for the charity.

In June, our Summer concert, held at St Luke's, was designed to be a fun event with food and maximum audience involvement. Choir members did the catering and we invited people to pay a little extra to join our afternoon rehearsal so they could participate later. The programme, Harvey Brough's arrangements of the Beatles' *Sgt Pepper* and *Revolver* albums, was appealing to people of all ages and we got a great response. It was a hectic but thoroughly enjoyable evening, with great feedback from our audience and co-singers.

In the Autumn term, we were invited to return to St James's, Piccadilly to perform Faure's *Requiem* and *The Prophet* by Harvey Brough, a work we had last sung in 2013. The Vox Chamber Choir also performed *Incantation of Eden*, also by Harvey Brough with words by Justin Butcher. It was thrilling to sing these works in such a wonderful setting.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress (continued)

The Chamber Choir has continued to meet weekly alongside the main choir. In December, we performed the *Bells of Paradise* Christmas programme at St Luke's. The setting was beautiful and the music uplifting, with wonderful musicians and a semi-chorus of soloists who sang renaissance motets by Vittoria and Sweelinck and the exquisite *Christmas Motets* by Francis Poulenc.

Having funded *The Sun Does Shine* documentary, the recording and podcast project, ACE gave us a third grant towards this project, enabling us to present the show to a much larger audience at Hackney Empire. The performance was planned for 2024 but securing the grant in 2023 meant we could start promoting the show with the theatre team well ahead of the actual performance.

Wider Projects

In March, we launched *Between the Bars*, a 30-minute documentary that follows the choir as it gets to grips with the challenge of singing about Anthony Ray Hinton's 30-year ordeal on death row in Alabama. The film provides a compelling insight into Vox as a singing community and explores some of the challenges that arise when complex social issues are addressed through music and the arts. The film generated a lot of interest, and we were able to show it twice at a local cinema. With the film makers, we are exploring other ways to promote it more widely.

From January onwards, we began work on the *TSDS* podcast project, also funded by ACE. The idea was to take the story and the music into prisons in a way that would be meaningful to UK prisoners, especially those serving long-term and indeterminate sentences. The Prison Radio Association (PRA) had agreed to work with us, but in May they told us that they did not have capacity to help create the programmes. They could broadcast them into prisons, but Vox would have to produce them. Undaunted, we set about designing and developing the podcasts ourselves. In addition to the music of *TSDS*, we wanted to interview Anthony Ray himself, but given his hectic schedule, brokering this took many months. We also wanted to include the voices of UK prisoners and approached HMP Coldingley in the hope that we might record the prisoners we knew there. In the end this proved impractical, so instead, we partnered with the Irene Taylor Trust (ITT), a music charity that works with former prisoners. ACE agreed to extend the timeframe into 2024 and by December 2023 we were ready to start recording. This was new territory for the choir. Fortunately, a few choir members had experience in broadcasting and journalism, so we put together a great team that could work well with our partners, the Equal Justice Initiative and ITT. And, although not directly involved in the production, choir members recognised this as an important development in line with our mission, promoting our work and creating a wider platform for our music.

Personnel, communications and administration

Throughout 2023, choir numbers have grown back to pre-Covid levels. We launched the Vox Instagram account this year, creating another promotional platform to engage with the venues we perform in and the professionals we perform with. It is also helping us to build a stronger community of Vox followers and choir members. Until the summer, Harvey was supported by Christina Gill, associate director. Sadly, other commitments meant that she had to step back from Vox in September, but we were delighted that Rick Leigh was able to join us as accompanist. Other than our professional music leaders, Vox operates on a voluntary basis without any paid administrative support. Choir members are committed and always willing to help, but the demands on trustees are considerable. A key decision, taken in 2023, to review the way we operate will help build on our strengths and potentially lead to some changes that should enable us to plan ahead more effectively and better support Vox's innovative and experimental approach to choral music. The review will be taken forward in 2024.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial review

After the complexity of 2022, 2023 has been a relatively straightforward year. Each term involved just one concert—two at St James's, Piccadilly and one at our base in St Luke's church. Income and expenditure for the year have both reduced to around £48,000 as a result, with a net outflow of £5,350 against Restricted Reserves and a net surplus of £4,495 on General Reserves. This means that our closing General Reserves are strong at £12,078.

The Spring term, with 82 members signed up, worked up to a performance of our *Lost and Found* programme at St James's, Piccadilly in aid of the Safe Passage charity. The cost of a relatively large professional musical ensemble (eleven musicians and five vocal soloists) was offset by strong ticket sales (around 340 sold) and the venue's generosity in charging a reduced fee for the event. This, combined with a bucket collection, enabled Vox to pass on a total of £1,750 to Safe Passage and still show a surplus for the term.

A Beatles *Summer Spectacular* concert of the *Sgt Pepper* and *Revolver* albums at St Luke's was the focus of the Summer term, with 75 members singing. Food, prepared by volunteers in the choir, was included in the ticket price and, for a small additional fee, the audience were invited to a rehearsal prior to the concert to enable them to participate in some of the songs. This was very popular and ticket sales were strong at almost 290 seats—close to the capacity of the venue. This, combined with a surplus on refreshments, generated a strong financial outturn for the term.

The Autumn term saw us return to St James's, Piccadilly for a more classical programme with 88 members signing up to sing Faure's *Requiem* and *The Prophet*, by our musical director Harvey Brough. This was again a popular event with 385 tickets sold and the term showed a significant surplus.

Alongside the concert activity, we completed the film project *Between the Bars* within budget and drew down the final element of Arts Council England funding, as set out in Note 4. We staged two showings of the film at the Finsbury Park Picturehouse with costs covered by voluntary donations. Further opportunities to show the film more widely are being explored. Work also started on the related podcast project, though no external costs were incurred in this on the year.

We continue to support the musical education of a local young musician who sang with the choir for the first time in 2023. Vox also continues to support the musical infrastructure at St Luke's, contributing towards an additional radio microphone in the year.

Through careful financial management we have achieved our objective for each term to show a surplus. Reserves and cash balances have been built up to a healthy level giving Vox a degree of security and capacity to address the pressures that face much of the charity and voluntary sector.

Independent examiner

Graeme Tait, a retired member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand who has no involvement in the charity, has indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the **overall risks** to which the charity is exposed, especially those relating to the management of our rehearsal process and concerts, additional one-off projects, our finances and the governance of the charity. 2022 had been a transition year, following the pandemic. In 2023, we consolidated our membership and got the choir back onto a normal footing.

Careful **management** is crucial. Trustees met seven times during the year and held an AGM in July. Inevitably much of our attention focuses on the logistics of organising, promoting and delivering high quality performances throughout the year, and also managing various related projects like the podcasts. We work hard to build strong relationships with partner organisations - without their trust it would be impossible to do many of the more innovative projects that we have undertaken.

Vox has been in existence for over 14 years, so, in 2023, we began to think about where we wanted to be in (say) 5 years' time. We are proud that Vox still tries to be different and innovative, but we also recognise that we operate in a challenging environment where funding for the arts is tight, and costs are rising. We have an inspiring leader in Harvey Bough, and a dedicated group of trustees and volunteers who work incredibly hard. But we need to make sure that our governance structures are sustainable and well supported if we are to continue to flourish. In 2023, we decided to undertake a thorough **review**, involving as many stakeholders as possible, over the next year. 2023 marked the start of that process.

We have always put a lot of effort into regular **communications** with the wider membership and with those who are singing each term. The weekly email Newsletter is much appreciated, and the quality of our website continues to improve. Our Vox Instagram account has strengthened our external professional links, increased the numbers who follow Vox and improved our internal communications with members. The audio aids provided every term mean that everyone can learn quickly whether or not they read music, and this encourages many people to join Vox who might be intimidated by other choirs.

We continue to review our **data-base** information and update our records in line with GDPR requirements. We also review our policies regularly and make incremental improvements to ensure high overall standards, good governance and scope for future succession.

Summary

In 2023, we extended our reach by performing twice in Central London and launching a film that reflected what was special and distinctive about Vox and provided us with a valuable promotional tool. We strengthened our partnerships both here and in the USA. We incorporated a range of classical works into our own original repertoire. And we took the opportunity to begin to think ahead strategically, recognising everything that works well within Vox, but also being unafraid to ask difficult questions and to scrutinise how we operate with a view to an even better future for the choir.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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).

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

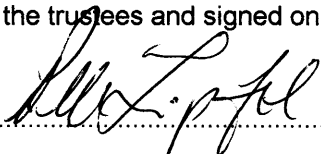
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature



Name

P. M. ZIPFEL (CHAIR)

Date

25th June 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of N7 Community Choir ("The Trust") (Registered Charity Number 1150514) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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) Regulation 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.



25/06/2024

Graeme Tait B Com (NZ)
35 Fortismere Avenue
London N10 3BN

Date

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

		2023	2023	2023	2022
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
INCOME FROM:					
Voluntary Income from Donors	2a	26,879	1,400	28,279	59,510
Charitable & Trading Activities	2b	19,741	-	19,741	24,274
TOTAL INCOME		<u>46,620</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>48,020</u>	<u>83,784</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Grants Made	3a	2,235	-	2,235	2,624
Direct Charitable Expenditure	3b	39,354	6,750	46,104	76,454
Cost of Generating Funds	3c	216	-	216	446
Other Expenditure	3d	320	-	320	376
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>42,125</u>	<u>6,750</u>	<u>48,875</u>	<u>79,900</u>
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)		4,495	(5,350)	(855)	3,884
Balances Brought Forward		7,583	10,585	18,168	14,284
Balances Carried Forward		<u>12,078</u>	<u>5,235</u>	<u>17,313</u>	<u>18,168</u>

Movements on Reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

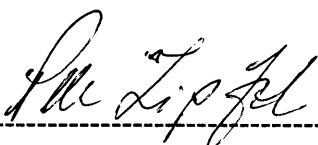
Details of restricted income and expenditure are set out in Notes 2 to 4.

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023**

		2023		2022	
Note	£	£	£	£	£
Current Assets:					
Cash at Bank			19,678		20,517
Debtors	1f				
Prepayments		5,295		515	
Accrued Income		3,862		3,047	
Other Debtors		5		10	
			9,162		3,572
Total Current Assets			28,840		24,089
Current Liabilities:					
Creditors	1g				
Deferred Income		(9,000)		(50)	
Accruals		(2,527)		(5,871)	
			(11,527)		(5,921)
NET ASSETS			17,313		18,168
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
General Funds - Designated	1h		2,000		2,000
General Funds - Other			10,078		5,583
Restricted Funds	4		5,235		10,585
TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES			17,313		18,168

Approved by the trustees of the N7 Community Choir and signed on their behalf by:

Signature 

Name P. M. ZIPFEL (CHAIR)

Date 25th June 2024

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)" (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted but are shown separately.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided as appropriate.

1c) Matching of income and expenditure to termly projects

Each financial year consists of Spring, Summer and Autumn terms with specific projects in each.

Income and expenditure relating to each term's project(s) are recognised within the financial year in which the term falls, subject to the notes below on timing of recognition and recoverability of amounts.

Where the commitment of expenditure relating to a project spans more than one financial year then the expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred with funds to cover the later year's expenditure shown in reserves as Restricted or Designated as appropriate.

1d) Income

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the charity are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain, unless they relate to a specific project in a future period, in which case recognition is deferred.

1e) Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the charity.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1f) Current assets

Amounts owing to the charity at the year end in respect of programme advertising or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that are considered to be uncollectable.

Advances made in respect of material for projects falling into future financial periods are shown as prepayments. The valuation of such advances is reviewed and written down as necessary.

1g) Current liabilities

Amounts owed by the charity at the year end in respect of musicians, concert staging or other expenditure relating to projects in the year are shown as creditors.

Grants, donations and subscriptions received in the year relating to projects or terms falling into future financial periods are shown as deferred income.

1h) Designated funds

The balance shown as designated funds represents expenditure on current or prior year projects which it is intended to incur in the following year. This includes post-production costs for recordings made in the year which it is intended will be released for sale (CD and/or download) in a later year.

2. INCOME	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
2a) Voluntary Income from Donors				
Voluntary Subscriptions from Choir	19,610	-	19,610	17,565
Donations received	2,843	-	2,843	10,561
Grants received or recognised in the year	-	1,400	1,400	28,085
Reclaimable Gift Aid	4,426	-	4,426	3,299
	<u>26,879</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>28,279</u>	<u>59,510</u>
2b) Charitable & Trading Activities				
Sale of Tickets	15,042	-	15,042	13,306
Performance Fees	-	-	-	3,750
Programmes, CDs & Merchandise sales	664	-	664	2,582
Donations for Refreshments	3,937	-	3,937	4,636
Between The Bars film showing net income	98	-	98	-
	<u>19,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,741</u>	<u>24,274</u>

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

3. EXPENDITURE	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
3a) Grants Made				
St Luke's Church	1,599	-	1,599	1,599
Safe Passage	411	-	411	-
Prison Reform Trust	-	-	-	800
Young Musician Sponsorship	225	-	225	225
	2,235	-	2,235	2,624
3b) Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Purchase of Refreshments	1,816	-	1,816	2,698
Scores & Audio Aids	6,350	-	6,350	3,900
Design & Photography	1,040	-	1,040	750
Composition, Arrangement & Libretto	1,750	-	1,750	5,500
Musicians (main choir rehearsals)	7,605	-	7,605	10,158
Musicians (performances)	10,470	-	10,470	23,515
Musicians (chamber choir rehearsals)	2,350	-	2,350	2,825
Venue Hire & Services	2,705	-	2,705	-
Hire of Instruments & Tuning	565	-	565	85
Printing Expenses	2,927	-	2,927	1,909
Audio-visual Professionals	400	-	400	9,513
Music Licences	509	-	509	584
Merchandising materials	127	-	127	-
Stage Management Professionals	-	-	-	650
Hire of Van, Staging & Chairs	-	-	-	443
Purchase of Rubber Acoustic Matting	-	-	-	440
Audio equipment for St Luke's	200	-	200	-
Freedom Song Outreach costs	-	-	-	1,800
Between The Bars Film Production	100	6,750	6,850	11,250
Making Music Membership	440	-	440	434
	39,354	6,750	46,104	76,454
3c) Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising & Publicity	216	-	216	446
	216	-	216	446
3d) Other Expenditure				
Office costs	320	-	320	376
	320	-	320	376

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

4. MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Funds Brought Forward		10,585	4,200
Funds Received			
The Sun Does Shine Project			
JustGiving Fundraising Campaign	-		5,031
Arts Council England re film	1,400		12,600
Anonymous donor (2022)	-		6,000
Arts Council England re outreach	-		8,235
	<u>1,400</u>	1,400	<u>31,866</u>
Vox 10th Anniversary Season			
Backstage Trust Grant (final 25%)	-		1,250
Anonymous donor (final 25%)	-		1,250
	<u>-</u>	-	<u>2,500</u>
Acoustic matting donations		-	440
Total Received		<u>1,400</u>	<u>34,806</u>
Funds Disbursed			
Payments to Musicians		-	2,500
Freedom Song Project			
School donation	-		300
Purchase of Freedom Song CDs	-		1,500
Agreed transfer to General Reserves	-		1,400
	<u>-</u>	-	<u>3,200</u>
The Sun Does Shine			
Musicians' rehearsal & concert costs	-		7,031
Recording costs	-		4,000
Between the Bars film costs	6,750		11,250
	<u>6,750</u>	6,750	<u>22,281</u>
Purchase of rubber acoustic matting		-	440
Total Disbursed		<u>6,750</u>	<u>28,421</u>
Balance of Restricted Funds Held		<u>5,235</u>	<u>10,585</u>

The balance of Restricted Funds represents £1,000 for any remaining design work which may be necessary in respect of the Freedom Song outreach project and £4,235 in respect of the Sun Does Shine outreach and podcast project being developed through 2023 and 2024.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1150514

Accounts

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31st DECEMBER 2022

CHARITY NO: 1150514

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name N7 Community Choir

Charity Number 1150514

Correspondent Address Jonathan Sedgwick
41 Foxham Road
London
N19 4RR

Trustees During the year the following served as trustees:

Polly Barker	Trustee
Sheena Cruse	Trustee - Secretary
Caroline Millar	Trustee
Jonathan Sedgwick	Trustee - Treasurer
Lucy Watson	Trustee Co-opted 9th June 2022
Tricia Zipfel	Trustee - Chair

Bankers Lloyds Bank
39 Piccadilly
1V 0AA

Independent Examiner Graeme Tait
35 Fortismere Avenue
London
N10 3BN

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Organisation

Vox Holloway is legally registered under the name '**N7 Community Choir**' and adopted its constitution (governing document) on 25 September 2012. It is managed by a Committee of up to nine people, comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the *Officers*); not more than 2 other members (the *Other Committee Members*); and not more than 4 co-opted members (the *Co-opted Members*). Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and members of the choir. Committee members are nominated and elected by members of the choir at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial management and day-to-day running of the choir. Trustees are supported by a team of choir members, who help to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals, performances, fund-raising, publicity and other activities. All Trustees and choir members offer their services on a voluntary basis. We employ no staff members but contract on a project by project basis for the services of our Musical Director, Associate Director, Sectional Leaders and musicians and soloists who perform with us.

We are based at St Luke's church, West Holloway and the church supports us in various ways, including by providing rehearsal and performance space and by helping develop our links within the local community. Each year we make a donation to the church in order to cover some of the costs involved. From time to time we are invited to perform in other venues, mainly in London.

Objectives of the charity as stated in the constitution

The Trustees are confident that we have met our objectives, which are:

to promote, improve and advance public education and participation in, and the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects within the community by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specifically written works, in public concerts and recitals and in such other ways as the Choir shall determine from time to time; and

to advance other such charitable purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in particular by making of grants and donations.

We also confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Aims of the charity

Vox Holloway is committed to being a genuine 'community choir' and welcomes anyone who loves to sing. There are no auditions and members are not required to have previous singing experience, belong to any faith, or live in a particular postcode. We recruit by word of mouth, and new members often come because they have been inspired by one of our concerts. We have a core membership of around 100 singers and a much larger network of supporters and occasional participants. We have a good balance of different voices, including strong tenor and bass sections. At times we have had to limit recruitment in the alto and soprano sections. We are committed to achieving excellence in all we do and work hard to help members improve and develop their skills. We want all our performances to be uplifting and, while our main audience is our local community, we often sing in other larger venues and constantly seek to reach out to new audiences.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Aims of the charity (continued)

Our basic programme is to perform three or more times per year, singing an eclectic range of classical, ecclesiastical, folk, pop, and world music. Covid 19 interrupted that pattern. However, we kept Vox going online throughout that difficult period and created a wider online membership, maintained links via Zoom and streamed several virtual concerts. Since then, we have tried to build on these wider connections.

Vox has built a reputation for developing exciting and innovative work, written by our director, Harvey Brough and our founder, Justin Butcher. The compositions have tackled contemporary themes such as mental health, slavery, poverty, and climate change. Our aim is to strengthen that aspect of our work and to extend the scope of what we can present, both to local audiences and more widely. In addition to the creative work of our director and founder, we are greatly helped by working regularly with nationally and internationally recognised singers and musicians, who are committed to working with Vox in a community setting, and who see this partnership as mutually beneficial.

Vox has always been committed to highlighting social issues and to supporting other charities through our fund-raising activities. Since we began in 2009, we have supported more than 20 partner charitable organisations and raised over £80,000 to support their work. This remains a core part of our vision and a distinguishing feature of our choir.

Review of progress in 2022

Since 2021, like many community arts organisations, Vox has been rebuilding post-Covid. By January 2022, choir members were more confident about rehearsing in person, but because Covid 19 remained a threat, we encouraged everyone to take precautions and be considerate of others as we worked together.

Our first performance, at the end of February, was the premiere of *The Sun Does Shine*, a work that had been in development since 2019. It was a major production involving 13 soloists, musicians and actors and played to a packed audience. Given the storyline – an innocent man who spent 30 years on Death Row in Alabama – we were unsure how people might respond, and we were delighted when it was well received, one commentator suggesting that it was possibly the best work we had done. In preparing for it, choir members had been writing to long term prisoners in the UK and met with a former prisoner and staff from the Prison Reform Trust. This ensured that the emotional power of the piece was fully embraced by the choir and made for a remarkable performance.

Work on a documentary linked to this project had begun in 2021, but filming started in earnest in January and continued intermittently through to October 2022, when we performed the work for a second time and made a professional recording. From July to December, we worked with the film makers on editing and refining the film. The final version, entitled *Between the Bars*, was ready to be launched by the end of the year.

In March, we held another concert, featuring a programme we had already done online during lockdown: Everything Must Change: songs of Liberation and Transformation. And in the Summer term, we repeated a concert performed some years ago with Monica Vasconcelos: Brazilian Promise, featuring the Sao Paulo Tapes alongside new music. We also recorded the programme with a view to producing a CD in 2023.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress in 2022 (continued)

A smaller group of choir members attended the Chalke Valley History Festival in June where we performed a selection from *Freedom Song* to a much smaller crowd than we had anticipated. The Autumn term was a very busy one for the choir. In October, we spent a weekend recording *The Sun Does Shine*, followed by another performance. And then took on Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and a new work by Harvey Brough, *Now We are () Six*, for our Christmas concert. This was the finale to a challenging, exhausting, but very fulfilling 12 months.

Throughout 2022, the Vox Chamber Choir met for an hour each week, alongside the main choir, and contributed to all our performances. This small group of about 25 singers enables our Musical Director to include a wider range of music in our repertoire and also offers the chance for more experienced singers to take on more challenging work.

Since lockdown ended, we have steadily rebuilt our numbers such that, by the end of the year, core membership stood at about 70 singers. This is lower than before Covid, but at this level the choir can function well, and since membership is continuing to grow, we are moving in the right direction. We rely on members' fees to cover our core work and are grateful to those who donate over and above the basic fee, since their generosity means that we continue to thrive and can offer subsidised places to people who are on low incomes.

The Arts Council part funded the documentary, but we had to raise additional funds and are very grateful to people who supported our crowd funding effort and to a very generous anonymous donor. During the year, we successfully applied for another ACE grant to cover the recording costs of *The Sun Does Shine* and to enable us to take the music and the story into prisons. In November, we began to develop that idea, working with the national Prison Radio Association. This means that the project will extend into 2023.

Trustees met regularly throughout 2022, steering Vox through our first 'normal' year since Covid 19. It proved to be a very demanding year. Vox is always creative and increasingly ambitious in the scope of what we do. We couldn't do it without the inspirational leadership of our Musical Director, ably supported by our Associate Director, but we also rely hugely on the voluntary efforts of our members and especially the committee, all of whom dedicate many hours to making Vox the kind of unique choir that it is. For most of the year, we were supported as well by Matt Evan Smith who had been bass sectional leader and Vox stage manager ever since the early days of Vox. Tragically, in October, he died very suddenly leaving us all bereft. He was a core member of the Vox team and community and is missed terribly.

Financial review

2022 was a complex year involving five concerts at St Luke's, two recording weekends, three off-site performances, the completion of the *Freedom Song* Outreach project, substantial progress on *Between the Bars*, our documentary film project, and the commencement of an outreach / podcast project based on *The Sun Does Shine* material. This has meant that income and costs recognised in the year have grown significantly over 2021 and overall reserves have increased to £18,168 including Restricted Funds. Within this figure the General Reserves have fallen by £2,501 after deficits on each term and a release of Restricted funds, but remain above our target of £5,000.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial review (continued)

The Spring term, with 75 members signed up, featured the premiere of *The Sun Does Shine*. The higher costs involved, which included commissioning the libretto and score, were offset to some extent by a strong JustGiving fundraising campaign, a sell-out concert, albeit with slightly reduced capacity due to a changed layout in the hall, and use of the remaining balances of the 10th Anniversary grant and donations received in 2019. However, despite the end of term concert, *Everything Must Change*, generating a small surplus, the overall term showed a deficit of around £800.

The Summer term consisted principally of a recording and performance of *Brazilian Promise* with Monica Vasconcelos and 61 choir members. No specific funding was raised for the significant additional cost of recording the material over a weekend at St Luke's and, despite strong ticket sales for the food-inclusive summer event, there was a deficit for the term of around £2,500. An outdoor performance of extracts from *Freedom Song* at the Chalke Valley History Festival near Salisbury generated a small fee which covered the professional musicians involved.

The Autumn term saw 76 choir members reprising *The Sun Does Shine*. We made a full recording of the oratorio and performed a concert. The additional costs of undertaking the recording were funded partly by Arts Council England and a grant from an anonymous donor. We also saw a small surplus on our Christmas concert of works by Britten and Brough - with thanks to our Musical Director for his contribution to keeping the cost of this concert low. But we still saw a deficit for the overall term of around £600.

Other costs incurred in the year, including continued sponsorship of a young musician's tuition fees, travel costs for a performance visit to Coldingley Prison and overheads such as insurance, have been offset by sales of CDs from stock.

There has been significant movement on Restricted Funds in the year, as set out in Note 4 to the accounts. This relates to the completion of the *Freedom Song* Outreach project (and the acceptance from Backstage Trust that their objectives have been met and as a result £1,400 has been transferred to General Funds) and ongoing work on three strands of activity relating to *The Sun Does Shine* material. Information on these projects is given elsewhere in this report.

The Trustees continue to manage the finances carefully. We are conscious that the deferred income that we have been able to bring forward for each of the last three years, principally from the 10th Anniversary Season grant and donation, have now all been recognised and each future term's budget must therefore be balanced. We are confident that this can be achieved and Vox can continue to undertake the varied and ambitious program that is its hallmark.

Independent examiner

Graeme Tait, a retired member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand who has no involvement in the charity, has indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the **overall risks** to which the charity is exposed, especially those relating to the management of our rehearsal process and concerts, our finances and the governance of the charity. Early in 2022, our risk assessment continued to focus on: mitigating the effect of the pandemic on our finances and on our community; rebuilding Vox post-lockdown and enabling people to return to live singing in a safe environment; ensuring that live performances did not lose money given slightly reduced audiences; and delivering all aspects of the major project that had been carried forward: *The Sun Does Shine*.

Careful **management** is crucial, and Trustees met five times during the year and held an AGM in September. We also held an away day in April to review progress, agree strategies post-Covid and plan a musical programme for the following 12-18 months. Prior to this we conducted a survey of members asking for feedback and ideas for how we might improve the way we work, and we gathered ideas for potential future concerts. This informed our discussions. We then fed back to members in writing and through an open dialogue over the following weeks. Our aim was to plan ahead so that funding and other issues could be addressed well in advance, and to do this in a way that involved choir members and enhanced their sense of ownership.

We reviewed **structural issues** and decided to recognise the contribution of one of our sectional leaders by creating the post of Associate Director thus providing more support for our Musical Director. We looked at the committee structure and agreed to co-opt some new members to ensure younger voices were heard. And we began to explore the possibility of seeking core funding in order to bring in some paid admin support in order to help manage the increasingly complex workload reflected in our programme. We have always relied on members to help informally with catering, concert logistics, sales, pastoral care etc. So, without being overly rigid, we decided to identify a number of semi-formal groups to take on various responsibilities in a way that also gives recognition to non-committee members for the work they do.

Venue issues: An ongoing concern has been the poor acoustics at St Luke's, our home base. During 2022, we experimented with different staging arrangements to mitigate the problems and invested in rubber matting, funded by choir donations. This made for significant improvements.

We have always put a lot of effort into regular **communications** with the wider membership and with those who are singing each term. The weekly email Newsletter is much appreciated, and the quality of our website continues to improve.

We continue to review our **data-base** information and update our records in line with GDPR requirements. We also review our policies regularly and make incremental improvements to ensure high overall standards, good governance and scope for future succession.

Summary – in 2022 we carried forward the adjustments needed to return to 'normal' after the disruption caused by Covid 19 and lockdown. We used this opportunity to take stock, consult members, review our operations and plan ahead to summer 2024. We also identified future financial challenges we might face and began to work out strategies for addressing these. This is an ongoing process, but at the end of the year, Trustees felt confident about the future of Vox, and had no reason to believe that there were any specific areas of risk that would affect the charity's performance or effective governance in 2023.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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 published on 16 July 2014.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature

Patricia M. Zippel (Chair)

Name

PATRICIA M. ZIPPEL

Date

27th June 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

I report on the accounts of the N7 Community Choir (Registered Charity Number 1150514) for the year ended 31 December 2022, set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 general Directions given by the Charity 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 seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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) Regulation 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 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.



Graeme Tait B Com (NZ)
35 Fortismere Avenue
London N10 3BN

27/06/2023

Date

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income from Donors	2a	24,704	34,806	59,510	31,475
Charitable & Trading Activities	2b	24,274	-	24,274	23,234
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		48,978	34,806	83,784	54,709
RESOURCES USED					
Grants Made	3a	2,624	-	2,624	1,824
Direct Charitable Expenditure	3b	49,433	27,021	76,454	49,791
Cost of Generating Funds	3c	446	-	446	331
Other Resources Expended	3d	376	-	376	604
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		52,879	27,021	79,900	52,550
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(3,901)	7,785	3,884	2,159
Balances Brought Forward		10,084	4,200	14,284	12,125
Release from Restricted Funds		1,400	(1,400)	-	-
Balances Carried Forward		7,583	10,585	18,168	14,284

Movements on Reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

Details of restricted income and expenditure are set out in Notes 2 to 4.

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022**

		2022		2021	
Note	£	£	£	£	£
Current Assets:					
Cash at Bank		20,517		22,315	
Debtors	1f				
Prepayments		515		6,575	
Accrued Income		3,047		3,181	
Other Debtors		10		10	
		3,572		9,766	
Total Current Assets		24,089		32,081	
Current Liabilities:					
Creditors	1g				
Deferred Income		(50)		(15,170)	
Accruals		(5,871)		(2,627)	
		(5,921)		(17,797)	
NET ASSETS		18,168		14,284	
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
General Funds - Designated	1h	2,000		2,000	
General Funds - Other		5,583		8,084	
Restricted Funds	4	10,585		4,200	
TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES		18,168		14,284	

Approved by the trustees of the N7 Community Choir and signed on their behalf by:

Signature Patricia M. Zipfel. (Chair)

Name PATRICIA M. ZIPFEL

Date 27th June 2023.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014' and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted but are shown separately.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided as appropriate.

1c) Matching of incoming resources and resources used to termly projects

Each financial year consists of Spring, Summer and Autumn terms with specific projects in each.

Income and expenditure relating to each term's project(s) are recognised within the financial year in which the term falls, subject to the notes below on timing of recognition and recoverability of amounts.

Where the commitment of expenditure relating to a project spans more than one financial year then the expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred with funds to cover the later year's expenditure shown in reserves as Restricted or Designated as appropriate.

1d) Incoming resources

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the charity are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain, unless they relate to a specific project in a future period, in which case recognition is deferred.

1e) Resources used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the charity.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1f) Current assets

Amounts owing to the charity at the year end in respect of programme advertising or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that are considered to be uncollectable.

Advances made in respect of material for projects falling into future financial periods are shown as prepayments. The valuation of such advances is reviewed and written down as necessary.

1g) Current liabilities

Amounts owed by the charity at the year end in respect of musicians, concert staging or other expenditure relating to projects in the year are shown as creditors.

Grants, donations and subscriptions received in the year relating to projects or terms falling into future financial periods are shown as deferred income.

1h) Designated funds

The balance shown as designated funds represents expenditure on current or prior year projects which it is intended to incur in the following year. This covers post-production costs for recordings made in the year which it is intended will be released for sale (CD and/or download) in a later year.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
2a) Voluntary Income from Donors				
Voluntary Subscriptions from Choir	17,565	-	17,565	15,628
Donations received	3,840	6,721	10,561	12,556
Grants received or recognised in the year	-	28,085	28,085	1,250
Reclaimable Gift Aid	3,299	-	3,299	2,041
	<u>24,704</u>	<u>34,806</u>	<u>59,510</u>	<u>31,475</u>
2b) Charitable & Trading Activities				
Sale of Tickets	13,306	-	13,306	14,886
Performance Fees	3,750	-	3,750	-
Sale of Programmes and CDs	2,582	-	2,582	1,295
Donations for Refreshments	4,636	-	4,636	1,743
Sale of Advertising Space in Programmes	-	-	-	560
Non-refundable Advance on music sales	-	-	-	4,750
	<u>24,274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,274</u>	<u>23,234</u>

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

3. RESOURCES USED	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
3a) Grants Made				
St Luke's Church	1,599	-	1,599	1,599
Prison Reform Trust	800	-	800	-
Young Musician Sponsorship	225	-	225	225
	2,624	-	2,624	1,824
3b) Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Purchase of Refreshments	2,698	-	2,698	796
Purchase of Scores & Audio Aids	3,900	-	3,900	-
Design & Photography	750	-	750	540
Composition, Arrangement & Libretto	5,500	-	5,500	-
Musicians (main choir rehearsals)	10,158	-	10,158	3,934
Musicians (performances & Virtual Vox)	13,984	9,531	23,515	28,319
Musicians (chamber choir rehearsals)	2,825	-	2,825	-
Venue Hire & Services	-	-	-	9,324
Hire of Instruments & Tuning	85	-	85	864
Printing Expenses	1,909	-	1,909	1,274
Audio-visual Professionals	5,513	4,000	9,513	660
Music Licences	584	-	584	120
Stage Management Professionals	650	-	650	300
Hire of Van, Staging & Chairs	443	-	443	2,426
Purchase of Rubber Acoustic Matting	-	440	440	-
Freedom Song Outreach costs	-	1,800	1,800	800
Between The Bars Film Production	-	11,250	11,250	-
Making Music Membership	434	-	434	434
	49,433	27,021	76,454	49,791
3c) Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising & Publicity	446	-	446	331
	446	-	446	331
3d) Other Resources Expended				
Office costs	376	-	376	604
	376	-	376	604

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

4. MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £
Funds Brought Forward		4,200	5,000
Funds Received			
JustGiving Fundraising Campaigns		-	6,930
The Sun Does Shine Project			
JustGiving Fundraising Campaign	5,031		
Arts Council England re film	12,600		
Anonymous donor (2022)	6,000		
Arts Council England re outreach	<u>8,235</u>		
		31,866	-
Vox 10th Anniversary Season			
Backstage Trust Grant (final 25%)	1,250		
Anonymous donor (final 25%)	<u>1,250</u>		
		2,500	2,500
Acoustic matting donations		440	-
Total Received		<u>34,806</u>	<u>9,430</u>
Funds Disbursed			
Payments to Musicians		2,500	9,430
Freedom Song Project			
School donation	300		
Purchase of Freedom Song CDs	1,500		
Agreed transfer to General Reserves	<u>1,400</u>		
		3,200	800
The Sun Does Shine			
Musicians' rehearsal & concert costs	7,031		
Recording costs	4,000		
Between the Bars film costs	<u>11,250</u>		
		22,281	-
Purchase of rubber acoustic matting		440	-
Total Disbursed		<u>28,421</u>	<u>10,230</u>
Balance of Restricted Funds Held		<u>10,585</u>	<u>4,200</u>

The balance of Restricted Funds represents £1,000 for any remaining design work which may be necessary in respect of the Freedom Song outreach project, £5,350 in respect of the "Between the Bars" film being completed in 2023 and £4,235 in respect of the Sun Does Shine outreach and podcast project to be developed through 2023 and 2024.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1150514

Accounts

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31st DECEMBER 2021

CHARITY NO: 1150514

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name N7 Community Choir

Charity Number 1150514

Correspondent Address Jonathan Sedgwick
41 Foxham Road
London
N19 4RR

Trustees During the year the following served as trustees:

Polly Barker	Trustee
Sheena Cruse	Trustee - Secretary
Caroline Millar	Trustee
Jonathan Sedgwick	Trustee - Treasurer
Tricia Zipfel	Trustee - Chair

During the year the following served with the trustees on the Committee:

Marion Burns	Resigned 21st July 2021
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Bankers Lloyds Bank
39 Piccadilly
1V 0AA

Independent Examiner Graeme Tait
35 Fortismere Avenue
London
N10 3BN

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Organisation

Vox Holloway is legally registered under the name '**N7 Community Choir**' and adopted its constitution (governing document) on 25 September 2012. It is managed by a Committee of up to nine people, comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the *Officers*); not more than 2 other members (the *Other Committee Members*); and not more than 4 co-opted members (the *Co-opted Members*). Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and members of the choir. Committee members are nominated and elected by members of the choir at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial management and day-to-day running of the choir. Trustees are supported by a team of choir members, who help to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals, performances, fund-raising, publicity and other activities. All Trustees and choir members offer their services on a voluntary basis. We employ no staff members but contract on a project by project basis for the services of our Musical Director, Artistic Director, Sectional Leaders and musicians and soloists who perform with us.

We are based at St Luke's church, West Holloway and the church supports us in various ways, including by providing rehearsal and performance space and by helping develop our links within the local community. Each year we make a donation to the church in order to cover some of the costs involved.

Objectives of the charity as stated in the constitution

The Trustees are confident that we have met our objectives, which are:

to promote, improve and advance public education and participation in, and the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects within the community by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specifically written works, in public concerts and recitals and in such other ways as the Choir shall determine from time to time; and

to advance other such charitable purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in particular by making of grants and donations.

We also confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Aims of the charity

Vox Holloway is committed to being a genuine 'community choir' and welcomes anyone who loves to sing. There are no auditions and members are not required to have previous singing experience, belong to any faith, or live in a particular postcode. We recruit by word of mouth, and new members often come because they have been inspired by one of our concerts. We have a core membership of around 130 singers and a much larger network of supporters and occasional participants. We have a good balance of different voices, including strong tenor and bass sections. At times we have had to limit recruitment in the alto and soprano sections. We are committed to achieving a high standard and work hard to help members improve and develop their skills. We want all our performances to be excellent and, while our main audience is our local community, we often sing in other larger venues and always seek to reach out to new audiences.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Aims of the charity (continued)

In 'normal times' we aim to perform three or more times per year, singing an eclectic range of classical, ecclesiastical, folk, pop, and world music. Covid 19 interrupted that pattern. But, despite this, our priorities have not changed, and we have continued to work with our director and the musicians with whom we regularly collaborate, to keep the momentum of Vox going. Over the past two years, Covid did not change our aims, but it did have a significant impact on how we achieved them.

Vox has built a reputation for developing exciting and innovative work, written by our director, Harvey Brough and our founder, Justin Butcher. It usually tackles contemporary themes such as mental health, slavery, poverty, and climate change. Our aim is to strengthen that aspect of our work and to extend the scope of what we can present, both to audiences from our local community and more widely. We are greatly helped in this, not only by the creative input of our director and founder, but also because we work regularly with nationally and internationally recognised singers and musicians, who are committed to working with Vox in a community setting. They see this partnership as mutually beneficial and many of them participated in the online concerts during Covid. These concerts were streamed to large audiences, including supporters from overseas, and we hope to maintain and extend these connections as our work develops.

Vox has always sought to help other charities through fund-raising, but our wider charitable activities were inevitably curtailed in line with lockdown restrictions. However, during Covid, we were able to undertake pro-bono work, related to musical projects with schools and other charities. And we remain committed to working in partnership with organisations that specialise in tackling the issues that Vox seeks to address artistically through music, and to supporting them as much as possible.

Review of progress in 2021

2021 was the year in which we cautiously moved out of lockdown and finally began to sing and perform face-to-face again. Not everyone felt comfortable with this shift back to 'normality' and although we went to great lengths to make rehearsals as safe and reassuring as possible, some people who had become 'regulars' prior to Covid did not return. Other members who still felt vulnerable, decided to delay re-joining the choir, although many stayed in touch and reassured us that theirs was a temporary absence. Because the links we had built up through Virtual Vox were important to so many people, we decided to keep the zoom sessions going until the summer, so that those who couldn't come and sing still felt connected and supported. This was invaluable to many of our more isolated members and has helped Vox retain its strong sense of community.

Our first term however had to be organised through our virtual platform. 118 singers participated in Virtual Vox, and the term culminated in a very successful on-line concert, *Everything Must Change, Songs of Liberation and Transformation*, which was also streamed, in March 2021. Harvey Brough and the musicians recorded the work, which included the collective voices of 39 Vox singers, and the CD is now on sale via the Vox website.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress in 2021 (continued)

We took a longer than usual break at Easter to re-group and prepare for a summer term of working together once again at St Luke's. Covid restrictions continued to affect the way we operated, and the possibility of suddenly having to call everything to a halt was always present. But the term ran smoothly with 86 participants and in July we performed *Requiem in Blue* (written by Harvey Brough) to a live audience, albeit smaller than usual.

Because it was clear that people were still hesitant about returning to theatres, we decided to delay performing *Freedom Song* (with its libretto by Justin Butcher and music / arrangements by Harvey Brough) at Hackney Empire until September. This was the concert that had been cancelled due to Covid in March 2020. We managed to half fill the theatre and, although we made a loss, it felt amazing to be singing again in such a venue. In December, we celebrated what we hoped was the 'end of lockdown' with a very successful Christmas concert.

Over the course of the year, the financial impact of fewer choir members and smaller audiences was offset by the generosity of our singers, the wider Vox support network and friends from far and wide, who raised money and sponsored concerts such that Vox was able to keep going through a period that saw many arts organisations struggle to survive. We are immensely grateful for all the support and help we have received.

During 2021, we were able to take forward the education project that had emerged from *Freedom Song* and for which we had received a grant from the Backstage Trust. The aim was to develop curriculum material based on the story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers which could be used by schools as part of their music/history/drama curriculum. We researched and put together archive material relating to their story from 1865, through to the Civil Rights Movement and current Fisk Jubilee singers. We shared this with the head of music at a local secondary school in Stoke Newington and she developed a programme of 10 lessons which were trialled during the autumn term. On October 14th, Harvey Brough and soloists from the show ran a series of four face-to-face workshops with students, to bring together their learning and allow them to perform directly with professional artists. We hope to refine the education pack and make it available more widely in future as a resource for schools.

Throughout 2021, we also worked with the Prison Reform Trust as part of our preparation for performing *The Sun Does Shine* later in February 2022. This new oratorio had been in development since 2019. It tells the true story of an innocent man who spent 30 years on Death Row in Alabama before finally being exonerated and released in 2015. Initially our partnership with PRT was intended to raise funds for their work. But we had also received Art Council funding to make a documentary about the project, so we agreed to work together to link the story with the experience of long-term prisoners in the UK. Over the course of 2021, 10 Vox members exchanged letters with 10 long-term prisoners with a view to deepening our own understanding of the criminal justice and prison system here in the UK. The insights we gained and shared with the rest of the choir enabled us to bring a degree of empathy and integrity to this challenging piece. The experience had a profound effect on all those who participated.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress in 2021 (continued)

Trustees met regularly throughout 2021, steering Vox through probably the most challenging period in our 12-year history. By the end of 2021, we felt proud that we had survived and had achieved so much despite all the obstacles. We also recognised that, post-Covid, it would take some time to fully restore the choir to its former size and strength, but we felt confident that we could meet that challenge head on.

Financial review

Activity in the year continued to be constrained by the Covid-19 pandemic. Lockdown forced us to run a further term of Virtual Vox, our summer choir membership and concert attendance were low due to social distancing concerns and audience attendance for our triumphant return to the Hackney Empire in the autumn was affected by the same issues. However, we have continued to operate Vox on a sound financial basis and are proud to have provided significant support to the musicians and other professionals with whom we work during a very difficult time. Income of £54,709 for the year was very similar to 2020 and, with costs lower at £52,550, we have seen a small increase in general reserves.

The spring term saw the continuation of Virtual Vox with *Everything Must Change* and a strong choir membership of 118 people. Our usual fundraising campaign raised over £6,000 to cover the costs of an online concert and the overall term showed a small surplus.

We reassembled as a choir to rehearse and perform *Requiem in Blue* in the summer term with the expectation of relatively low numbers in the choir - though in the event 86 members signed up. We also anticipated low numbers attending the concert and this was realised with fewer than 100 tickets sold. We planned to mitigate this by streaming the concert and running a fundraising campaign - but unfortunately the stream failed and, as well as disappointing many viewers, this constrained our fundraising to £2,400. Despite this, the strong membership income helped us to another small surplus for the term.

The autumn term saw us finally returning to the Hackney Empire to rerun *Freedom Song*, deferred from March 2020. Choir membership of 75 and audience attendance of only around 50% of capacity (611) led to a shortfall on the event which we have covered by generating a small surplus on our Christmas concert and designating a further 25% of the donations received in 2019 in respect of the 10th Anniversary Year, which we have been carrying forward.

We have continued to operate a three-term year with members invited to join and pay a subscription on a term by term basis. We are once again extremely grateful to the many choir members who choose to pay more than the suggested termly contribution - this enables us to operate on a "pay what you can" basis for members on low incomes and to ensure that we maximise the income that our professional musicians earn from the excellent work that they do for the choir.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial review (continued)

In addition to the regular termly finances, Vox has received in the year an advance in respect of the *Kinks Village Green* recording project - effectively payment for creation of the rough mixes. Approximately 50% of this has been paid out and the balance retained towards future projects. Vox has also expended £800 in respect of the *Freedom Song* outreach project which, with significant professional input for which a fee is being waived, will be completed in 2022.

All income and expenditure for *The Sun Does Shine* project and the associated Arts Council England-funded film, has been carried forward into 2022, when the project comes to fruition, and is not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trustees continue to manage the finances carefully. We have again carried forward and deferred recognition of the final £2,500 of grants received in 2019 and cashflow is tightly managed. General Reserves stand at £8,084, well in excess of our reserve funding target of £5,000.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the overall risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the management of our rehearsal process and concerts, our finances and the governance of the charity. In 2021, our risk assessment focussed on: mitigating the effect of the pandemic on our finances and on our community; rebuilding Vox post-lockdown and enabling people to return to live singing in a safe environment; ensuring that live performances did not lose money given that Covid continued to limit audiences; and taking forward key pieces of work that had been put on hold.

Careful management is crucial, and Trustees met five times during the year and held an AGM on-line. A key aim was to generate enough income to maintain payments to our professional musicians and to off-set any losses through fund-raising and careful use of surpluses, while retaining a reasonable reserve. Because we have virtually no overheads and all the admin and other work involved in running the choir is done on a voluntary basis, we were able carry the work of the choir forward without any major crises. We also managed to produce an exciting artistic programme and perform 4 concerts over the year.

We worked hard to keep members in touch with each other during lockdown and that extended into 2021. It meant that most of our core members stayed loyal to Vox, but we also managed to attract new people who then stayed on once we returned to rehearsals as normal.

The transition back to St Luke's was complex. We liaised carefully with the church in order to align our health and safety strategy with theirs and we took advice from 'Making Music'. Our intention was to make the return to face-to-face singing as safe as possible and two trial sessions in December 2020 had worked well. But we began 2021 back in lockdown and reliant on Virtual Vox throughout that first term. When we did return to a form of 'normal', we implemented the precautions as outlined in our safety strategy: eg social distancing; wearing masks when not singing; requiring people to do lateral flow test before each rehearsal; making sanitisers available; suspending refreshments. Choir members were very conscientious and, as far as we can tell, there were no incidents of Covid linked to our rehearsals.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk management (continued)

Prior to 2021, we had received funding for two major projects which could not be delivered to the original timetable due to Covid. But we agreed revised deadlines and kept our funders informed of the changes. This involved Arts Council England and the Backstage Trust. Both were happy to revise the project plans and remained very supportive of Vox throughout 2021.

We continue to review our data-base information and update our records in line with GDPR requirements. We also review our policies regularly and make incremental improvements to ensure high overall standards, good governance and scope for future succession

2021 was a year of adjustment towards a new 'normal', but it was also clear that more work would be needed in 2022 to fully recover from the impact of Covid. However, we are proud that we managed to navigate the potential pitfalls and risks associated with Covid successfully. At the end of the year, Trustees felt confident about the future of Vox, and had no reason to believe that there were any specific areas of risk that would affect the charity's performance or effective governance in 2022.

Independent examiner

Graeme Tait, a retired member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand who has no involvement in the charity, has indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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 published on 16 July 2014.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

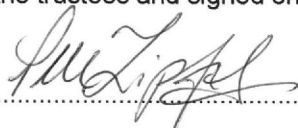
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature



Name

PATRICIA M. ZIPFEL (CHAIR)

Date

20th September 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

I report on the accounts of the N7 Community Choir (Registered Charity Number 1150514) for the year ended 31 December 2021, set out on pages 10 to 15.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

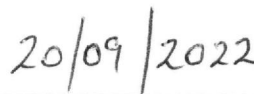
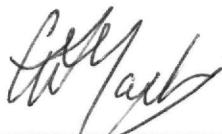
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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) Regulation 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 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.



Graeme Tait B Com (NZ)
35 Fortismere Avenue
London N10 3BN

Date

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income from Donors	2a	22,045	9,430	31,475	41,736
Charitable & Trading Activities	2b	23,234	-	23,234	9,835
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		45,279	9,430	54,709	51,571
RESOURCES USED					
Grants Made	3a	1,824	-	1,824	4,769
Direct Charitable Expenditure	3b	39,561	10,230	49,791	53,721
Cost of Generating Funds	3c	331	-	331	198
Other Resources Expended	3d	604	-	604	308
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		42,320	10,230	52,550	58,996
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		2,959	(800)	2,159	(7,425)
Balances Brought Forward		7,125	5,000	12,125	19,550
Balances Carried Forward		10,084	4,200	14,284	12,125


Movements on Reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.
All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.
Details of restricted income and expenditure are set out in Notes 2 to 4.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets:					
Cash at Bank			22,315		21,750
Debtors	1f				
Prepayments		6,575		11,900	
Accrued Income		3,181		740	
Other Debtors		<u>10</u>		<u>10</u>	
			<u>9,766</u>		<u>12,650</u>
Total Current Assets			<u>32,081</u>		<u>34,400</u>
Current Liabilities:					
Creditors	1g				
Deferred Income		(15,170)		(18,417)	
Accruals		<u>(2,627)</u>		<u>(3,858)</u>	
			<u>(17,797)</u>		<u>(22,275)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>14,284</u>		<u>12,125</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
General Funds - Designated	1h		2,000		2,000
General Funds - Other			8,084		5,125
Restricted Funds	4		4,200		5,000
TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES			<u>14,284</u>		<u>12,125</u>

Approved by the trustees of the N7 Community Choir and signed on their behalf by:

Signature 

Name PATRICIA M. ZIPFEL (Chair)

Date 20th September 2022

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014' and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted but are shown separately.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided as appropriate.

1c) Matching of incoming resources and resources used to termly projects

Each financial year consists of Spring, Summer and Autumn terms with specific projects in each.

Income and expenditure relating to each term's project(s) are recognised within the financial year in which the term falls, subject to the notes below on timing of recognition and recoverability of amounts.

Where the commitment of expenditure relating to a project spans more than one financial year then the expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred with funds to cover the later year's expenditure shown in reserves as Restricted or Designated as appropriate.

1d) Incoming resources

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the charity are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain, unless they relate to a specific project in a future period, in which case recognition is deferred.

1e) Resources used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the charity.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1f) Current assets

Amounts owing to the charity at the year end in respect of programme advertising or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that are considered to be uncollectable.

Advances made in respect of material for projects falling into future financial periods are shown as prepayments. The valuation of such advances is reviewed and written down as necessary.

1g) Current liabilities

Amounts owed by the charity at the year end in respect of musicians, concert staging or other expenditure relating to projects in the year are shown as creditors.

Grants, donations and subscriptions received in the year relating to projects or terms falling into future financial periods are shown as deferred income.

1h) Designated funds

The balance shown as designated funds represents expenditure on current or prior year projects which it is intended to incur in the following year. This covers post-production costs for recordings made in the year which it is intended will be released for sale (CD and/or download) in a later year.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
2a) Voluntary Income from Donors				
Voluntary Subscriptions from Choir	15,628	-	15,628	18,792
Donations received	4,376	8,180	12,556	19,147
Grants received	-	1,250	1,250	1,250
Reclaimable Gift Aid	2,041	-	2,041	2,547
	<u>22,045</u>	<u>9,430</u>	<u>31,475</u>	<u>41,736</u>
2b) Charitable & Trading Activities				
Sale of Tickets	14,886	-	14,886	6,927
Sale of Programmes and CDs	1,295	-	1,295	2,375
Sale of Refreshments	1,743	-	1,743	533
Sale of Advertising Space in Programmes	560	-	560	-
Non-refundable Advance on music sales	4,750	-	4,750	-
	<u>23,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,234</u>	<u>9,835</u>

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

3. RESOURCES USED	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
3a) Grants Made				
St Luke's Church	1,599	-	1,599	1,599
Grants to musicians	-	-	-	2,875
Young musician sponsorship	225	-	225	225
Other charitable organisations	-	-	-	70
	1,824	-	1,824	4,769
3b) Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Purchase of Refreshments	796	-	796	223
Purchase of Scores & Audio Aids	-	-	-	2,000
Design & Photography	540	-	540	2,500
Musicians (main choir rehearsals)	3,934	-	3,934	3,244
Musicians (performances & Virtual Vox)	18,889	9,430	28,319	29,065
Musicians (chamber choir rehearsals)	-	-	-	1,130
Venue Hire & Services	9,324	-	9,324	3,009
Hire of Instruments & Tuning	864	-	864	1,104
Printing Expenses	1,274	-	1,274	510
Audio-visual Professionals	660	-	660	2,128
CD Post Production & Printing costs	-	-	-	6,792
Music Licences	120	-	120	1,432
Stage Management Professionals	300	-	300	150
Hire of Staging & Chairs	2,426	-	2,426	-
Freedom Song Outreach Workshop	-	800	800	-
Making Music Membership	434	-	434	434
	39,561	10,230	49,791	53,721
3c) Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising & Publicity	331	-	331	198
	331	-	331	198
3d) Other Resources Expended				
Office costs	604	-	604	308
	604	-	604	308

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

4. MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Funds Brought Forward		5,000	5,000
Funds Received			
JustGiving Fundraising Campaigns			13,950
Virtual Vox spring term concert	4,523		
Requiem in Blue summer campaign	<u>2,407</u>		
		6,930	
Vox 10th Anniversary Season			
Backstage Trust Grant (25%)	1,250		1,250
Anonymous donor (25%)	<u>1,250</u>		<u>1,250</u>
		2,500	2,500
Total Received		<u>9,430</u>	<u>16,450</u>
Funds Disbursed			
Payments to Musicians		6,930	13,950
Freedom Song Project			
Musician costs for Schools Workshop		800	-
Vox 10th Anniversary Season costs		2,500	2,500
Total Disbursed		<u>10,230</u>	<u>16,450</u>
Balance of Restricted Funds Held		<u>4,200</u>	<u>5,000</u>

The balance of Restricted Funds represents income received from Backstage Trust in respect of the Freedom Song project to cover the cost of an outreach project based on the materials and music developed for the concert. Postponement of the 2nd concert from March 2020 into late 2021 delayed this project. It has been completed in 2022.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1150514

Accounts

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31st DECEMBER 2020

CHARITY NO: 1150514

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name N7 Community Choir

Charity Number 1150514

Correspondent Address Jonathan Sedgwick
41 Foxham Road
London
N19 4RR

Trustees During the year the following served as trustees:

Polly Barker	Trustee
Sheena Cruse	Trustee - Secretary
Caroline Millar	Trustee
Jonathan Sedgwick	Trustee - Treasurer
Tricia Zipfel	Trustee - Chair

During the year the following served with the trustees on the Committee:

Marion Burns

Bankers Lloyds Bank
39 Piccadilly
1V 0AA

Independent Examiner Graeme Tait
35 Fortismere Avenue
London
N10 3BN

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Organisation

Vox Holloway is legally registered under the name '**N7 Community Choir**' and adopted its constitution (governing document) on 25 September 2012. It is managed by a Committee of up to nine people, comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the *Officers*); not more than 2 other members (the *Other Committee Members*); and not more than 4 co-opted members (the *Co-opted Members*). Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and members of the choir. Committee members are nominated and elected by members of the choir at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is responsible for the strategic direction, financial management and day-to-day running of the choir. Trustees are supported by a team of choir members, who help to ensure the smooth running of rehearsals, performances, fund-raising, publicity and other activities. All Trustees and choir members offer their services on a voluntary basis. We employ no staff members but contract on a project by project basis for the services of our Musical Director, Artistic Director, Accompanist, Sectional Leaders and all musicians and soloists who perform with us.

We are based at St Luke's church, West Holloway and the church supports us in various ways, including by providing rehearsal and performance space and by helping develop our links within the local community. Each year we make a donation to the church in order to cover some of the costs involved.

Objectives of the charity as stated in the constitution

The Trustees are confident that we have met our objectives, which are:

to promote, improve and advance public education and participation in, and the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects within the community by the presentation of as wide a range of music as possible, including specifically written works, in public concerts and recitals and in such other ways as the Choir shall determine from time to time; and

to advance other such charitable purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in particular by making of grants and donations.

We also confirm that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Aims of the charity

Vox Holloway aims to be a community choir open to all: there are no auditions and members are not required to have previous singing experience, belong to any faith, or live in a particular postcode. We are committed to being a genuine 'community choir', welcoming anyone who loves to sing, helping members to improve and develop their skills, insisting on excellence in all our performances, and seeking to reach out to new audiences. We recruit by word of mouth, and new members often come because they have been inspired by one of our concerts. We have a core membership of around 130 singers and a much larger network of supporters and occasional participants. We have a good balance of different voices, including strong tenor and bass sections. At times we have had to limit recruitment in the alto and soprano sections.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Aims of the charity (continued)

In 'normal times' we aim to perform three or more times per year, singing an eclectic range of classical, ecclesiastical, folk, pop, and world music. Clearly 2020 has been anything but 'normal'. However, despite Covid, our priorities have not changed, and we have continued to work with our two directors and the other musicians with whom we regularly collaborate to keep the momentum of Vox going. Covid has not changed our aims, even though it has affected how we achieve them.

This includes commissioning new works from our two directors and further developing our reputation for exciting and innovative work that often tackles contemporary themes such as mental health, slavery and climate change. We have continued to work with nationally and internationally recognised singers and musicians, who are committed to working with Vox in a community setting. Many of them participated in the online concerts that we streamed to large audiences, including supporters from overseas. The only exception to online concerts was our pre-pandemic live performance of songs from *Arthur* and *The Village Green Preservation Society* held at Shoreditch Town Hall in February. We worked with CamJam youth choir on this show, but there have been no other opportunities to work with schools or community groups during 2020.

Our wider charitable activities have also been curtailed in line with lockdown restrictions. However, we did participate in the annual Whittington Hospital service of remembrance for bereaved families, which was held this year online, and we began to plan for future fund-raising activities in partnership with the Prison Reform Trust.

Review of progress in 2020

2020 was a year like no other. The programme planned to mark our 10th Anniversary had to be radically revised from March onwards as Covid wreaked havoc amongst choirs and across the whole performing arts world. But Vox rose to the challenge. We kept the choir alive despite the difficulties, and we not only maintained but extended our community links. We performed one live concert and streamed three more over the course of 2020, reaching an even bigger and more dispersed audience than would otherwise have been possible. The downside, as for so many choirs, has been our reliance on technology and our inability to sing together, face-to-face. This has left a big gap in many people's lives.

In February, before Covid struck, we were thrilled to perform songs from *Arthur* and *The Village Green Preservation Society* at Shoreditch Town Hall, in the presence of Sir Ray Davies, and to record the concert as part of a new album of songs by The Kinks to be completed and released in the future. That was our last public performance in 2020. A repeat performance of *Freedom Song*, at Hackney Empire, had to be postponed, but on the understanding that we would return to the Empire as soon as we were allowed – which now looks like September 2021. Over that weekend, we streamed the film of our 2019 Freedom Song concert and, with a virtual audience of 2,200, we raised money to make donations to the artists who would have performed with us this time, had we been able to go ahead.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress in 2020 (continued)

At the start of lockdown, in March 2020, the situation looked grim, but we were determined to keep music alive. We quickly established **Virtual Vox** and developed a new programme of rehearsals and concerts that sustained us through the rest of the year. The format worked well. A recorded one-hour session was streamed weekly via YouTube. It included vocal warm-ups, intros to new music, separate sectional sessions and a final run-through. We encouraged people to tune-in at the same time each week so that it felt like we were learning 'together', albeit remotely. And we followed it with a zoom chat which reinforced the sense of community. After about 10 weeks, each concert was pre-recorded and streamed on YouTube, featuring Harvey, Christina and Clara plus other musicians and soloists. All this involved a huge amount of technical work, but it resulted in wonderful concerts during which the choir could all sing along and feel like we were part of the whole – sort of.

The first concert, **Spring into Summer** was streamed in July - a gorgeous programme that included Harvey Brough's choral arrangement of **Edward Elgar's Sea Pictures** and Victorian part songs, plus jazz standards and originals with jazz legend **Liane Carroll**. In September, we began rehearsing **Sgt Pepper** and streamed that concert to an audience of 1,300 in November. As the second lockdown dragged on, it lifted people's spirits at a time when everyone was contemplating a very unusual Christmas.

In December, hoping that we would soon be able to return to face-to-face rehearsals, we organised 2 sessions at St Luke's for a small group of 15 singers. Everything was carefully managed in terms of health and safety and choir members were delighted to be able to sing carols together in the run-up to Christmas. But as 2020 came to an end it became clear that lockdown would continue into 2021 and Virtual Vox began to plan for a third term of virtual singing.

From the outset, the trustees were determined to maintain a source of income for Harvey and Christina, as co-directors of Virtual Vox, since Covid created huge insecurity for them. We also wanted to help the soloists and musicians who perform with us on a regular basis and whose work was also suddenly in jeopardy. Over the year, choir members gave generously through fees and donations, and enabled us to meet this commitment. Their loyalty to Vox and their affection for our leaders has kept our core income pretty steady and we are extremely grateful to them and to the extended network of people around the globe who have supported us in 2020.

We also wanted to keep our community together and to support members who were isolated or vulnerable during the pandemic. Some of that has happened informally – Vox has always felt like an extended family. But we also scheduled a weekly zoom session, after the Tuesday rehearsals, for anyone who wanted to say 'hello', and who wasn't already 'zoomed-out'! Numbers varied from 75 the first time we tried it, to around 25 most weeks and for many it was an important link with others – for some it was a lifeline.

One of the unexpected benefits of being online was that we were able to include choir members from Southampton, Hackney Community Choir and further afield – Hull, Cornwall, Derbyshire and many other locations. And of course, the concerts could be accessed from around the world, with new and appreciative audiences popping up as far away as New Zealand and the States. How we maintain these new connections and friendships as we emerge from lockdown will be a real challenge in 2021.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Review of progress in 2020 (continued)

Our original plan for 2020 had been to end the Anniversary year with a brand-new work: *The Sun Does Shine*. Although the pandemic forced us to revise the timetable for this project, it also gave us more time to develop it. The oratorio is based on the true story of Ray Hinton who spent 30 years on Death Row in an Alabama jail before being exonerated and released in 2015. In July 2020, we formed a partnership with the Prison Reform Trust, initially with a view to raising funds for their work in the UK. But their involvement has meant that the project is now able to connect directly with prison experience here in the UK, and through PRT, we hope to take the work into prisons in future. We also decided to make a documentary about the project, telling the story of how an amateur choir takes a complex and sensitive theme and develops something artistically beautiful that can move and challenge those who experience it. The Arts Council England have funded this element of the project and we hope to complete it in 2021.

As noted above, our wider charitable work has been curtailed because of the pandemic. But we have continued to provide a small bursary to a young musician in our community who needed support in order to continue his studies. And despite not being able to use St Luke's for rehearsals and concerts, we have continued to make our regular donation to support the church's projects in this difficult time. We provided some support for the online Whittington Hospital service for bereaved parents, but we have had to suspend our monthly visits to the local old people's home. We hope to resume all these activities in the near future.

Financial review

In contrast to the last two years this was, of necessity, a less ambitious year financially. After a successful Kinks concert in February, the impacts of Covid-19 meant that plans for the remainder of the year had to be completely revised with a transition to online Virtual Vox terms. These activities generated income of £51,571, less than 50% of 2019's figure, but with a corresponding fall in costs to £58,996. The shortfall for the year, after a substantial surplus in 2019, related primarily to expenditure on projects started in 2019 for which funds were raised and Designated in that year. General (undesignated and unrestricted) funds remained steady at just over £5,000 at the start and end of 2020.

We have again operated a three-term year with members invited to join and pay a subscription on a term by term basis. We are extremely grateful to the many choir members who choose to pay more than the suggested termly contribution - this enables us to operate on a "pay what you can" basis for other members and to ensure that we maximise the income that our professional musicians earn from the excellent work that they do for the choir. The launch of online Virtual Vox programmes has opened up access to a wider group of more remote potential participants and numbers have been swelled by representation from Southampton Voices and the Hackney Community Choir, with whom we have links. Numbers for 2020 were: Spring term 84 singers, Summer Term (Virtual Vox) 121 and Autumn Term (Virtual Vox) 120.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial review (continued)

The Spring term was intended to include two off-site performances: a concert of Kinks material in Shoreditch Town Hall and Freedom Song in the Hackney Empire. The successful staging of **Arthur** and **Village Green** in mid February included a full recording of the concert which it is intended will be developed into an album of songs for release on the BMG label. An advance of £4,750 to cover the net costs of the initial recording will be due once contracts are signed but, as of the first quarter of 2021, negotiations are still continuing and this amount has therefore not been accrued for in 2020. Allocation to this event of a further 25% of two donations received in 2019 in respect of the 10th Anniversary Season has minimised the shortfall.

The first Covid lockdown meant the postponement of **Freedom Song** in late March with our venue deposit carried forward. Our commitment on other costs was minimal and the immediate financial impact on Vox was therefore small and the term was completed with a deficit of less than £1,000. However, the impact on the musicians who would have been involved was significant and, as a compensation, we ran an online screening of the original performance of Freedom Song as a fundraiser. We were able to make grants of £2,875 to those who would have been involved in the performance as a result.

The Summer and Autumn terms have each consisted of a series of Virtual Vox online rehearsals, for which the choir members have paid a subscription, followed by an online concert with an associated JustGiving fundraising campaign with all of the funds raised going to the musicians involved. We are again indebted to everyone who donated generously. Vox has broken even over these two terms.

A small group of singers also attended St Lukes in person for two sessions of Christmas material in mid December. A small fee was payable for this which was passed on to the musicians.

There has been expenditure of £7,382 in the year in respect of projects started in 2019: completion and production of the **Freedom Song** CD and mixing of the **Music of the Mind** recorded material for future issue. This is covered by designated reserves allocated in the 2019 accounts. This has been offset to some extent by sales income of over £1,800 for **Freedom Song** CDs which has been reflected in income for the year.

The Trustees continue to manage the finances conservatively. We have again carried forward and deferred recognition of £5,000 of grants received in 2019 and cashflow is tightly managed. Arts Council England funding received and initial outgoing costs incurred relating to the film associated with the **The Sun Does Shine** project scheduled for 2021 have been carried forward on the balance sheet.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Risk management

The Trustees regularly assess the overall risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the management of our rehearsal process and concerts, our finances and the governance of the charity. In 2020, the main focus of our risk assessment was the pandemic and its impact on our finances and on our community.

As indicated above, we took immediate steps to create a 'virtual choir' and we opened up our membership to many more people than would have been possible in normal times. This enabled us to maintain a steady income and to budget for high quality, online concerts. Harvey, Christina and Clara created a rehearsal format that worked brilliantly and so we hardly missed a beat. We put huge effort into communications in order to keep in touch with members and the weekly zoom session was invaluable.

In preparation for an eventual return to live rehearsals, we undertook a detailed risk assessment in conjunction with St Luke's and have revised that at key intervals in order to keep in line with Government rules and guidance. Advice from 'Making Music' has been particularly helpful. We have regularly informed members about our thinking on health and safety and we have undertaken surveys to understand their personal circumstances and gauge their risk appetite.

In December, we set out clear instructions as to how the two live rehearsals were to be conducted to ensure compliance and minimise any potential risks. This proved to be a useful pilot, giving us insights as to how to plan our return to St Luke's at some point in 2021

Although our programme this year has been much less ambitious, the pandemic has presented new complexities, especially in terms of finance management. But we have navigated them successfully, ending the year in a relatively strong position despite Covid.

We continue to review our data-base information and update our records in line with GDPR requirements. We also review our policies regularly and make incremental improvements to ensure high overall standards, good governance and scope for future succession.

As we plan for the coming year, we will continue to manage these risks very carefully. But at the end of 2020, the Trustees had no reason to believe that there were any specific areas of risk that would affect the charity's performance or effective governance in 2021.

Independent examiner

Graeme Tait, a member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand, who has no involvement in the charity, has indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner.

N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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 published on 16 July 2014.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature 

Name PATRICIA M. ZIPFEL

Date 21/07/2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR**

I report on the accounts of the N7 Community Choir (Registered Charity Number 1150514) for the year ended 31 December 2019, set out on pages 10 to 15.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

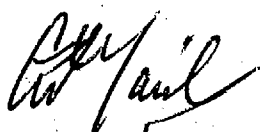
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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) Regulation 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 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.



21/07/2021

Graeme Tait B Com (NZ), ACA (CA ANZ)
35 Fortismere Avenue
London N10 3BN

Date

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income from Donors	2a	25,286	16,450	41,736	76,948
Charitable & Trading Activities	2b	9,835	-	9,835	36,641
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		35,121	16,450	51,571	113,589
RESOURCES USED					
Grants Made	3a	1,894	2,875	4,769	1,694
Direct Charitable Expenditure	3b	40,146	13,575	53,721	96,036
Cost of Generating Funds	3c	198	-	198	426
Other Resources Expended	3d	308	-	308	106
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		42,546	16,450	58,996	98,262
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(7,425)	-	(7,425)	15,327
Balances Brought Forward		19,550	-	19,550	4,223
Balances Carried Forward		12,125	-	12,125	19,550

Movements on Reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

Details of restricted income and expenditure are set out in Notes 2 to 4.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014' and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1b) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted but are shown separately.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided as appropriate.

1c) Matching of incoming resources and resources used to termly projects

Each financial year consists of Spring, Summer and Autumn terms with specific projects in each.

Income and expenditure relating to each term's project(s) are recognised within the financial year in which the term falls, subject to the notes below on timing of recognition and recoverability of amounts.

Where the commitment of expenditure relating to a project spans more than one financial year then the expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred with funds to cover the later year's expenditure shown in reserves as Restricted or Designated as appropriate.

1d) Incoming resources

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the charity are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain, unless they relate to a specific project in a future period, in which case recognition is deferred.

1e) Resources used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the charity.

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1f) Current assets

Amounts owing to the charity at the year end in respect of programme advertising or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that are considered to be uncollectable.

Advances made in respect of material for projects falling into future financial periods are shown as prepayments. The valuation of such advances is reviewed and written down as necessary.

1g) Current liabilities

Amounts owed by the charity at the year end in respect of musicians, concert staging or other expenditure relating to projects in the year are shown as creditors.

Grants, donations and subscriptions received in the year relating to projects or terms falling into future financial periods are shown as deferred income.

1h) Designated funds

The balance shown as designated funds represents expenditure on current or prior year projects which it is intended to incur in the following year. This covers post-production costs for recordings made in the year which it is intended will be released for sale (CD and/or download) in a later year.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2020	2020	2020	2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
2a) Voluntary Income from Donors				
Voluntary Subscriptions from Choir	18,792	-	18,792	20,467
Donations received	3,947	15,200	19,147	14,580
Grants received	-	1,250	1,250	37,250
Reclaimable Gift Aid	2,547	-	2,547	4,651
	<u>25,286</u>	<u>16,450</u>	<u>41,736</u>	<u>76,948</u>
2b) Charitable & Trading Activities				
Sale of Tickets	6,927	-	6,927	30,112
Sale of Programmes and CDs	2,375	-	2,375	1,914
Sale of Refreshments	533	-	533	4,165
Sale of Advertising Space in Programmes	-	-	-	450
	<u>9,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,835</u>	<u>36,641</u>

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

3. RESOURCES USED	2020	2020	2020	2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
3a) Grants Made				
St Luke's Church	1,599	-	1,599	1,599
Grants to musicians	-	2,875	2,875	-
Young musician sponsorship	225	-	225	-
Other charitable organisations	70	-	70	95
	1,894	2,875	4,769	1,694
3b) Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Purchase of Refreshments	223	-	223	2,938
Purchase of Scores & Audio Aids	2,000	-	2,000	6,400
Design & Photography	2,500	-	2,500	1,475
Musicians (main choir rehearsals)	3,244	-	3,244	13,358
Musicians (performances & Virtual Vox)	15,490	13,575	29,065	21,350
Musicians (arrangement & composition)	-	-	-	6,250
Musicians (chamber choir rehearsals)	1,130	-	1,130	3,210
Venue Hire	3,009	-	3,009	15,270
Hire of Instruments	1,104	-	1,104	2,128
Printing Expenses	510	-	510	3,573
Audio-visual Professionals	2,128	-	2,128	4,931
CD Post Production & Printing costs	6,792	-	6,792	3,240
Music Licences	1,432	-	1,432	2,329
Stage Management Professionals	150	-	150	700
Hire of Staging and Venue Services	-	-	-	8,450
Making Music Membership	434	-	434	434
	40,146	13,575	53,721	96,036
3c) Costs of Generating Funds				
Fundraising & Publicity	198	-	198	426
	198	-	198	426
3d) Other Resources Expended				
Office costs	308	-	308	106
	308	-	308	106

**N7 COMMUNITY CHOIR
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

4. MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	2020	2020	2019
	£	£	£
Funds Brought Forward		5,000	-
Funds Received			
JustGiving Fundraising Campaigns			
Freedom Song video showing	2,875		
Virtual Vox summer term concert	4,990		
Virtual Vox autumn term concert	6,085		
	<u>13,950</u>	13,950	
Freedom Song Project		-	37,922
Music on the Mind Project		-	10,744
Vox 10th Anniversary Season			
Backstage Trust Grant (25%)	1,250		1,250
Anonymous donor (25%)	1,250		1,250
	<u>2,500</u>	2,500	<u>2,500</u>
Total Received		<u>16,450</u>	<u>51,166</u>
Funds Disbursed			
Payments to Musicians		-	-
Grants		2,875	
Virtual Vox Projects		11,075	
Freedom Song Project		-	32,922
Music on the Mind Project		-	10,744
Vox 10th Anniversary Season		2,500	2,500
Total Disbursed		<u>16,450</u>	<u>46,166</u>
Balance of Restricted Funds Held		<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>

The balance of Restricted Funds represents income received from Backstage Trust in respect of the Freedom Song project to cover the cost of an outreach project based on the materials and music developed for the concert. Postponement of the 2nd concert from March 2020 into 2021 has delayed this project. It is planned for completion in 2021.