

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 1151714

Details

Other names	LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-04-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	London Youth Choirs St. John's Waterloo 73 Waterloo Road London SE1 8TY
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Email	office@londonyouthchoirs.com
Website	www.londonyouthchoirs.com

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING OR EDUCATED IN LONDON IN THE SUBJECT OF MUSIC AND THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND IN PARTICULAR CHORAL MUSIC. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THESE OBJECTS, 'LONDON' MEANS THE BOROUGHES COVERED BY THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY OR ANY SUCCESSOR BODY, AND THE CITY OF LONDON.THE CHARITY WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY - 1) PROVIDING A WORLD-CLASS CHORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE;2) PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING MUSICAL AND CHORAL EDUCATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR FINANCIAL OR SOCIAL BACKGROUND;3) DELIVERING OPEN-ACCESS WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE; AND4) FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD AND TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

Activities: London Youth Choirs was set up in 2012 as a social action programme and centre of musical excellence. LYC currently comprises six central and two regional choirs for young people from every London borough from school year 3 to age 23. The tuition and performance opportunities that LYC provides are designed to educate and inspire whilst championing inclusivity and understanding.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£775,794	£874,778	£137,466	11
2024-08-31	£720,722	£725,697	£236,450	11
2023-08-31	£744,197	£738,515	£241,427	8
2022-08-31	£468,752	£462,414	-	-
2021-08-31	£392,819	£318,808	-	-
2020-08-31	£369,782	£334,408	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dame Deirdre Mary Hutton	Chair	2018-11-08
Duncan Stuart Martin Watts		2018-02-20
George Alexander Wills		2018-02-20
Kate Victoria Ludlow		2020-06-23
Lucy Margaret Noble		2023-11-14
Michael Llewelyn-Jones		2016-11-19
Sir Andrew Haines		2025-10-01
Trevor Ford		2025-10-01

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England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

Charity no. 1151714



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Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Telephone: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Founding President

Suzi Digby OBE

Honorary Patrons

Gareth Malone OBE

Sir Andrew Parmley

Dame Janet Ritterman

Sir John Rutter

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE (Founding Patron)

Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)

Trustees

Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair)

Leslie East OBE (Vice-Chair) (resigned 18th June 2025)

Trevor Ford (joined 1st October 2025)

Mike Georgiou (resigned 1st August 2025)

Sir Andrew Haines (joined 1st October 2025)

Michael Llewelyn-Jones

Kate Ludlow

Lucy Noble

Duncan Watts

George Wills

Chief Executive

Nina Camilleri

Development Committee

Kate Ludlow (Chair)

Richard Huntingford

Karaca Mestci

Mary Quillen

Andy Roberts

Charles Sandford

Fiona Yeomans

Artistic Director

Rachel Staunton

Charity registered number

1151714

Registered office

Rich Mix

35-47 Bethnal Green Road

London

E1 6LA

Independent examiner

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA

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Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL

Bankers

CAF Bank
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME14 4TA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Objectives and Activities

Activities for Achieving Objectives – 'Raising Voices | Shaping Lives'

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

At London Youth Choirs (LYC), we provide a progression pathway for young people aged 7 to 23, welcoming everyone from absolute beginners to those aspiring to professional careers in the performing arts. Our 10 choirs, six central (City) and four regional (Southwark, Ealing, Tottenham, and Streatham), form the heart of our work, bringing together young singers from across London for weekly rehearsals and inspiring performances.

LYC members benefit from exceptional vocal training led by our highly experienced choral conductors, who nurture talent, build confidence, and develop skills in teamwork, musicianship, and self-expression. These dedicated mentors not only foster vocal ability but also inspire and challenge our members. Through their expert guidance, our singers explore an extraordinary range of music - from 500 years of classical repertoire to jazz, gospel, contemporary pop, and newly commissioned works - ensuring a rich and diverse musical experience.

Beyond rehearsals, members gain specialist coaching and opportunities through our partnerships with leading ensembles, including Tenebrae, The Sixteen, The Bach Choir, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir. These collaborations provide masterclasses, peer-to-peer learning, and performance opportunities, further enriching musical development and experience.

At LYC, we believe that choirs offer more than musical development - they provide a lifeline for young people's wellbeing. Research shows that singing in a choir can positively impact mental health and social connection, particularly for those facing challenges. Our Wellbeing



My name is Alby and I am 10 years old.

When I sing I feel like the whole world is just singing with me. When I'm down I usually sing to make me happier because it makes me forget about what I was sad about.

Singing in this choir has changed my life because I used to be really shy but it's given me confidence in all of my life. I've made some friends too and they've pushed me on to have more confidence.

Team ensures that members feel supported, valued, and empowered, helping them to thrive both musically and personally.

Our Choirs

Singers can join LYC at any age or progress through the choirs, from Junior level to Cambiata Choirs and then to London Youth Choir or Chamber Choir. Level-appropriate musicianship training supports members' singing and development.

Rehearsals take place weekly during term time across London:

- Central choirs: Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Cambiata Girls, Cambiata Boys, London Youth Choir, and LYC Chamber Choir rehearse at City of London School.
- Regional choirs:
 - LYC West – St. Barnabas Church, Ealing
 - LYC South East – City Hope Church, Bermondsey
 - LYC North East – Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Tottenham
 - LYC South West – Streatham & Clapham High School

We are grateful for our strategic partnerships with City of London School and Streatham & Clapham High School, which provide essential in-kind support through free rehearsal space. These partnerships enable us to expand our reach, enhance artistic output, and maintain a vibrant and inclusive choral community.

Many LYC members go on to audition for the National Youth Choirs, with six LYC members (1 in London Youth Choir and 5 in Chamber Choir) currently participating. Our collaboration with NYC broadens opportunities for young people from all backgrounds, further shaping the future of UK choral music.

Widening Access

Ensuring that LYC is open and accessible to all young Londoners remains central to our charitable mission. We work proactively to remove financial, geographical, and administrative barriers, ensuring that no child is excluded from choral singing because of their circumstances.

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This commitment is increasingly important at a time when arts and music education continue to be marginalised within national education policy, and access to high-quality provision is becoming more dependent on families' ability to pay. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has placed additional pressure on households, reinforcing the importance of LYC's role in providing affordable, inclusive opportunities.

To achieve this, LYC operates a highly subsidised membership model:

- All membership fees are subsidised by approximately 80%, reducing the annual cost to families to £450, compared with an actual cost of £1,200 per member.
- A comprehensive financial assistance scheme provides full or partial fee remission, travel grants, support with uniform costs, and free concert tickets.
- Families with a household income below £35,000 are eligible for free membership; those earning below £50,000 qualify for partial assistance. We also take a flexible, individual approach to ensure support is tailored to need.

Impact in 2024/25:

- 106 choir members received full financial assistance.
 - 18 young singers received heavily subsidised places, covering 80% of their participation costs.
- In total, 124 members - over 25% of the membership - received additional support, including travel expenses, concert uniforms, and tickets.

Beyond financial support, LYC delivers free workshops, and all auditions remain free of charge. We also provide snacks for members who need additional support, ensuring no child is disadvantaged.

Our financial support programme is fundamental to nurturing musical talent, building confidence, and ensuring our choirs reflect the diversity of London. Through sustained fundraising activity, every young person can find their voice at LYC, regardless of background.

"LYC is an exceptional group. I have rarely encountered an organisation with such energy, vision, ambition, creativity, inclusion and phenomenal communication and organisation. It is a rare treat indeed." – LYC parent

LYC Schools and Communities

"At a time when access to high-quality music education is increasingly at risk in UK schools, it is more important than ever for organisations like LYC to create multiple, accessible entry points for young people. Through LYC Schools & Communities, we provide safe, creative spaces where young people can express themselves through singing - one of the most inclusive and joyful ways to develop musical skills."

- Ishani O'Connor, Head of Engagement at London Youth Choirs

While affordability is a vital component of widening access, it is only one part of a truly inclusive approach. Reaching young people who are least likely to engage with choral

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singing also requires sustained partnerships with schools and communities across London. This is the focus of London Youth Choirs' Schools and Communities work.

LYC Schools and Communities is a programme designed to reinvigorate music-making at a local level and bring the joy and benefits of singing to musically underserved areas of the capital. Working in close collaboration with schools, music hubs and families, the programme empowers young people through high-quality choral experiences, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of singing.

At the heart of LYC Schools and Communities are free, engaging workshops that introduce young people to choral singing in an inclusive, creative and enjoyable way. These activities not only inspire a love of singing, but also establish clear pathways into LYC choirs, helping to identify and nurture diverse musical talent. By building trust with children, teachers and local communities, the programme creates lasting connections and opens doors to high-quality music education for those who might otherwise miss out.

In 2024/25, LYC Schools and Communities engaged **1,560 young people** through free singing activities across London. This included:

Come & Sing Workshops

These intergenerational, open-access workshops take place in community hubs during school holidays and offer children and their families a completely free opportunity to experience group singing and meet the LYC team. In 2024/25, we delivered **6 events across London**, reaching **169 participants**.

Teacher CPD Sessions

We offer practical training that equips school staff with the confidence and skills to lead singing sustainably in their classrooms. During the year, we delivered **4 Teacher CPD sessions**, training **60 teachers**.

Singing Assemblies

Our singing assemblies are high-energy, whole-school sessions that introduce simple group singing techniques. In 2024/25, we delivered **6 Singing Assemblies**, reaching **1,020 children**. These sessions are often paired with Teacher CPD, allowing school staff to see their learning applied in practice.

Positive Change Choirs

Positive Change Choirs are longer-term school-based projects that provide young people with a more in-depth introduction to group singing and performance. We delivered two iterations of this project in 2024/25:

- **Tower Hamlets:** 139 young people engaged across 4 secondary schools
- **Waltham Forest:** 120 young people engaged across 5 secondary schools

These projects play a key role in diversifying participation in choral singing and provide clear progression routes for further musical development, including pathways into LYC's core choirs.

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"This project has been fantastic. The Positive Change Choir has been the perfect springboard to boost our school choir and embed a lasting legacy of singing at George Green's School."

– Head of Music, George Green's School

LYC Experience Choir Day

New for 2024/25, the LYC Experience Choir Day offered children an intensive introduction to what an LYC choir rehearsal looks like. The day included practice auditions, helping to demystify the audition process and make it more accessible for young singers. **31 children participated.**

The day included an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion evaluation led by Jeanetta Hurst, exploring perceptions of choirs among families new to LYC. Findings showed that many young people feel anxious about auditions, inspiring the development of a new video resource for schools and community groups that explains the LYC audition process. This resource aims to reduce barriers to participation and help more young people feel confident and supported in joining our choirs.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCES

Building on the strong foundation of our first decade, LYC has continued to grow and thrive throughout 2024/25. We celebrate the dedication and passion of our members and the outstanding commitment of our team, which includes **13 core staff in the LYC office, 10 conductors, 4 pianists, and 32 assistant leaders** – 10 of whom were former members of LYC. The entire LYC community can take pride in our achievements as we look ahead to an exciting future.

2024/25 – our membership at a glance:

- 219 young people joined LYC for the first time.
- 541 young people sang with our 10 choirs throughout the year. At the Spring 2024/25 half term, we had 482 members from all of London's 32 boroughs, ranging in age from 6 to 23; 251 were 6-11 years old, 194 were aged 12-17, and 37 were 18-24.
- 67% were female, 32% male, 0.5% identified another way, and 0.5% did not disclose their gender.
- LYC members represented 234 different educational establishments. 77% of members at school age (Year 13 or below) were in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools. 2% of total membership were in Higher Education, and 1% were Home Educated.
- 12% of members in our Junior Choirs and 9% of our older choirs were eligible for Pupil Premium.
- Across our total membership: 46% White British, 13% White European/other, 7% Black, 7% Asian, 17% Mixed/other, and 3% Undisclosed.
- 5% identified as Disabled and 10% as having SEND.

We're constantly working to make our choirs more representative of the amazing diversity of London and measure our progress against London census data. Over the next year, we're focusing on improving the numbers of young people who take part who receive Pupil Premium, who identify as Disabled, and on the representation of ethnicities throughout our

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organisation. This is alongside our commitment to further increase the number of young people receiving financial assistance and to encourage more boys singing.

Performance Highlights – A Year of Spectacular Music-Making

In 2024/25, London Youth Choirs delivered an extraordinary range of **29 performances**, showcasing **95 pieces by 92 composers**, with **60% of the repertoire written in the 21st century**. Spanning choral, folk, gospel, jazz, pop, and musical theatre, the programme embraced **eight different languages**, reflecting the diversity, ambition, and dynamism of our young singers.

This breadth of repertoire was matched by the scale and significance of our performance activity. During the year, LYC appeared in many of London's most prestigious venues, delivering high-profile concerts, landmark collaborations, and nationally significant appearances. Highlights included:

Broadcast & National Moments

- [BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall](#) – Two appearances (September 2024 and July 2025), including the prestigious First Night of the Proms, televised and broadcast internationally. The latter featured Cambiata Girls singing the upper-voices chorus in Vaughan Williams' *Sancta Civitas*, marking a major milestone.
- [BBC Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration](#) – LYC Chamber Choir performance broadcast live on the BBC and featured in BBC News, marking a poignant national moment of remembrance.
- [VE80 Commemoration at the Tower of London](#) – Participation in a nationally significant act of remembrance, marking 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Royal & Civic Events

- The [King's Foundation Awards](#) at St James's Palace - LYC Chamber Choir performance of *Harmony*, a new work by Jack Pepper, at the annual awards ceremony held in the presence of His Majesty The King.
- The [King's Trust Carol Concert](#) at St Paul's Knightsbridge - A high-profile festive performance as part of a nationally recognised charitable event.

Collaborative Performances

- [Britten's War Requiem at Westminster Cathedral](#) – Performance alongside The Bach Choir and the Philharmonia Orchestra, featuring LYC trebles, offering young singers the opportunity to engage musically and emotionally with one of the most powerful choral works of the twentieth century.
- [Bach's St Matthew Passion at the Royal Festival Hall](#) – Landmark performance alongside The Bach Choir, giving LYC choristers invaluable experience performing one of the great choral masterpieces on a world-class stage.
- [Vigil at Holy Sepulchre London](#) – LYC's first collaboration with professional vocal ensemble Sonoro, conducted by Neil Ferris. The programme traced the Easter story through music from across history, pairing well-loved choral works with contemporary compositions by living composers.
- [Voices Unify at St John's Waterloo](#) – Showcase concert featuring Cambiata Choirs and LYC Chamber Choir, with guest instrumentalists Rosie Bergonzi (handpan), Joe

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Steele (saxophone), and Linton Williams (bassoon). Premiered new music written by LYC members themselves.

- [Christmas Classics Concert Series at the Royal Festival Hall](#) – Performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra, promoted by AEG Presents.

LYC Organisational Showcases

- [Winter Concerts - Solstice & Patake at Milton Court](#) – Two concerts bringing together choirs from across the organisation, celebrating collective achievement.
- [St Paul's Cathedral Family Carol Service](#)
- [Echoes of Britten](#) – Junior Choir Festival – First-ever festival of junior singing, bringing together all six junior choirs at Shoreditch Town Hall. Programme celebrated music by Benjamin Britten and works inspired by his legacy, written specifically for children's voices.
- [Chamber Choir Showcase at St Bartholomew the Great](#) – Intimate performance highlighting the musical excellence and versatility of LYC's senior ensemble.
- [City-wide Summer Pop-Up Concert Tour](#) – Informal performances taking LYC's music-making out into the city, including Barbican Lakeside, Paternoster Square, and the VOCES8 Centre.
- [Gospel Concert](#) – Joint LYC and Cambiata end-of-year concert with a gospel theme, featuring a live band at City of London School for Boys, celebrating the year's achievements.

"I never underestimate the amount of work that goes in behind the scenes for these concerts, and I'm so very grateful for everyone who makes it happen. Giving the children such a rich and stimulating musical experience means so much to us all."

– LYC Parent

ENRICHING OUR ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

As LYC continues to grow in scale and reach, the organisation has taken the opportunity to further strengthen the quality and depth of its artistic programme. Alongside widening participation, there is a renewed focus on ensuring that members are supported through a rigorous and enriching training experience that enables them to develop as confident, skilled, and expressive singers.

There is no doubt that the period following the COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact across the youth arts sector, affecting continuity of training and young people's musical development. In response, LYC has reflected on how best to invest time, structure, and expertise into its rehearsal model, with the aim of supporting higher musical quality and more consistent artistic outcomes across the organisation.

This work marks a positive step forward, reaffirming LYC's identity as an organisation that combines broad access with high artistic standards, and that equips young people with the skills, confidence, and discipline needed to perform at their best.

Strengthening Music Provision

Time is central to effective musical training. To maximise its impact, LYC is reviewing how rehearsal schedules and performance planning can best support musical development and ensemble cohesion. Key developments include:

- **Extended rehearsal opportunities** – Introduction of weekend away days for choirs once every term. These focused sessions allow singers to immerse themselves in key repertoire, accelerate musical progress, build stronger ensemble relationships, and offer opportunities for social connection and peer learning.
- **More effective concert scheduling** – Moving some performances away from regular rehearsal days to protect core rehearsal time, ensuring preparation reinforces rather than replaces musical training.
- **Enhanced rehearsal structures for senior choirs** – Particularly for LYC and LYC Chamber Choir, focusing on increasing depth and consistency of rehearsal time. Structural refinements for 2025/26 will enable longer and more focused rehearsal periods for senior ensembles.

Securing and retaining high-quality musical leadership remains central. The experience and artistic insight of LYC's conductors and musicians play a vital role in shaping young people's musical development and sustaining the standards the organisation aspires to.

Artistic Programming and Musical Leadership

To support a coherent and ambitious approach to programming, LYC has established a **Music Committee**, led by the Artistic Director and supported by trustees, conductors, assistant leaders, and freelance musicians. The Committee provides strategic oversight of repertoire and helps ensure that musical choices support progression, challenge singers appropriately, and reflect the breadth of the organisation.

This collaborative model is already strengthening artistic planning. Looking ahead, LYC sees further opportunity to enrich this work by incorporating external artistic perspectives from across the choral and wider music sector. By welcoming a broader range of voices into programming discussions, LYC aims to remain artistically curious, responsive, and forward-looking.

Through these developments, LYC continues to invest in the quality of its artistic programme, ensuring that young people from all backgrounds are supported to deepen their musicianship, grow in confidence, and achieve high artistic standards within an inclusive and supportive environment.

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Launched in May 2025, **LYC Voices** is **LYC's new industry-facing commercial arm**, created to provide professional performance opportunities for current and former LYC members. Building on the artistic excellence of LYC's performance work, it offers a clear and supported pathway from youth choral participation into the professional performing arts sector.



The performing arts industry continues to face an urgent need for a more representative and diverse talent pipeline. As the reputation of London Youth Choirs has grown, so too has demand for recording, broadcast, and high-profile performance work from agencies, studios, and producers seeking authentic and inclusive groups. LYC Voices enables LYC to respond meaningfully to this demand, while ensuring that young singers from a wide range of backgrounds can access opportunities that have historically been out of reach.

In 2024/25, LYC Voices undertook a number of high-profile recording and performance projects, including:

- [Recording sessions at Abbey Road Studios for a major feature film](#), and at [Battery Studios and AIR Lyndhurst for film and television soundtracks](#).
- A performance at The [O2 Arena with Diana Ross](#), alongside [recording projects for Disney+](#) and a [commercial campaign for Mercedes-Benz](#).
- Appearances at industry and corporate events, including the [PiXL Conference](#).

These experiences are genuinely transformative for the young singers involved. They offer first-hand insight into professional music-making, develop industry-ready skills, and play a vital role in diversifying the pipeline of talent entering the cultural and creative industries.



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LYC Voices Ltd operates as a wholly owned subsidiary company with dedicated in-house management. The income it generates is reinvested directly into London Youth Choirs' charitable work, strengthening core programmes, expanding outreach, and enabling LYC to engage more young people across the capital.

A strategic partnership with London Voices, the UK's leading adult session choir for film and game soundtracks, supports this work by directing youth choir enquiries to LYC Voices and strengthening connections between training and professional practice.

Together, this model creates a virtuous cycle: professional opportunities inspire and equip young singers; earned income strengthens the charity; and increased capacity allows LYC to reach more young people, particularly those from underserved communities. In doing so, LYC Voices plays an important role in shaping a more inclusive future for the performing arts.

"We worked with London Youth Choirs on *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy* for a scene where we needed a children's choir to sing 'I'd Do Anything' in a very pivotal and emotional scene in the film. Working with LYC was a dream - professional on all levels, from the organisation and administration, to the preparation and dedication from the brilliant young singers who weren't fazed by recording in a studio, and created a beautiful performance and recording. I look forward to working with LYC again on future film and television projects." - Catherine Grieves, On-Camera Music Advisor and Music Supervisor

YOUNG LEADERS' COLLECTIVE

"Youth Voice is not something to be done, but something to be guided by. It involves actively seeking out and then actioning young people's authentic needs, desires, and opinions. It's about having a constant ability to change and be flexible as young people grow." – Liz Birch, Inspirational Music Leader Award Winner, YMA's 2023

We place young people's voices at the heart of LYC's decision-making, recognising that authentic participation strengthens both our artistic and organisational practice. During 2024/25, the Young Leaders Collective (YLC) continued to meet monthly, maintaining high attendance and a palpable commitment to the programme and to LYC as a whole. The YLC provides a structured forum for young people to contribute to strategy, programming, and governance, ensuring that their perspectives shape the organisation in meaningful ways.

Over the past year, the YLC contributed to a wide range of projects and initiatives, demonstrating both leadership and creativity:

- **Safeguarding Programme Development** – A subgroup partnered with Alison Bastable (Head of Safeguarding & Pastoral Care) to develop a new Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Mission Statement centred on young people's experiences and needs.
- **Brand Development** – Members worked with brand consultant Jude Bridge to help shape LYC's identity, ensuring that young people's perspectives were central to organisational messaging.
- **Youth-Led Performance** – The YLC successfully ran LYC's first youth-led Open Mic event in July, taking responsibility for planning and delivering the concert with staff support.

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- **Music Committee Participation** – Two additional YLC members attended Music Committee meetings, reporting feeling listened to and valued as part of the decision-making process.
- **Song Suggestion Scheme** – Launch of a YLC Song Suggestion Form enabled members across all ages to influence repertoire selection, with feedback taken directly to the Music Committee.
- **Skills Development** – Meetings throughout the year covered marketing and communications, safeguarding and pastoral care, and presentation and ideation skills, supporting both personal development and organisational contribution.

The YLC also presented a Recommendation to the Board in June, sharing reflections on their year, discussing their experiences, and responding to trustees' questions. Their final meeting in July provided an opportunity to reflect on legacy, feedback, and personal growth. These activities, alongside the successful delivery of the Open Mic event, demonstrate the YLC's dynamic and evolving contribution to the organisation, and the importance of flexible, responsive approaches to youth voice.

In addition, LYC piloted consultation sessions with young people outside the organisation, including a feedback and evaluation session in May with participants aged 6–11. Insights from these sessions are informing future engagement, helping ensure that all children and young people — whether current members or new to choral singing — have an opportunity to be heard.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the lessons and initiatives from the YLC will continue to inform programme development, recruitment, and organisational practice. LYC remains committed to embedding youth voice across all areas of its work, ensuring that young people shape the present and future of the organisation.

"As a member of LYC Chamber Choir and the Young Leaders Collective, I really feel LYC has made a huge difference to my life; both in terms of my pursuit of music as a career and more generally with its amazing social aspects and the new confidence I have found in my two years here." – LYC Chamber Choir and YLC member

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

LYC recognises that inequities within society -and within the cultural sectors we serve - require sustained and deliberate action. Trustees and staff share a strong belief that music-making should be for everyone. The choral sector is stronger, richer, and more relevant when more people feel they have a place within it. As an organisation with a growing national and international profile, LYC sees it as its responsibility to lead by example, championing bold, positive, and inclusive practice across all areas of its work.

We strive to nurture a creative community in which everyone can participate fully and achieve their potential - a community that is inclusive, representative of the society we live and work in, and which actively supports the safety, wellbeing, and sense of belonging of all those involved. This commitment underpins our approach to accessibility, anti-racism, respect, and the celebration of difference, as set out in our publicly available Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement.

EDI Highlights 2024/25

- Achieved National Living Wage Employer status, reinforcing LYC's commitment to fair pay.
- Embedded EDI and Youth Voice in governance, with a standing agenda item at Board meetings.
- Young Leaders Collective regularly attending Board meetings, with reciprocal Board engagement.
- EDI Staff Group in its fourth year, meeting monthly with staff and freelance representation.
- Inclusive Line Management Training delivered and embedded into management practice.
- Music Committee strengthened, with young people, trustees, staff, and freelance musicians shaping repertoire.
- Youth voice embedded in programming, including the launch of a YLC Song Suggestion Form.
- Clear behaviour standards reinforced through updated Codes of Conduct.
- New consultation models piloted, including engagement with young people beyond LYC.
- Partnership development underway with organisations supporting young people facing barriers.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS' MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

***"Your pastoral and safeguarding care is excellent and far better than at other activities my child takes part in. You care for the whole child rather than applying a minimum of the required rules."* - LYC Parent**

While LYC's core activities focus on choral training, our overarching aim is to help young people reach their full potential, particularly those who have faced barriers to music-making due to social disadvantage. Over the past 11 years, we have seen that a robust safeguarding, wellbeing, and pastoral support programme is essential to the success of our music education work — without it, our training would be less effective.

Our pastoral care provision ensures that all young people are welcomed into the LYC community, with individual needs supported through one-on-one conversations, weekly check-ins, and tailored adjustments to the programme. For many, LYC rehearsals provide the only dedicated pastoral support network they have, helping them feel safe, valued, and able to grow in confidence.

For the past four years, Alison Bastable has led our safeguarding and pastoral care work, supported by the Planning & Operations Director, Chief Executive, Membership & ED Manager, and LYC's Safeguarding Trustee, George Wills. New Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Zoe Nendick and Lily Pietersen, have completed advanced safeguarding training to ensure comprehensive coverage. All trustees undertake NSPCC safeguarding training, and our safer recruitment processes continue to be refined to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members.

Safeguarding is embedded in all LYC activity, guided by a culture of openness, respect, and compassion. All staff and volunteers are expected to uphold the LYC Code of Conduct,

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complete mandatory safeguarding training, and engage in professional curiosity, ensuring that any concern — however small it may appear — is taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

"You have been very kind when poor mental health has prevented our daughter from attending rehearsals. We feel that you are an organisation that really cares for its young people." - LYC Parent

Looking ahead, LYC is planning to strengthen the capacity and resilience of our safeguarding and pastoral care provision as the organisation grows. This includes formalising and embedding the Head of Safeguarding & Pastoral Care role, introducing a Deputy Head to provide additional support, and expanding the responsibilities of regional choir leaders to act as Safeguarding Officers. These measures will ensure consistent safeguarding coverage,



My name is Daisy and I am 9 years old.

When I sing I feel like I can express my feelings in a different way. I feel like I can play around with it. If I feel sad or annoyed when I start singing it all goes away and I forget about it and it's really nice.

Singing in my choir has changed my life because before I joined this choir I couldn't find a place to just sing with my friends and perform and I feel like I can just be more free here. I didn't know what music meant and didn't think much of it but when I joined LYC I thought this is a way I can express my feelings and feel better if I'm sad or anxious.

enable professional development for key staff, and maintain a safe, supportive environment for all members as LYC's reach continues to expand.

Through this holistic approach to wellbeing, London Youth Choirs continues to create a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment, enabling young people to thrive both musically and personally.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year, the Board implemented a strategic review of LYC's leadership structure to ensure it supports the organisation's continued growth and long-term sustainability. The new structure, implemented in January 2025, reflects the increasing scale and complexity of LYC's operations and positions the organisation to deliver its mission effectively over the next decade.

Executive Leadership

The role of Executive Director transitioned to Chief Executive, with Nina Camilleri assuming this position. This change reflects the expanded strategic, operational, and financial responsibilities associated with leading LYC. Nina provides overall organisational oversight while continuing to nurture the collaborative, mission-driven culture that is central to LYC's success.

Principal Team

A new Principal Team has been established, comprising the Chief Executive, Artistic Director Rachel Staunton, and Finance Director James Prescott-Martin. This team provides coordinated leadership across strategic, operational, artistic, and financial matters, enabling efficient and responsive decision-making.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team now includes the Principal Team alongside two senior functional leads:

- Fundraising & Communications Director: **Nicolette Shaw**
- Planning & Operations Director: **Tom Hansell**

The newly defined Director of Planning & Operations role oversees the coordination of LYC's programmes and aligns operational delivery with the organisation's artistic and strategic objectives. The Senior Leadership Team meets weekly to ensure alignment across all areas of activity, maintaining a cohesive and proactive approach to delivery.

Engagement and Programme Integration

To further strengthen LYC's work in community engagement, the Head of Engagement role now sits within the Operations function. This ensures closer integration of the LYC Experience programme with the organisation's core activities, with oversight and guidance from the Chief Executive.

The Board believes that these changes position LYC to continue advancing its charitable objectives with clarity, ambition, and resilience, while maintaining the supportive and inclusive culture that underpins its work.

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

LYC is committed to high standards in fundraising and communications. Throughout the year 2024/25, LYC raised £527,241 from corporates, trusts, and individual donors, including many parents/guardians of LYC members. While we are clear that we are reliant on voluntary funds for 76% of our income, we focus on building friendly, sustainable, and professional relationships with all our supporters.

We are grateful for the support of Convex Insurance and Advent, and for our in-kind support from the Clayton Hotel. We held two Big Give campaigns throughout the year and were supported by a number of trusts and foundations, including John Lyon's Charity, The Swire Charitable Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Horizon Stichting, The Symondson Foundation, The Leverhulme Trust, City of London Corporation and The Childhood Trust. We also acknowledge the help and support of Fiona Yeomans, Richard Huntingford, and Andrew Roberts.

This year, we appointed a new full-time Fundraising and Communications Director—a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising—to bring fundraising, marketing, and communications together into one cohesive team. We also appointed a full-time Trusts and Foundations Manager to strengthen and grow our reach in these areas.

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During the year, we worked with Branding and Communications consultant, Jude Bridge, to consolidate our brand story, incorporating our new areas of work and redefining our mission and brand values. Gary Cooke of Brand Cooke was retained to create visual brand guidelines and to bring our new brand to life. We also appointed NGO Business Services to implement our Salesforce database.

All fundraising activities are conducted in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice. LYC is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and has committed to the Fundraising Promise. We proudly display the Fundraising Regulator badge on our marketing materials to reassure donors that our fundraising is legal, open, and honest.

We are committed to protecting the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonable intrusion or pressure. During the year, we created a *Supporter Promise* page on our website, which includes our vulnerable donor policy and details on how to make a complaint. In line with Regulator advice, we have also implemented a fundraising safeguarding policy to ensure that our fundraisers are safe at all times. In the 2024/25 financial year, we did not receive any complaints or deal with any incidents regarding our fundraising activities.

LYC is indebted to all our donors—those who ran the London Landmarks Half Marathon for us, those who gave to the Big Give, and those who gave via regular donations or one-off gifts. Without this support, LYC would simply not exist. Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD | 2025/26

As LYC enters 2025/26, our focus is on consolidating the progress achieved over the past six years, strengthening our foundations, and deepening the impact of our artistic, educational, and engagement work. Our strategy is guided by three interconnected pillars: financial resilience, artistic enrichment, and inclusive engagement.

Strategic Pillars

1. Financial Resilience

Financial stability underpins everything we do. LYC remains heavily reliant on voluntary income, which represents approximately 71% of annual revenue. This dependency highlights the critical importance of resilience in this area for the long-term health of the organisation.

In 2025/26, we will continue to:

- Strengthen membership income and review the sliding-scale fee structure to ensure sustainability and equity.
- Develop LYC Voices, our commercial arm, into a reliable earned-income stream while maintaining quality and safeguarding standards.
- Explore strategic funding opportunities with bodies such as the Arts Council and National Lottery.
- Build long-term direct-giving and legacy income to diversify revenue sources and reduce dependency on any single stream.

2. Artistic Enrichment and LSO Partnership

Deepening the artistic experience for our members remains a priority. Piloting a residential course will provide immersive learning opportunities, strengthen ensemble cohesion, and prepare choirs for future high-profile performances.

Our three-year partnership with the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) (2025–28) represents a transformative step for LYC, extending artistic reach and educational impact. Forty-two young singers from the former LSO Discovery Choirs have joined the LYC network. The partnership focuses on:

- Enriching the Choral Experience – New commissions, diverse repertoire, and major performances, including Barbican Family Concerts in June 2026 and 2027, and a co-commissioned orchestral/choral work in 2028.
- Empowering Educators – Professional development for London secondary school teachers to integrate choral and ensemble music into their classrooms.
- Practical Support & Reach – Access to rehearsal and concert spaces at LSO St Luke's, and support from LSO staff to extend pathways into LYC membership.

These initiatives strengthen the distinctiveness of the LYC musical experience and embed our choir firmly within London's cultural life.

3. Inclusive Engagement – LYC Schools & Communities

Increasing diversity and accessibility is central to our work. LYC Schools & Communities combines project-led initiatives with embedded programmes to address barriers and widen access to high-quality musical training and performance experiences.

Key priorities in 2025/26 include:

- **Engaging Boys** – Increasing participation across all age groups, supporting boys through voice change, and working strategically with boys' schools to promote choral singing.
- **Data-Driven Planning** – Mapping the London singing landscape to identify gaps, understand participation trends, and inform programme development.
- **Equitable Access** – Increasing engagement among young people from the Global Majority, care-experienced young people, and those from lower-income families.
- **Pathways into Choirs** – Expanding entry points for children and young people to ensure talent, interest, and potential determine opportunity.

Strengthening Governance

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme. Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are

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identified and approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity. Following our recent Trustees Skills Audit, we are seeking appointments to strengthen the Board, including a new Chair of the Finance & Risk Management Committee and Trustees with expertise in fundraising, equity, diversity & inclusion, and the choral sector. These appointments will ensure LYC has the strategic oversight to deliver on its ambitions and manage growth sustainably.

15th Anniversary and Royal Albert Hall

Preparations are underway for LYC's 15th Anniversary in March 2028. Hundreds of young people from across our choirs and wider community will take part in this milestone celebration, reflecting over a decade of outstanding artistic achievement and youth development.

Gratitude to the City of London School

We are profoundly grateful to Alan Bird, Headmaster, and the team at City of London School for their exceptional support over the past six years. Their generosity has been transformative for LYC, enabling artistic and organisational growth. As they noted:

"The school has been absolutely delighted to support LYC for so many years and we have witnessed first-hand the transformational work your organisation does for young voices in London. Your commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a love for music within the community is truly inspiring, and it has been an honour to contribute to your mission." - Alan Bird, Headmaster at the City of London School

As we transition to St John's Waterloo, this site will become a dedicated home for rehearsals and our office base, providing stability and a consistent environment for our work as LYC continues to grow and develop.

Financial Review

The total funds held by the charity at year-end amounted to **£137,466** (2024: £236,450), including restricted funds of **£360** (2024: £360). During the year, the Trustees allocated **£100,000** from unrestricted funds to a designated reserve. This reserve was established to support key growth areas, specifically the restructuring and transition of the Development team into a new Fundraising & Communications department, guided by a fresh strategy.

After deducting restricted funds and functional assets, the charity's free reserves stood at **£109,268** (2024: £222,253).

Reserves Policy The Trustees have adopted a policy that aims to build reserves to **£300,000** over the next five years, balancing this goal with the ongoing need to invest in growth. Trustees will continue to monitor contributions to these reserves closely over the coming years.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the 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 & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

and signed on their behalf
by:

Dame Deirdre Hutton,
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choirs

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:
Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA
Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL
Dated:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2	493,924	62,341	556,265	521,472	12,940	534,412
Charitable activities	3	215,098	-	215,098	181,712	-	181,712
Investments		<u>4,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,431</u>	<u>4,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,598</u>
		713,453	62,341	775,794	707,782	12,940	720,722
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	144,069	-	144,069	91,062	-	91,062
Charitable activities	5	<u>668,368</u>	<u>62,341</u>	<u>730,709</u>	<u>621,695</u>	<u>12,940</u>	<u>634,635</u>
		812,437	62,341	874,778	712,757	12,940	725,697
Net income		(98,984)	-	(98,984)	(4,975)	-	(4,975)
Transfers between funds	15	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Net movement in funds		(98,984)	-	(98,984)	10,025	-	10,025
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward							
General Funds		236,090	360	236,450	136,090	360	236,450
Designated Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	137,106	360	137,466	236,090	360	236,450

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.
The notes on pages 26-37 comprise these parts of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	9	1			
Intangible assets	10	16,652		6,824	
Tangible assets	11	<u>11,186</u>		<u>7,013</u>	
			27,839		13,837
Current assets					
Debtors	12	29,863		32,222	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>108,340</u>		<u>213,161</u>	
		138,203		245,383	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(28,576)		(22,770)	
Net current assets			<u>109,627</u>		<u>222,613</u>
Total net assets			137,466		236,450
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted general	16		137,106		236,090
Unrestricted designated	16		-		-
Restricted funds	16		<u>360</u>		<u>360</u>
Total funds			137,466		236,450

The accounts were approved by the Board on

and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chair

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

As at 31 August 2025

Statement of Cash Flows	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities	14				
Cash absorbed by operations			- 85,548		- 31,249
Investing activities					
Non-current asset (additions)/disposals		- 19,273		- 7,320	
Net cash generated from investing activities			- 19,273		- 7,320
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			- 104,821		- 38,569
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			213,161		251,730
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			108,340		213,161

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

London Youth Choir meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have at the time of approving the financial statements a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

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Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities, and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: website costs – 25% straight line.

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: equipment – 20% straight line.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2. Income from donations

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	261,893	309,557
Donated facilities and services	29,024	23,500
Grants	<u>265,348</u>	<u>201,355</u>
	556,265	534,412

Grants include £62,341 of restricted income. The comparative figure for 2024 includes £12,940 of restricted income.

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

3. Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Membership fees	161,506	132,161
Concert fees	51,592	49,551
LYC Voices Ltd dividend income	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	215,098	181,712

4. Raising funds

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Wages and salaries	126,842	86,376
Fundraising consultancy fees	5,100	410
Other costs	<u>12,127</u>	<u>4,276</u>
	144,069	91,062

5. Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Wages and salaries	307,851	285,426
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	196,096	151,754
Bursary awards	30,881	20,128
Venue hire	72,542	38,016
Music hire	15,094	22,676
Advertising and marketing	12,623	26,730
Bank charges	100	106
Depreciation	5,272	4,070
Subscriptions	995	487
Travel	6,986	5,159
Support costs (see note 6)	<u>82,269</u>	<u>80,083</u>
	730,709	634,635

Expenditure includes £62,341 of restricted expenditure from restricted funds. The comparative figure for 2024 includes £12,940 of expenditure from restricted funds.

6. Support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Wages and salaries	31,375	30,000
Staff costs	10,794	11,809
Office costs	19,040	18,371
Printing, postage and stationery	2,418	2,919
Rent	15,492	13,714
Governance costs		
Independent examiners fees	3,150	3,270
Legal fees	—	—
	82,269	80,083

7. Staff costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Gross salaries	416,266	360,059
Employer's National Insurance	37,350	30,989
Employer's pension costs	<u>12,452</u>	<u>10,754</u>
	466,068	401,802

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 11 (2024:11). One member of staff earned over £60,000 in both years.

8. Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director, Chief Executive & Finance Director. During 2025 £169,813 (2024: £151,397) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance & pension contributions) and £5,000 (2024: £4,686) in consultancy fees to key management personnel. None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. No Trustees received reimbursement for expenses. The husband of the Chief Executive was not contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £0 (2024:£398).

During the year the charity received a dividend income from LYC Voices Ltd, a subsidiary company, of £2,000 (2024 - £Nil). At the year end, a balance of £1,434 (2024 - £Nil) was due from LYC Voices Ltd to the charity, which relates to trading balances, and is included within prepayments and accrued income.

9. Investments

By virtue of ownership of 100% share capital, London Youth Choirs is the parent company of LYC Voices Ltd. The company has a registered office address of 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

10. Fixed Assets

Intangible assets	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2024	26,529	26,529
Additions	14,750	14,750
Disposals	-	-
Transfers	(4,163)	(4,163)
At 31 August 2025	37,116	37,116
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2024	(19,705)	(19,705)
Charge	(2,096)	(2,096)
Disposals	-	-
Transfers	(1,338)	(1,338)
At 31 August 2025	(20,464)	(20,464)
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2025	16,652	16,652
At 31 August 2024	6,828	6,828

11. Fixed Assets

Tangible assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2024	12,784	12,784
Additions	4,522	4,522
Disposals	-	-
Transfer	3,062	3,062
At 31 August 2025	20,368	20,368

Depreciation

At 1 September 2024	(5,771)	(5,771)
Charge	(3,411)	(3,411)
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August 2025	(9,182)	(9,182)

Net Book Value

At 31 August 2025	11,186	11,186
At 31 August 2024	7,013	7,013

12. Debtors

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Trade debtors	6,814	3,139
Prepayments and accrued income	18,986	22,214
Gift Aid	<u>4,063</u>	<u>6,869</u>
	29,863	32,222

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Trade creditors	13,814	4,263
Other tax and social security	11,612	10,600
Accrued expenses	3,150	7,907
Deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	28,576	22,770
Deferred income brought forward	-	5,000
Amounts released in the year	-	(5,000)
Income deferred in the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred income carried forward	-	-

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

14. Cash absorbed by operations

Cash absorbed by operations	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus for the year	- 98,984	- 4,975
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	5,272	4,071
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	2,358	- 17,476
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	5,806	- 12,869
Cash absorbed by operations	- 85,548	- 31,249

15. Lease Commitments

At the reporting end date LYC had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, as follows:

Financial Commitments:	2025	2024
Within 12 months	£6,109	£7,407
More than 12 months	£4,784	£12,463
Total	£10,893	£19,871

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16. Movement in funds

Current year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	236,090	613,453	(812,437)	-	137,106
Designated funds	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds	236,090	713,453	(812,437)	-	137,106
Restricted funds:					
John Lyons Trust		40,000	(40,000)		-
City of London	-	22,341	(22,341)	-	-
Cathedral Choirs	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
Restricted Funds	360	62,341	(62,341)	-	360
	236,450	775,794	(874,788)	-	137,466

Prior year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	226,065	707,782	(712,757)		236,090
Designated funds	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds	241,065	707,782	(712,757)	85,000	236,090
Restricted funds:					
Safeguarding		2,000	(2,000)		
City of London	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cathedral choirs	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
Restricted Funds	<u>360</u>	<u>12,940</u>	<u>(12,940)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
	241,425	720,722	(725,697)	-	236,450

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The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitate visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

The John Lyons Trust provides funding for the regional LYC Choir West and outreach targeted specifically at young people from Harrow, Brent and Ealing.

The City of London provides funding for a series of summer Pop Up concerts at venues across the City of London.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Fixed assets	-	27,838	27,838
Current assets	360	137,844	138,204
Creditors due within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,576)</u>	<u>(28,576)</u>
	360	137,106	137,466
 Prior year	 Restricted funds 2024 £	 Unrestricted funds 2024 £	 Total funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	-	13,837	13,837
Current assets	360	245,023	245,383
Creditors due within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>(22,770)</u>	<u>(22,770)</u>
	360	236,090	236,450

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

Charity no. 1151714



LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS

a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Telephone: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

londonyouthchoirs.com

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Founding President

Suzi Digby OBE

Honorary Patrons

Gareth Malone OBE

Sir Andrew Parmley

Dame Janet Ritterman

Sir John Rutter

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE (Founding Patron)

Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)

Trustees

Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair)

Leslie East OBE (Vice-Chair) (resigned 18th June 2024)

Mark Gallagher (resigned 5th March 2024)

Mike Georgiou (joined 14th November 2023)

Michael Llewelyn-Jones

Kate Ludlow

Lucy Noble (joined 14th November 2023)

Duncan Watts

George Wills

Executive Director

Nina Camilleri

Development Committee

Kate Ludlow (Chair)

Richard Huntingford

Karaca Mestci

Mary Quillen

Andy Roberts

Elizabeth Ross

Charles Sandford

Fiona Yeomans

Artistic Director

Rachel Staunton

LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS
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Charity registered number

1151714

Registered office

Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Independent examiner

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA
Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL

Bankers

CAF Bank
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME14 4TA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2024. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by a Charity Commission Scheme. The charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1151714.

The principal object of the charity is to provide high quality choral training and performance opportunities for young people living and studying in London.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme. Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are identified and

approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The LYC Board of Trustees meets four times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees give their time voluntarily.

The Executive Director and Artistic Director are afforded full artistic and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

Objectives and Activities

Policies and Objectives

The objects of the London Youth Choirs are to advance the education and training of young people living or educated in London in the subject of music and the performing arts, and in particular, choral music. For the purposes of these objects, 'London' means the boroughs covered by the Greater London Authority or any successor body, and the City of London.

The charity will achieve this by:

- providing a world-class choral training programme for young people;
- promoting and supporting musical and choral education to young people regardless of their financial or social background;
- delivering open access workshops for young people, irrespective of their training or experience; and
- financially supporting talented young people to enable them to receive musical education of the highest standard and to achieve their potential.

In reviewing the objectives and planning the charity's activities, the Trustees

have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Activities for Achieving Objectives

‘Unlocking young people’s potential through the power of choral singing’

At London Youth Choirs (LYC), we provide a progression pathway for young people aged 7 to 23, welcoming everyone from absolute beginners to those aspiring to professional careers in the performing arts. Our 10 choirs – six central (City) and four regional (Southwark, Ealing, Tottenham and Streatham) – form the heart of our work, bringing together young singers from across London for weekly rehearsals and inspiring performances.

LYC members benefit from exceptional vocal training led by our highly experienced team of choral conductors, who nurture talent, build confidence, and develop skills in teamwork, musicianship and self-expression. These dedicated mentors not only foster vocal ability but also inspire and challenge our members. Through their expert guidance, our singers explore an extraordinary range of music – from 500 years of classical repertoire to jazz, gospel, contemporary pop and newly-commissioned works, ensuring a rich and diverse musical experience.

Beyond rehearsals, LYC members gain specialist coaching and opportunities through our partnerships with leading ensembles, including Tenebrae, The Sixteen, The Bach Choir and the London Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir. These collaborations provide masterclasses, peer-to-peer learning, and performance opportunities, further enriching our members' musical development and experience.

At LYC, we believe that choirs offer more than just musical development – they provide a lifeline for young people’s wellbeing. Research shows that singing in a choir can positively impact mental health and social connection, particularly for young people facing challenges. Our Wellbeing Team ensures that members feel supported, valued and empowered, helping them to thrive both musically and personally.

Our Choirs

Singers can join LYC at any age or progress through the choirs, from Junior level to Cambiata Choirs and then to London Youth Choir or Chamber Choir. Level-appropriate musicianship training is provided to support members in their singing and development.

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JUNIOR CHOIRS Years 3-6

 LYC Junior Girls City of London Mondays 4.45-5.55pm	 LYC Junior Boys City of London Mondays 4.45-5.55pm	 LYC South West Streatham Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm	 LYC North East Tottenham Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm	 LYC South East Bermondsey Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm	 LYC West Ealing Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm
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CAMBIATA CHOIRS Years 7-11

 LYC Cambiata Boys City of London Mondays 6.15-7.25pm	 LYC Cambiata Girls City of London Mondays 6.15-7.25pm
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LONDON YOUTH CHOIR Year 11 to age 23

 London Youth Choir City of London Mondays 7.30-8.45pm
--

LYC CHAMBER CHOIR Year 12 to age 23

 LYC Chamber Choir City of London Mondays 6.00-7.15pm

Rehearsals take place weekly during term time across London:

- Central choirs (Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Cambiata Girls, Cambiata Boys, London Youth Choir and Chamber Choir) rehearse at City of London School.
- Regional choirs rehearse in key London boroughs:
 - LYC West – St Barnabas Church, Ealing
 - LYC South East – City Hope Church, Bermondsey
 - LYC North East – Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Tottenham
 - LYC South West – Streatham & Clapham High School

We are grateful for our strategic partnerships with City of London School and Streatham & Clapham High School, which provide essential in-kind support through free rehearsal space. These partnerships enable us to expand our reach, enhance artistic output, and maintain a vibrant and inclusive choral community.

Such friendships are the lifeblood of our organisation - critical not only to the ongoing strategic development of LYC but also to our capacity to learn from and connect with inspiring people and institutions. We hope for long and flourishing relationships with the schools.

Many LYC members go on to audition for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (NYC), with around 20 LYC members currently part of NYC. Our collaboration with NYC helps to broaden opportunities for young people from all backgrounds, further shaping the future of UK choral music and music education.

Widening Access & Engagement

Ensuring that LYC membership is truly open and accessible to all young Londoners is at the heart of our mission. We work proactively to remove financial, geographical and administrative barriers, making sure that no child is excluded from choral singing due to their circumstances.

This commitment is more crucial than ever. With arts and music increasingly marginalised in education policy and becoming less available to those who cannot afford to pay extra, we are determined to keep high-quality music opportunities within reach – especially during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, which is placing additional strain on families.

To make this possible:

- Although the actual cost of membership is £1,118 per annum, the base membership fee charged is £400 per year, the difference being raised through fundraising and parents, carers and guardians who are able to pay more
- We offer a comprehensive financial assistance scheme, covering full or partial membership fees, grants for travel, free concert tickets for families, and help with uniform costs.
- Families with a household income below £35k receive free membership, while those under £50k qualify for partial assistance. However, we take a personal approach, ensuring tailored support for those in need.

Impact in 2023/24

- 135 members received full financial assistance (up from 77 in 2022/23).
- 32 young people were provided with LYC-funded Oyster cards for travel to rehearsals and concerts (compared to 21 in 2022/23).
- We regularly offer free workshops for young people to experience our choirs, and our friendly auditions remain completely free, breaking down any cost barriers to participation.
- We also make sure no child goes hungry, providing snacks for those who arrive at rehearsals in need of extra support.

LYC Experience

At LYC, we are committed to making our membership affordable and ensuring that free places are available to all who need them. However, accessibility goes beyond affordability – it requires active outreach to schools and communities in disadvantaged areas of London. That's where LYC Experience comes in.

LYC Experience is an initiative designed to reignite music as a vital part of the community and bring the joy of singing to musically underserved areas of our capital. Through this

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programme, we collaborate with schools, music hubs, and families to empower young people through music, ensuring that every child – regardless of background – has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of choral singing.

At the heart of LYC Experience are free, engaging workshops that introduce young people to choral singing in a way that is inclusive, creative, and fun. These workshops not only inspire a love of singing but also establish a pathway into LYC choirs, helping to nurture diverse musical talent. By building trust with children, teachers, and communities, we create lasting connections and open doors to high-quality music education for those who might otherwise miss out.

Through LYC Experience, we are shaping a future where every child has access to the life-changing power of music – one voice at a time.

In 2023/24, LYC Experience engaged 2,171 young people through free singing activities across London. This included:

- Over 2,000 children in years 3-6 from 10 schools across four London boroughs, who took part in free singing assemblies and workshops.
- 91 children and family members of all ages who joined our Family Come & Sing events in Haringey, Bermondsey, Harrow and Streatham.

These sessions brought communities together through the joy of singing, expanding access to high-quality music education for those who need it most.

Spotlight: LYC & THAMES

Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service

In 2023/24, LYC's Positive Change Choir brought the joy of choral singing to 60 young people (aged 11–15) from two secondary schools in Tower Hamlets, where 50% of pupils receive Free School Meals. For many, this was their first experience of singing in a choir.

Under the expert guidance of Naveen Arles (LYC Cambiata Boys conductor), the young singers were supported, encouraged and inspired to find their voices. The project culminated in an uplifting performance at Rich Mix Cultural Centre, showcasing their progress and newfound confidence.

In addition to working with students, Naveen led a highly successful CPD session for 11 local teachers from Tower Hamlets and neighboring boroughs, equipping them with the tools to engage young people in singing.

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We are thrilled that the Positive Change Choir will continue for another year thanks to further funding from THAMES, allowing us to build on this year's success and continue embedding a culture of singing in local schools.

"This project has been fantastic. Workshops have been led in a supportive and engaging way, where all pupils have been able to access the repertoire (including pupils with SEN and ASC). The Positive Change Choir Project has been the perfect springboard to boost our school choir and embed a lasting legacy of singing at George Green's School."

– Head of Music, George Green's School

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

Building on the strong foundation of our first decade, LYC has continued to grow and thrive throughout 2023/24. We celebrate the dedication and passion of our members and the outstanding commitment of our team, which includes 13 core staff in the LYC office, 10 conductors, 4 pianists and 15 assistant leaders, 7 of whom were former members of LYC. The entire LYC community can take pride in our achievements as we look ahead to an exciting future.

2023/24 – our membership at a glance:

- 247 young people joined LYC for the first time
- 549 young people sang with our 10 choirs throughout the year. At the Spring 2023/24 half term, we had 493 members from 30 of London's 32 boroughs, ranging in age from 6 to 23; 296 were 6-11 year olds, 169 were aged 12-17 years and 28 were 18-24 year olds
- 66% were female, 31% male, 1% identified another way and 2% did not disclose their gender
- LYC members represented 234 different educational establishments. 77% of the members at school age (Year 13 or below) were in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools. 4% of our total membership were in Higher Education and 1% were Home Educated
- 11% of members in our Junior Choirs and 10% of our older choirs were eligible for Pupil Premium
- Across our total membership 45.8% were White British, 19.1% White European/other, 7.3% Black, 9.4% Asian, 12.8% Mixed/other and 5.6% Undisclosed
- 5% identified as Disabled and 9% as having SEND

We're constantly working to make our choirs more representative of the amazing diversity of London and measure our progress against London census data. Over the next year, we're focusing

on improving the numbers of young people who take part who receive Pupil Premium, who identify as Disabled, and on the representation of ethnicities throughout our organisation. This is alongside our commitment to further increase the number of young people receiving financial assistance, and to encourage more boys to sing.

Performance Highlights: A Year of Spectacular Music-Making

37 Concerts | 21,160 Live Audience | 10.4 Million Broadcast Audience

In 2023/24, LYC delivered an extraordinary range of performances, showcasing 113 pieces by 97 composers, with half of the repertoire written in the 21st century. Spanning choral, folk, gospel, jazz, pop and musical theatre, our music embraced 17 different languages, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of our young singers.

Working with World-Class Artists

Throughout the year, LYC members had the incredible opportunity to collaborate with renowned musicians, conductors and performers, including:

- Marisha Wallace – Actress & Singer
- Edward Gardner (London Philharmonic Orchestra), David Hill (The Bach Choir), Gavin Carr (BBC Proms) & Harry Christophers (The Sixteen) – Conductors
- Jamie Cullum – Jazz Pianist & Singer
- Naomi Kimpenu – Singer-songwriter
- The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment
- Roderick Williams OBE – Singer & Composer
- Yolanda Brown – Presenter & Saxophonist
- Camilla Kerslake, Naomi Kimpenu and Emma Johnson – Vocalists & Instrumentalists
- Rosie Bergonzi – Hand-pan Artist & Composer

"The Chamber Choir sounded terrific. The atmosphere and sense of purpose of the whole organisation seemed deeply inspiring to me, and there is nothing more powerful in music than what you're all doing with these young singers."

– Gavin Carr, Conductor

Collaborative Composition



50 members of the Cambiata choirs collaborated in workshops to write a new song, 'Voices Unify', working with professional musicians and composers Rosie Bergonzi and Joe Steele. The new song was premiered in March 2024.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, as the project gave them the chance to connect, explore their creativity, and discover their voices at a crucial age for self-expression.

The importance of this song and this project is highlighted in the very first words 'when words don't speak you sing' – these came from one member of the Cambiata Boys' choir in our first session.

"It's so important to let young people have their own voice to sing about whatever is important to them. It's obvious how much everyone cares about LYC and how much fun everyone has every week!"

– Rosie Bergonzi, Percussionist & Composer

"I loved creating something both personal, but fun as a group!"

– Participant, age 13

Unforgettable Performances & Milestone Events

LYC performed in some of London's most prestigious venues, delivering unforgettable moments in concerts and collaborations, including:

- LYC's own-promotion concerts at Milton Court and the Royal College of Music
- Singing in the City – a series of pop-up performances in the Square Mile
- The Prince's Trust Christmas Concert – St Paul's Cathedral
- 'Christmas Classics' with the Philharmonia and London Philharmonic Orchestra – Royal Festival Hall

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- Mahler's 'Symphony No. 3' – St Barnabas Church, Ealing (with Ealing Symphony Orchestra)
- Bach's 'St Matthew Passion' and Holst's 'The Planets' – Royal Festival Hall
- Bold Tendencies Festival – Peckham Multi-Storey Car Park
- Sounds Sublime Festival – St James's Piccadilly

Spotlight Event: D-Day 80 Commemoration



On 6 June, it was both an honour and a privilege for LYC Chamber Choir to perform as part of the official D-Day 80 commemorations in Normandy. Marking this historic occasion, the LYC Chamber Choir joined singer-songwriter Naomi Kimpenu and The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment to premiere a specially commissioned anthem – 'Lovingly Remembered' by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber – paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We were deeply humbled to play a part in this momentous occasion, commemorating the great sacrifices of those who gave their lives in the service of our country. May their bravery, resilience and sense of duty continue to guide and inspire the youth of today."

– Nina Camilleri, Executive Director

This deeply moving performance was a powerful reminder of the role of music in remembrance and reflection, ensuring that the legacy of those who served lives on in the hearts of future generations.

Youth Voice

Young Leaders Collective (YLC)



This year marked the launch of LYC's inaugural Young Leaders Collective, bringing together 10 LYC members to contribute to the organisation's strategy and develop new skills. For the Young Leaders Collective, the year involved:

- 9 meetings and
- 1 away day at the Royal Albert Hall
- 1 board meeting presentation
- 1 external facilitator and 2 guest speakers
- 1 conference
- 1 recommendation for change

"Working with YLC has been such a pleasure! Exploring the role of leadership, communicating and advocating on behalf of others and exploring what it means to truly embed youth voice in an organisation. If this group of amazing young leaders are an indicator of the future leaders in the world, we are in good hands!"

– Sam Stimpson, EDI and Youth Voice Consultant

The programme, which will continue into the 2024/25 year, empowered members to bring about change in a charity they care so much about, and to give them the tools to become future leaders. At the year-end reflection, when asked to score, all respondents scored 5 out of 5 to the prompt: "I am proud to have been in the Young Leaders Collective".

Some of the achievements from the group include: Developing and implementing a new Member-Wide Feedback system (The YLC Postbox), part-digitising the annual member feedback system, commissioning research into the North of the river / South of the river divide amongst members, and developing and presenting a recommendation for change to the Board of Trustees which called for:

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1. A sustained effort to build a purpose and community that is defined by our choir members
2. inclusive and accessible opportunities for meaningful internal and external collaboration

Some of the areas covered throughout the year were: oversight and input into the annual member-wide feedback programme, introduction to charity governance and the third sector, teamworking (establishing terms of reference, meeting management & active listening exercises), careers in music and the creative sector, creative and critical thinking (including developing and learning creative brainstorming exercises), public speaking and presentation skills, legacy planning, fundraising and development workshop, recruitment, and event coordination.

One Young Leader puts their experience into words:

“[The YLC] is a really great opportunity to learn more about the music/creative industry and learn invaluable skills that are useful in any career you go into. If you’re passionate about creating meaningful change and empowering young people then consider applying for the YLC! ‘By changing nothing, nothing changes.’”

– Tony Robbins, Young Leader

We are excited to see where the programme goes in the coming years, but the 2023/24 cohort set up a very sturdy foundation.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

“London Youth Choirs should be a place where all young Londoners and staff feel at home within a fair ecosystem that allows them to excel.”

– Freddie Aitken, Membership and EDI Manager

There is a strong understanding among the Trustees and staff that inequities within society and within the sectors that we serve need to be addressed. We believe that music making should be for everyone, and that the choral sector will be richer and better if more people feel they have a place in it. As industry leaders, we see it as our role to spearhead bold, positive and inclusive practice in EDI.

We strive for a creative community where everyone feels able to participate and achieve their potential: a community that is inclusive and representative of the society we live and work in, and which enhances the safety, wellbeing and belonging of everyone. This commitment is reflected in our dedication to accessibility, anti-racism, respect, and embracing differences as outlined in our statement, which is publicly available on our website.

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In 2023/24 we highlighted the following target areas: diversifying our choir membership (particularly around better male representation), ensuring representation among the composers of the music they perform, enhancing training for our musical staff (particularly around neurodiversity), fostering diversity within the LYC management team, and diversifying the composition of our trustees.

To drive efforts like these forward, LYC established an EDI action group in 2021/22 and since then the group continues to convene monthly to explore opportunities for improvement. Additionally, team members participate in relevant training sessions to enhance their understanding and share insights. This year, that included compulsory autism awareness training, a session on Inclusive Practice with ABRSM's Lincoln Abbots and more. The EDI Staff Group is also in the process of conducting an internal audit of our EDI practice in order to set out clear and actionable targets. These will guide our progress and ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion remain at the forefront of our organisation's mission and operations.

Here are some examples of the things we did in 2023/24 to remove barriers to access:

- We printed enlarged music for individuals with sensory processing difficulties
- We print music in various colours for those with dyslexia
- We have digital records of all our music (often including audio recordings) for members with visual impairments
- We provided ear defenders for members who experience sensory overload
- We bring fidget toys to all concerts and rehearsals for members with ADHD/ASD
- We provided tiered payment options to ensure more equitable membership income generation for our Financial Assistance scheme
- We only rehearse and perform in accessible venues and recognise the social model of disability
- We expanded our Board
- We diversified our staff team
- We installed a web accessibility plugin to ensure that our website is accessible to everyone including those with vision impairments and cognitive disabilities

All these steps and more are part of an ongoing process to be a choir where no talented individual feels they can't belong, where conversation and creativity is made richer through diversity and where all who engage with us are given all the tools to be the best version of themselves.

Supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing

"LYC is a very positive place, the people are fantastic, full of joy and enthusiasm for music and for the young people in the Choirs. It has had a truly positive impact on my child's wellbeing."

– Parent of member

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LYC has always promised to deliver two things: musical excellence and social change. While our primary activities revolve around choral singing training, our overall aim is to help young people reach their full potential, especially catering to those who have faced barriers to music making because of social disadvantage. We have seen from our work over the last 11 years that having a robust and proactive safeguarding, wellbeing and pastoral support provision is vital for the delivery of the LYC programme, without which our music education services would be less effective.

Our pastoral care programme is a crucial part of this, ensuring that all young people are welcomed into the LYC community regardless of any pastoral needs that they may have. This helps us make LYC a safe and supportive environment where all children are nurtured and can grow in confidence.

Since 2021, Alison Bastable has been LYC's Head of Safeguarding and Pastoral Care, working with our Head of Operations, Executive Director and LYC Trustee for Safeguarding, George Wills, to develop our policies and to implement our pastoral care programme at weekly rehearsals. This includes supporting individual members through one-on-one chats, weekly check-ins or programme adjustments, as well as planning the general wellbeing programme for all members. For many, our rehearsals are often the only place where they have a dedicated pastoral support network and someone to talk to.

"I love pastoral! My musicianship, confidence and happiness are all down to LYC and my career choice is totally inspired by the LYC female music educators and conductors!"

– Member of London Youth Choir

To ensure that young people in our choirs receive the highest possible level of pastoral care, we have expanded our training opportunities for all staff at LYC over the last 4 years. This now includes:

- Mandatory online safeguarding training on the Tes Educare platform
- Compulsory neurodivergent online training sessions plus face to face training led by sector professionals
- In-person, paid training days delivered by the LYC team throughout the academic year
- LYC 'home grown' child chaperones for licensed performances, and
- We are hoping to expand our specialist training in 2025/26 with more opportunities offered to all staff

The choir staff team are fully briefed about members' medical and pastoral needs and are updated weekly by way of a pastoral briefing at the start of each choir rehearsal.

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Bi-weekly pastoral/behaviour meetings (Head of Operations, Artistic Director, Membership and EDI Manager and Head of Safeguarding) to discuss members behaviour and early intervention, if appropriate.

All staff use a reporting database called MyConcern. This logs pastoral and safeguarding concerns, which the Head of Safeguarding triages and acts upon.

The Safeguarding Team (LYC Trustee, Designated Safeguarding Lead and three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads) meet every half term to discuss open safeguarding cases and to review cases to be closed.

Responding to the needs of our members, we have implemented the following initiatives:

- Having a designated Quiet Room at all rehearsals and events, for young people who feel overwhelmed
- Always ensuring we have appropriate food/drink at rehearsals/events if members request it, or feel unwell
- Providing ear defenders and ear-plugs to support members with sensory issues
- Providing fidgets for members for whom it may be helpful
- Providing spare performance clothes/shoes and sanitaryware
- Having a Designated Safeguarding Lead and 3 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads available for rehearsals and events
- LYC 'home grown' trained chaperones for licensed events
- At least 2 First Aid Trained members of staff at each rehearsal
- Increased the social time available so LYC members get to know each other and staff better
- Having clear, open communication when there is medical/pastoral to ensure we provide individualised care
- Safeguarding and pastoral care is at the forefront of everything we do

"I am so lucky to go to such a wonderful place and meet such welcoming people."

– LYC Junior Girls Member, 10

Fundraising

2023/24 was the second and final year of LYC's 10th Anniversary target, aiming to raise £1 million by August 2024. Over the year, LYC drew on individual support, trusts and foundations, and corporate giving to bring in over 70% of LYC's income. All of this underpins our charitable work, reaching young people with the joys and benefits of singing, especially for those who are being excluded from these opportunities because of cost or other barriers.

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Over the year, £510,586 was raised, meaning we successfully exceeded our 10th Anniversary target, a real sign of confidence in our strategy, vision and impact. We are incredibly grateful for the work of the whole team and wider organisation, all of whom contribute in different ways toward making fundraising possible and successful.

The team expanded in September 2023, with Nicola O'Donnell joining as LYC's first Senior Corporate Partnerships Manager, building a new strategy to help us make the most of our position in the capital to find funding for the communities in the wider city.

Individual Giving

Individual donors remain an important part of our fundraising, with our Major Donors, LYC Circle, and Patrons a vital source of consistent support for our charitable work.

A significant milestone this year was the success of the Big Give campaign, 'Raise Your Voice: Singing Opportunities for All', which ran from 28 November to 5 December. The campaign raised an impressive total of £109,325, including Gift Aid and had our highest number of donors to a campaign to date, at 202. All funds went towards our work widening access and participation, supporting our financial assistance scheme, which offers young people facing barriers free places in our choirs, and our LYC Experience work in schools.

The campaign was made possible by match funding contributions of £25,000 each from The Childhood Trust and Convex Insurance. Notably, the campaign introduced 101 new donors to LYC, many contributing smaller amounts, broadening the base of support. Efforts to engage individual donors were amplified by personalised outreach from trustees, staff, and the Development Committee, which proved instrumental in attracting smaller yet impactful donations.

A subsequent campaign, 'Champions for Children', ran from 4 to 18 June 2024 and raised £55,352 (including Gift Aid) against our campaign target of £50,000. This was through 154 donations including 56% from first time donors, the highest number of any campaign so far.

Trusts and Foundations

We continued expanding our relationships with trusts, foundations and livery companies, with a 10% increase in funding in this area in the 2023/24 year. LYC was grateful to receive grants from the following organisations towards our work widening access and engagement in choral music through our provision of free places, our work in state schools and other core programmes: The Leverhulme Trust, Kerslake Robshaw Foundation, Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers, Rainbow Dickinson Trust, Tower Hamlets Arts Education Fund, Swire Charitable Trust, Maja Tham Charitable Trust, Three Monkeys Charity and SCOPS Arts Trust.

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We were very grateful for targeted support towards particular choirs from the following funders: Garrick Charitable Trust and London Philharmonic Choir toward LYC Chamber Choir, John Lyon's Charity; Heathrow Community Trust and Ealing Music Service toward LYC West and surrounding work; John Coates Charitable Trust towards LYC South West; and Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust to London Youth Choir.

The Symondson Foundation continued funding our work on safeguarding, pastoral support and wellbeing, allowing us to invest in improvements to systems which allow us to care for young people, especially those more vulnerable members. The Marchus Trust provided funding for LYC's 4th year of a collaborative songwriting project, with LYC's Cambiata Choirs and composer Rosie Bergonzi working together to produce 'Voices Unify: When words don't speak you sing', premiered in March 2024. The City of London Corporation provided another year of support for our summer performances in the City through the 'Inspiring London through Culture' fund.

Despite the successes, this area has been more challenging compared to previous years, reflecting wider industry pressures. To address this, LYC invested in external expertise, working with Achates to review and improve application materials.

Corporate

Our corporate partnerships also saw growth over this financial year, mainly due to a brilliant new 3-year partnership with Advent International, who are providing financial and leadership support to the organisation.

Convex Insurance continued to be a key partner, committing to provide match funding for LYC's campaigns over the next 3 years. This is a really important contribution which not only provides much needed funds towards our accessibility and engagement work, but also allows us to leverage their support to bring in new donors for the charity.

China Construction Bank concluded their final year of corporate sponsorship of LYC, having been an invaluable partner over the 5 years from 2019.

All corporate supporters benefitted from opportunities to attend concerts and rehearsals to see first-hand the impact of their donations, and also had their own employee choirs set up by LYC conductors and pianists. These were a fantastic opportunity for people to experience first hand the impact of singing on community and wellbeing.

Finally, there are many other organisations which contribute to LYC through in-kind support, which make a big impact for our charity. These include Brand Cooke, City of London School, Clayton Hotel City of London and Streatham and Clapham High School.

Looking Ahead – 2024/25

As LYC enters its second decade, we reflect on the significant impact the organisation has made since its inception. Over the past ten years, LYC has grown into a thriving, ambitious charity with 11 dedicated and highly skilled members of staff, and a network of freelance musicians, conductors, and educators who are among the most respected in the sector.

Looking ahead, our focus will shift towards consolidation and sustainable growth. We aim to strengthen our organisational infrastructure, embedding the passion and entrepreneurial spirit that has characterised our journey so far within a stable, secure foundation. This will ensure that we can continue to pursue our mission with clarity and confidence, deepening our engagement across London and raising the artistic standard of our choirs.

Our strategic priorities for 2024/25 are as follows:

- **Evaluate the Impact of Our Evolved Delivery Model**
We will assess the effectiveness of our updated rehearsal model, including the introduction of weekend rehearsals and a stronger emphasis on artistic planning and decision-making. This evaluation will focus on understanding how these changes have influenced the quality of our musical output and overall participant experience.
- **Expand and Deepen the LYC Experience**
We will scale up our outreach programme with the aim of delivering a 'Come and Sing' event in every London borough over the next two years. Particular attention will be given to schools with above-average (25% or more) pupil premium eligibility and limited access to music provision. In 2024/25 we will also launch the **LYC Experience Choir**, a new initiative that will further extend our reach and inclusivity.
- **Launch LYC Voices**
LYC Voices will be introduced as a wholly owned subsidiary of London Youth Choirs, with dedicated in-house management. LYC Voices will provide exceptional professional experience and career development opportunities for our young singers, including paid engagements for members aged 18+. The initiative responds directly to the national imperative to diversify the creative industries and will offer a representative, high-quality vocal ensemble for commissioners across film, television, gaming, audio recording, and corporate events. A strategic partnership with London Voices, the UK's leading adult professional session choir, will further strengthen this offer and direct relevant enquiries to LYC Voices. All profits generated will be reinvested into the core charitable mission of London Youth Choirs.
- Profits generated will be reinvested into our core charitable mission. LYC Voices will provide exceptional professional experience and career development opportunities for our young singers, including paid engagements for members aged 18+. The initiative responds directly to the national imperative to diversify the creative industries and will offer a representative, high-quality vocal ensemble for commissioners across film, television, gaming, audio recording, and corporate

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events. A strategic partnership with London Voices, the UK's leading adult professional session choir, will further strengthen this offer and direct relevant enquiries to LYC Voices.

- **Invest in Fundraising and Communications**

We have now appointed our first full-time **Director of Fundraising and Communications**. Over the coming year, we will implement a new fundraising and communications strategy designed to build a broad and engaged community of supporters, with a particular focus on digital engagement. In recognition of the increasing strain on trusts and foundations in recent years, we will prioritise growth in our donor base, strengthen individual giving, promote legacy fundraising, and reduce our reliance on trust income.

Financial Review

The current level of funds held by the charity at the year end amounted to £236,450 (2023: £241,425) and included a designated reserve of £0 (2023: £15,000) and restricted funds of £360 (2023: £360). After deducting designated reserves, restricted funds and funds held as functional assets, the charity had free reserves of £222,253 (2023: £215,477).

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy which, in the long term, aims to build reserves to cover at least two terms' expenditure amounting to £324,514. Unrestricted free reserves at the end of the year stood at £222,253.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the 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 & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 these financial statements, the Trustees are required

to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

and signed on their behalf by:

Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choirs

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA
Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street
Leeds
LS1 2HL

Dated:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2	521,472	12,940	534,412	524,955	10,000	534,955
Charitable activities	3	181,712	-	181,712	206,396	-	206,396
Investments		<u>4,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,598</u>	<u>2,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,846</u>
		707,782	12,940	720,722	734,197	10,000	744,197
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	91,062	-	91,062	67,104	-	67,104
Charitable activities	5	<u>621,695</u>	<u>12,940</u>	<u>634,635</u>	<u>661,411</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>671,411</u>
		712,757	12,940	725,697	728,515	10,000	738,515
Net income		(4,975)	-	(4,975)	5,682	-	5,682
Transfers between funds	13,14	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Net movement in funds		10,025	-	10,025	40,682	-	40,682
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward							
General Funds		226,065	360	226,425	185,383	360	185,743
Designated Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total funds carried forward	13,14	236,090	360	236,450	241,065	360	241,425

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.
The notes on pages 23-33 comprise these parts of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	9	6,824		3,727	
Tangible assets	10	<u>7,013</u>		<u>6,861</u>	
			13,837		10,588
Current assets					
Debtors	11	32,222		14,746	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>213,161</u>		<u>251,730</u>	
			245,383		266,476
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12		(22,770)		(35,639)
Net current assets			<u>222,613</u>		<u>230,837</u>
Total net assets			236,450		241,425
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted general	13		236,090		226,065
Unrestricted designated	13		-		15,000
Restricted funds	13		<u>360</u>		<u>360</u>
Total funds			236,450		241,425

The accounts were approved by the Board on

and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chair

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

London Youth Choir meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have at the time of approving the financial statements a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

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Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities, and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: website costs – 25% straight line.

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: equipment – 20% straight line.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2. Income from donations

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	309,557	304,382
Donated facilities and services	23,500	23,500
Grants	<u>201,355</u>	<u>207,073</u>
	534,412	534,955

Grants include £12,940 of restricted income. The comparative figure for 2023 includes £10,000 of restricted income.

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

3. Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Membership fees	132,161	95,117
Concert fees	<u>49,551</u>	<u>111,279</u>
	181,712	206,396

4. Raising funds

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Wages and salaries	86,376	47,935
Fundraising consultancy fees	410	15,971
Other costs	<u>4,276</u>	<u>3,198</u>
	91,062	67,104

5. Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Wages and salaries	285,426	248,046
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	151,754	212,616
Bursary awards	20,128	17,632
Venue hire	38,016	60,315
Music hire	22,676	23,231
Advertising and marketing	26,730	18,887
Bank charges	106	60
Depreciation	4,070	5,685
Subscriptions	487	412
Travel	5,159	6,570
Support costs (see note 6)	<u>80,083</u>	<u>77,957</u>
	634,635	671,411

Expenditure includes £12,940 of restricted expenditure from restricted funds. The comparative figure for 2023 includes £10,000 of expenditure from restricted funds.

6. Support costs

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Wages and salaries	30,000	30,000
Staff costs	11,809	10,195
Office costs	18,371	16,937
Printing, postage and stationery	2,919	4,550
Rent	13,714	11,652
Governance costs		
Independent examiners fees	3,270	3,020
Legal fees	—	<u>1,603</u>
	80,083	77,957

7. Staff costs

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Gross salaries	360,059	298,022
Employer's National Insurance	30,989	20,913
Employer's pension costs	<u>10,754</u>	<u>7,046</u>
	401,802	325,981

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 11 (2023: 8.4). One member of staff earned over £60,000 in both years.

8. Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director and Executive Director & Finance Director. During 2024 £151,397 (2023: £150,146) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance & pension contributions) and £18,839 (2023: £27,571) in consultancy fees to key management personnel. None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. 2 Trustees received reimbursement for expenses. The husband of the Executive Director was contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £398 (2023: £7,568).

9. Fixed Assets

Intangible assets	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2023	21,568	21,568
Additions	4,961	4,961
Disposals	—	—
At 31 August 2024	26,529	26,529
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2023	(17,840)	(17,840)
Charge	(1,865)	(1,865)
Disposals	—	—
At 31 August 2024	(19,705)	(19,705)
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2024	6,824	6,824
At 31 August 2023	3,727	3,727

10. Fixed Assets

Tangible assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2023	10,425	10,425
Additions	2,359	2,359
Disposals	—	—
At 31 August 2024	12,784	12,784

Depreciation

At 1 September 2023	(3,565)	(3,565)
Charge	(2,206)	(2,206)
Disposals	—	—
At 31 August 2024	(5,771)	(5,771)

Net Book Value

At 31 August 2024	7,013	7,013
At 31 August 2023	6,861	6,861

11. Debtors

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Trade debtors	3,139	1,475
Prepayments and accrued income	22,214	9,613
Gift Aid	<u>6,869</u>	<u>3,658</u>
	32,222	14,746

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Trade creditors	4,263	9,040
Other tax and social security	10,600	10,316
Accrued expenses	7,907	11,283
Deferred income		<u>5,000</u>
	=	
	22,770	35,639
Deferred income brought forward	5,000	117,018
Amounts released in the year	(5,000)	(117,018)
Income deferred in the year	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Deferred income carried forward	-	5,000

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

13. Lease Commitments

A 3 year lease for Office Space commenced on the 1st April 2023 until the 31st March 2026. The rent commitments are as follows;

- 2024 - Within 1 year = £7,789. Between 2-5 years = £4,674
- 2023 - Within 1 year = £7,408. Between 2-5 years = £12,463

14. Movement in funds

Current year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	226,065	707,782	(712,757)	15,000	236,090
Designated funds	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds	241,065	707,782	(712,757)	-	236,090
Restricted funds:					
Safeguarding	-	2,940	(2,940)	-	-
City of London	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
Restricted Funds	<u>360</u>	<u>12,940</u>	<u>(12,940)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
	241,425	720,722	(725,697)	-	236,450

Prior year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	185,383	734,197	(728,515)	35,000	226,065
Designated funds	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(35,000)</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Unrestricted funds	235,383	734,197	(728,515)	-	241,065
Restricted funds:					
City of London	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cathedral choirs	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
Restricted Funds	<u>360</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
	235,743	744,197	(738,515)	-	241,425

The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitate visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

The City of London provides funding for a series of summer Pop Up concerts at venues across the City of London.

Funds were received in 23/24 for Safeguarding to provide administrative support to the Head of Safeguarding.

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	-	13,837	13,837
Current assets	360	245,023	245,383
Creditors due within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>(22,770)</u>	<u>(22,770)</u>
	360	236,090	236,450
 Prior year	 Restricted funds 2023 £	 Unrestricted funds 2023 £	 Total funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	-	10,588	10,588
Current assets	360	266,116	266,476
Creditors due within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>(35,639)</u>	<u>(35,639)</u>
	360	241,065	241,425

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

Charity no. 1151714



LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS

a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2023

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Telephone: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

www.londonyouthchoirs.com

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Founding President

Suzi Digby OBE

Honorary Patrons

Gareth Malone OBE

Sir Andrew Parmley

Dame Janet Ritterman

Dr. John Rutter CBE

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE

(Founding Patron)

Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)

Trustees

Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair)

Leslie East OBE (Vice-Chair)

Mark Gallagher (resigned 5th March 2024)

Mike Georgiou (joined 14th November 2023)

Michael Llewelyn-Jones

Kate Ludlow

Lucy Noble (joined 14th November 2023)

Duncan Watts

George Wills

Executive Director

Nina Camilleri

Development Committee

Kate Ludlow (Chair)

Richard Huntingford

Karaca Mestci

Mary Quillen

Andy Roberts

Elizabeth Ross

Charles Sandford

Fiona Yeomans

Artistic Director

Rachel Staunton

Charity registered number

1151714

Registered office

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2023. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by a Charity Commission Scheme.

The charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1151714.

The principal object of the charity is to provide high quality choral training and performance opportunities for young people living and studying in London.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme.

Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are identified and approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and

introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The LYC Board of Trustees meets four times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees give their time voluntarily.

Executive Director and Artistic Director are afforded full artistic and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

Objectives and Activities

Policies and Objectives

The objects of the London Youth Choirs are to advance the education and training of young people living or educated in London in the subject of music and the performing arts, and in particular, choral music. For the purposes of these objects, 'London' means the boroughs covered by the Greater London Authority or any successor body, and the City of London.

The charity will achieve this by:

- providing a world-class choral training programme for young people;
- promoting and supporting musical and choral education to young people regardless of their financial or social background;
- delivering open access workshops for young people, irrespective of their training or experience; and
- financially supporting talented young people to enable them to receive musical education of the highest standard and to achieve their potential.

In reviewing the objectives and planning the charity's activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Activities for Achieving Objectives

'Unlocking young people's potential through the power of choral singing'.

LYC provides a progression pathway for young people aged 7 to 23, embracing everyone from absolute beginners up to those looking to pursue a career in the performing arts. Our 10 choirs, 6 central and 4 regional, form the core of our work, bringing together young people from all over London for weekly rehearsals and inspirational performances.

LYC members receive exceptional tuition from our fantastic team of choral conductors, each boasting extensive experience in nurturing young talent. These dedicated mentors not only foster vocal ability, but also inspire and challenge our members, helping to build confidence and develop skills in teamwork, all whilst championing inclusivity and understanding. Under their expert guidance, our choirs explore a wide range of music in a variety of languages and styles, from classical works spanning over 500 years, contemporary pop, gospel, and jazz to brand new commissions and everything in between.

To further enhance their training, our members also benefit from LYC's partnerships with other organisations such as [Tenebrae](#), whose Associate Artists frequently offer members specialist support through sectional rehearsals, and [The Sixteen](#).

The training received extends beyond musical development, contributing to the holistic growth of our members. There is evidence that young people with mental health challenges benefit both from singing and from the sense of community developed in choirs. While building musical skills is a central purpose, LYC's Wellbeing Team also assists members in maintaining positive mental health and self-care, ensuring they thrive both musically and personally.

In 2019, LYC committed to grow the number of choirs from 6 to 10 by the organisation's 10th Anniversary, the year under review. Growing from existing engagement projects in schools, we have now successfully achieved this mission and have established 4 junior choirs for young people aged 7-11 based in further out boroughs of London, with the aim of bringing further affordable or free musical education close to home for the communities who most need it. Following the successful launch of LYC South East in South Bermondsey (2020) and LYC West in Ealing (2021), LYC South West in Streatham and LYC North East in Tottenham were established this year.

These choirs have reached an additional 123 young people in 2022/23, and hundreds more in the last 3 years. Our prediction that these choirs would serve communities with increased need has been accurate, with all 4 choirs seeing a higher rate of members receiving free places. It has been satisfying to see the regional choirs provide progression routes, with 13 members moving from these choirs to the Cambiata choirs for 11-16 year olds for the coming academic year.

Young people can enter the choirs at any age or can work their way from Junior level through the Cambiata Choirs to London Youth Choir or Chamber Choir. Level-appropriate musicianship tuition is provided in all choirs to support members in their singing and development.

JUNIOR CHOIRS Years 3-6

					
City of London Mondays 4.45-5.55pm	City of London Mondays 4.45-5.55pm	Streatham Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm	Tottenham Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm	Bermondsey Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm	Ealing Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm

CAMBIATA CHOIRS Years 7-11

	
City of London Mondays 6.15-7.25pm	City of London Mondays 6.15-7.25pm

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR Year 11 to age 23


City of London Mondays 7.30-8.45pm

LYC CHAMBER CHOIR Year 12 to age 23


City of London Mondays 6.00-7.15pm

Rehearsals for all 10 choirs take place on a weekly basis, during term time. The six central choirs - Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Cambiata Girls, Cambiata Boys, London Youth Choir and LYC Chamber Choir - are held at the City of London School. LYC's partnership with City of London School continues to have a tremendously positive impact on our artistic output, enabling the implementation of sectional rehearsals and musicianship classes to take place as well as providing a fabulous performance space in the spectacular Great Hall. Grateful thanks are due to Alan Bird, Head of CLS for his unstinting support of our work.

LYC has established a similar in-kind partnership with Streatham and Clapham High School, providing free rehearsal space for LYC South West since September 2022. We are very grateful to Andrew Christie, Assistant Headmaster for his most generous support of this partnership.

Such friendships are the lifeblood of our organisation - critical not only to the ongoing strategic development of LYC but also to our capacity to learn from and connect with inspiring people and institutions. We hope for long and flourishing relationships with the schools.

Many members of LYC go on to audition for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (NYCGB), who we work closely with to open up further singing opportunities for our members. Around 50 LYC members are also members of NYCGB, demonstrating how LYC's work offering opportunities to young people of all backgrounds can influence the wider music education and choral landscape.

Widening Access and Engagement

Ensuring that LYC membership is open and accessible to all young Londoners is a core part of our ethos and programme, and we work hard to remove barriers to participation; financial, geographical and administrative. This is particularly important at this time, when arts and music are being pushed to the margins of education policy and becoming less available to those who cannot afford to pay extra, and through a cost-of-living crisis that is squeezing the budgets of those who are already struggling.

All LYC membership fees are subsidised by 80%, costing £300 per year to take part; the true cost of membership is currently £983 per annum. Alongside this, we have a comprehensive financial assistance scheme which offers full or partial help with membership costs, grants for travel to and from rehearsals and concerts, free concert tickets for families, and help with the cost of concert uniform. Those with a household income below £35k are eligible for a free place, and those under £50k for partial assistance, though we also take a personal approach and respond to specific situations.

In 2022/23, 77 members received full financial assistance, and 21 were given LYC funded oyster cards for travel to concerts and rehearsals; this is a growth from 49 members receiving financial assistance in 2021/22, with 14 oyster cards. We regularly offer free workshops for young people to try out our choirs, and all of our friendly auditions are completely free, helping to make LYC accessible to all. We always have snacks on hand for any other children who turn up hungry, making sure young people aren't facing additional barriers to taking part.

In 2023, 43% of young people auditioning for an LYC choir told us they had never sung in a choir before.

LYC Experience

While making sure our membership is affordable and that free places are available for all who need them is vital to ensuring LYC's accessibility, it is also important that we are active in our outreach to schools and communities in disadvantaged areas of London and create progression routes into our choirs.

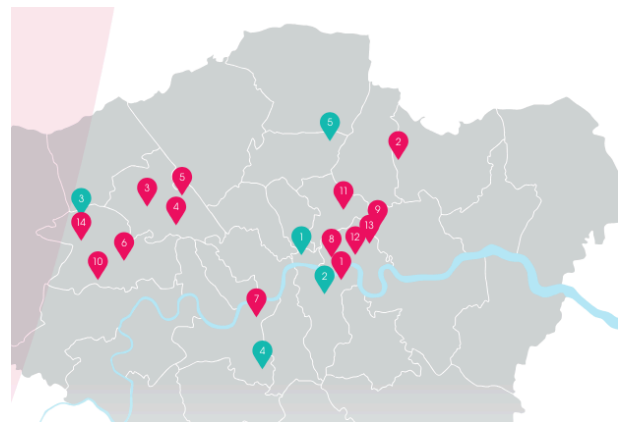
LYC Experience is an initiative that reaches out to the localities of our new regional choirs and reinstates music as a valuable part of the community. The key aim of the programme is to bring the joy and unifying power of singing to musically underserved parts of our country's capital. To do this, we work closely with schools, music hubs and families, empowering individuals and organisations to make a difference to young people's lives through music.

In 2022/23, 1461 young people took part in our free LYC Experience engagement programme offering singing sessions, assemblies and performance opportunities. Our work focused on providing school children, their teachers, families and partner music hubs with singing support, to improve their communities through music.

This active outreach in disadvantaged areas of London is key to widening access to the choirs and making sure we are engaging the young Londoners who could benefit most from our work.

Our main project for the year centred around LYC's major 10th Anniversary concert, RISE UP, at the Royal Albert Hall, which brought 1,024 young people together to perform on stage with the LYC choirs.

From January – May 2023, LYC's artistic team worked with 14 schools (indicated in pink on the map to the right) delivering three two-hour workshops at no cost to the children or the school, thanks to the generosity of our programme funders. All workshops were high-energy, fun and intense. Watch a 1-minute video about LYC Experience [here](#).



Participants ranged from whole-year groups of up to 120 children to smaller groups of 35, with most children taking part in choral singing activities for the first time. All children learned six songs, including a new LYC commission, 'I will glorify' by Brenda Rattray, and the concert finale. Schools were provided with free online resources, including video tutorials by LYC's Artistic Director to support further classroom tuition around LYC's visits.

"Thank you for letting me and my class come to the Royal Albert Hall. I loved it, you made me feel amazing and special. I appreciate it still even if I am not there anymore!"

LYC Experience participant

"It feels great to be part of such an amazing community"

LYC Experience participant

Alongside the RISE UP project, LYC organised a series of 'Come and Sing' Days at the heart of our regional choir locations. These events offered free workshops designed for the entire family, fostering intergenerational singing across all age groups. They took place in Ealing, Tottenham, and Streatham. Additionally, the LYC music teams conducted workshops in two additional schools that sought assistance with implementing singing activities. All in all, a very busy year for LYC Experience, expertly curated by our Head of Engagement, Ishani O'Connor.

We held 88 hours of engagement workshops over the year!

Through this year, we also worked with 236 adults, including 147 teachers and support staff

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

Building upon the solid groundwork established in our initial decade, LYC has persevered and flourished during the academic year 2022/23. We commend the resilience and commitment demonstrated by each LYC member and our incredible and dedicated team which include 12 core staff in the LYC office, 11 conductors, 8 pianists and 22 assistant leaders. The entire LYC community can take pride in our accomplishments over the past 10 years.

Our membership this year:

- 239 young people joined LYC for the first time in 2022/23.
- 459 young people sang with our 10 choirs, from 31 of London's 32 boroughs (plus Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire and Essex), ranging in age from 7 to 23; 243 were 7-11 year olds, 179 were aged 12-17 years and 37 were 18-23 year olds.
- 70% were female, 26% male, 1% identified another way and 3% did not disclose their gender.
- LYC members represented 227 different educational establishments, including at least 76% in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools, 5% in Higher Education and 2% who were Home Educated.
- 14% of members in our Junior Choirs and 8.3% of our older choirs were eligible for Pupil Premium
- Across our total membership 50% were White British, 14% White European/other, 11% Black, 9% Asian, 8% Mixed/other and 8% Undisclosed
- 3.17% identified as Disabled and 10% as having SEND

We're constantly working to make our choirs more representative of the amazing diversity of London and measure our progress against London census data. Over the next year, we're focusing on improving the numbers of young people who take part who receive pupil premium, who identify as Disabled, and on the representation of ethnicities throughout our organisation. This is alongside our commitment to further increase the number of young people receiving financial assistance, and to encourage more boys singing.

LYC held 269 rehearsals over the academic year!

**43% of young people auditioning through this time had never sung
in a choir before**

50 LYC members are graduating to the next choir up this year

Performance Highlights

"I will always remember the applause and cheering at the end, and how it made me feel."

Member of LYC Cambiata Boys

LYC members receive outstanding teaching and take part in exciting performance opportunities at iconic venues. Our concerts and events give young people the opportunity to build confidence, be inspired by amazing music and venues, and to raise their aspirations.

RISE UP | Our 10th Anniversary Celebration Concert

On 9 May 2023, 1,500 young people performed at the Royal Albert Hall to celebrate the LYC's 10th Anniversary in a milestone concert, RISE UP. This included LYC's 10 choirs, plus 1,024 young people from our LYC Experience programme. For many young people and their families, this was their first time visiting the Royal Albert Hall, making it a night to remember! Aled Jones was our brilliant compere, and the concert featured performances by Anna Lapwood, Camilla Kerslake and LYC's honorary Patron Gareth Malone, who led the whole audience in a rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Two of the songs performed in the RISE UP programme, received their first performance.

Commissioned by LYC specifically for our 10th anniversary concert, 'I will glorify' by Brenda Rattray and 'In your hands' by Amy Bryce were created collaboratively by the composers through a series of special workshops. Starting in the summer (2022) Brenda and Amy led sessions with members of LYC Junior Boys, LYC Junior Girls, LYC West, LYC South East, London Youth Choir and LYC Chamber Choir, developing lyrics and melodies for their finished works whilst encouraging every participant to find their inner composer.

Watch a one-minute wrap up of the day [here!](#)

"To perform at the Royal Albert Hall for me was worth a lifetime of waiting. I was elated!"

LYC West Member



“The kids were completely buzzing from the experience and will no doubt remember it for the rest of their lives!”

Teacher at one of our LYC Experience schools

In addition to the magical Royal Albert Hall performance, LYC members took part in a further 31 performances during 2022/23. Here are some of the highlights:

- Royal Variety Performance at the Royal Albert Hall, with Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Gary Barlow and Gareth Malone | December 2022
- Christmas Carols at the Sky Garden | December 2022
- Good Morning Britain, ITV | December 2022
- LYC Festive Concert, Shoreditch Town Hall | December 2022
- Damnation of Faust with London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall | February 2023
- BBC News Awards at Broadcasting House | February 2023
- Intergenerational Music Making Conference, Royal Albert Hall | February 2023
- Joint concert with Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir, Holy Sepulchre Church | July 2023
- Pop Up performances at Leadenhall Market and Paternoster Square | July 2023
- Charged Up! Joint concert with the National Youth Choirs and The Swingles at Snape Maltings | August 2023, preceded by LYC's first residential Course at Framlingham College. 13 members of NYCGB joined LYC after the collaboration.

All LYC activities feature a diverse range of music in a variety of languages and styles. In 2022/23 we sang a total of 84 songs, of which 16% featured languages other than English

and 63% were secular. 69% of songs were traditional choral, with the remainder being Pop, Gospel, Jazz, Folk, Funk & Music Theatre!

“LYC are the gold standard for getting young people singing, they are fabulous!”

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Like many organisations, LYC is on a developmental path. There is a strong understanding among the Trustees and staff that the inequities within society and within the sectors that we serve need to be addressed.

We strive for a creative community where everyone feels able to participate and achieve their potential: a community that is inclusive and representative of the society we live and work in, and which enhances the safety, wellbeing and belonging of everyone.

LYC is committed to prioritising equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles across all aspects of its operations. This commitment is reflected in our dedication to accessibility, anti-racism, respect, and embracing differences as outlined in our statement, which is publicly available on [our website](#). EDI is deeply ingrained within LYC, and we are actively striving to bring about positive changes in various areas. This includes diversifying our choir membership, ensuring representation among the composers of the music they perform, enhancing training for our musical staff, fostering diversity within the LYC management team, and diversifying the composition of our trustees.

To drive these efforts forward, LYC has established an EDI action group, convening monthly to explore opportunities for improvement. Additionally, team members participate in relevant training sessions to enhance their understanding and share insights. Together, we are implementing a comprehensive EDI action plan to guide our progress and ensure that equality, diversity, and inclusion remain at the forefront of our organisation's mission and operations.

Amongst other initiatives, we are working hard to become more actively inclusive of those with different gender identities; although our choirs have a gender split at young ages, in order to better support the vocal requirements of each of those groups, we work with individuals to find the place they would be most comfortable. We also support young people who are neurodiverse and have special educational needs and are committing to openly available access reports for all rehearsal and concert venues over the next year, to improve accessibility.

We record monitoring data on our members and workshop participants and collect detailed feedback once a year, with all members, parents and guardians given the opportunity to tell us how they are finding LYC and measuring key elements of our impact.

The difference our work makes - Impact & Evaluation

LYC aims to empower young people to enhance not only their singing and musical skills but also their confidence and overall wellbeing. Our aim is to foster holistic development by providing a supportive environment where young individuals feel valued, safe, and heard. We are committed to nurturing their voices in multiple dimensions, ensuring that they thrive both musically and personally.

We regularly conduct surveys among our members and their parents/carers to gauge our performance and gather feedback. In our most recent survey, which received responses from 79% of our members, we've gleaned some key insights, detailed below:

Young people:

- Improvement in singing: **86%** of members believe their singing has got better
- Improvement in musicianship skills: **67%** of members believe their musicianship has got better
- Confidence: **74%** of members believe their confidence has improved
- Wellbeing: **95%** of members feel supported by LYC and **93%** believe LYC is a welcoming community

Parents/Carers/Guardians:

- 84% believe their young person's singing has got better
- 80% believe their young person's musicianship has got better
- 80% believe their young person's confidence has improved
- 74% believe it has had a positive impact on their young person's mental health and wellbeing
- 97% said LYC was a welcoming community for its members

"Everyone has been very nice and welcoming. It's the first choir I've been in and it's a lot of fun. Loads of cool opportunities, and everyone is so kind and open to talk with."

"My son used to get nervous performing in front of the audience, he used to panic but now he really enjoys the spotlight."

"He always seems so joyful afterwards and is constantly humming and singing to himself."

Supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing

"LYC is a very positive place, the people are fantastic, full of joy and enthusiasm for music and for the young people in the Choirs. It has had a truly positive impact on my child's well being."

LYC has always promised to deliver two things: musical excellence and social change. While our primary activities revolve around choral singing training, our overall aim is to help young people reach their full potential, especially catering to those who have faced barriers to music making because of social disadvantage. We have seen from our work over the last 10 years that having a robust and proactive safeguarding, wellbeing and pastoral support provision is vital for the delivery of the LYC programme, without which our music education services would be less effective.

Our pastoral care programme is a crucial part of this, ensuring that all young people are welcomed into the LYC community regardless of any pastoral needs that they may have. This helps us make LYC a safe and supportive environment where all children are nurtured and can grow in confidence.

Since 2021, Alison Bastable has been LYC's Head of Safeguarding and Pastoral Care, working with our Head of Operations, Executive Director and LYC Trustee for Safeguarding, George Wills to develop our policies and to implement our pastoral care programme at weekly rehearsals. This includes supporting individual members through one-on-one chats, weekly check-ins or programme adjustments, as well as planning the general wellbeing programme for all members. For many, our rehearsals are often the only place where they have a dedicated pastoral support network and someone to talk to.

"I love pastoral! My musicianship, confidence and happiness are all down to LYC and my career choice is totally inspired by the LYC female music educators and conductors!"
Member of London Youth Choir

To ensure that young people in our choirs receive the highest possible level of pastoral care, we have expanded our training opportunities for all staff at LYC over the last 3 years. This now includes:

- Compulsory online safeguarding training on the Tes Educare platform

- Neurodivergent training sessions, led by sector professionals
- In-person, paid training days delivered by the LYC team throughout the academic year
- We are hoping to expand on this further in 2023/24, with more specialist training opportunities offered to all staff.

Responding to the needs of our members, we have implemented the following initiatives:

- Having a designated Quiet Room at all rehearsals and events, for young people who feel overwhelmed
- Always ensuring we have food at rehearsals if members request it, or feel unwell
- Providing ear defenders and ear-plugs to support members with sensory issues
- Having 4 Designating Safeguarding Leads at rehearsals on Mondays at the City of London School for Boys, and at least 1 at each regional rehearsal
- At least 2 First Aid Trained members of staff at each rehearsal

"I am so lucky to go to such a wonderful place and meet such welcoming people."

LYC Junior Girls Member, 10

Fundraising

September 2022 marked the beginning of LYC's 10th Anniversary celebrations. This included the launch of an ambitious target to raise £1 million over 2 years (by August 2024) to support the expansion of LYC's charitable activity and our planning for the future. The target consisted of a £500,000 fundraising target in 2022/23 to be followed by the same in the following year.

To support this, we recruited Will Harriss, formerly of Music Masters, to be our Development Consultant for the year, working from September 2022 - May 2023, with additional administrative help for the department from Gweneth Stabler, from October 2022 - February 2023. Penny Lewis remained for an additional 4 months to manage our Big Give campaign in December 2022, before stepping back from her position as Development Director.

Following on from these arrangements, there was a clear need for longer term support for the Development Department, and we recruited Amy Young to be LYC's first Development Officer in April 2023. She joined LYC from the Association of British Orchestras with a passion for singing and access for young people, and has been an invaluable asset.

We are immensely grateful for all of these people's work on LYC's fundraising, along with the wider team, who contribute in many ways. As fundraised income makes up 70% of LYC's income, without this work we would be unable to reach young people with the joys and benefits of choral singing, especially opening up access for young people who would otherwise be excluded from these opportunities.

Alongside investment in personnel, we also worked over the year on introducing a new database to manage LYC's fundraising data, improving efficiency and aiding compliance with GDPR.

Over the year, a total of £504,095 was raised from individual donors, corporate sponsorship and grants from trusts and foundations.

Individual Donors

We were grateful to receive two major gifts at the beginning of the financial year, which were vital in expanding our work in state schools and community centres as part of our new engagement strategy. Alongside this, the LYC Circle and Patrons scheme remained an important source of income, helping us to plan for the future.

Much of our support from individuals was channelled through the Big Give Christmas Challenge, which we took part in for the 6th consecutive year in late November 2022. Taking place from the 29 November - 6 December, our 'No Barriers' Appeal once again focused on raising money for our Financial Assistance Scheme, which offers young people facing barriers free places in our choirs. Match funding for the campaign was provided by Convex Insurance, a new Corporate Partner of LYC's, along with The Childhood Trust, meaning we needed to raise £50,000 in donations over the week to meet our target of £100,000. We raised £50,150 through 112 online donations, resulting in £106,467 total raised over the week (including Gift Aid), a brilliant contribution to LYC's fundraising.

Corporate Sponsorship

Alongside their support of the Big Give Christmas Challenge, Convex made a further donation in the year, becoming a major Corporate partner for the charity. This is alongside China Construction Bank London Branch's continued and much-valued support for our work over the last 5 years. We have continued to receive contributions at a lower level from property company Savills. We are very grateful to all our corporate partners who, alongside funding, have also provided in-kind help for LYC through meeting spaces and other resources.

Trusts and Foundations

We continued expanding our relationships with trusts, foundations and livery companies, with a 30% increase in funding in this area in the 22/23 year. LYC was grateful to receive grants from the following organisations towards our work widening access and engagement in choral music, through our provision of free places and our work in state schools: The Leverhulme Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Swire Charitable Trust, Tallow Chandlers' Company, Arnold Clark Community Fund, Lucille Graham Trust, Headley Trust, Rainbow Dickinson Trust, Golsoncott Foundation, Sir Edward Lewis Foundation, Three

Monkeys Charity, Findlay Charitable Trust, Boris Karloff Foundation and the Schroder Charity Trust.

The Symondson Foundation continued its 3-year commitment to our pastoral care and wellbeing programme and the City of London Corporation gave repeat funding towards our summer programme of pop-up performances in the City

John Lyon's Charity, Tesco Community Grants and the Radcliffe Trust supported LYC West, Music for All supported LYC South West, Newcomen Collett Foundation and Sir William Boreman's Foundation supported LYC South East, and we received continued support from the London Philharmonic Choir and the Garrick Charitable Trust towards our LYC Chamber Choir.

A generous donation from Ruth and Roger Thorpe enabled LYC to commission two new pieces for our 10th Anniversary. Both pieces were written in collaboration with our young people, and we were delighted to be able to match this gift with funding from the Ambache Charitable Trust, Hinrichsen Foundation and Vaughan Williams Foundation to support the participatory workshops, including a Young Composers Day. The resulting commissions were premiered at the Royal Albert Hall, with Brenda Rattray's 'I Will Glorify' performed by 1,300 young people. Amy Bryce's 'In Your Hands' has already been given a second performance by a joint choir of LYC and National Youth Choirs of Great Britain at Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

10th Anniversary Concert

Our RISE UP celebratory concert took place on Tuesday 9th May, bringing together 1,500 young people to perform to an audience of nearly 3,000. We raised £29,500 through concert sponsorship, a further £5,420 through debenture resales and received £7,832 in donations on the night or shortly afterwards.

Finally, we were pleased to negotiate in-kind sponsorship for the provision of LYC's 10th Birthday cake, which was made by Konditor. The cake company was founded by Paul and Gerhard, who are the parents of one of our LYC Cambiata Boys members.

There are many other organisations which contribute to LYC through in-kind support, which make a big impact for our charity. These include Brand Cooke, City of London School, Clayton Hotel City of London, Streatham and Clapham High School and Tenebrae.

Looking Ahead | 2023/24 and Beyond

With the expansion of LYC's choir network comes the need to consider the best strategy to engage, nurture and encourage a wide range of young people across London. Next year, building on the remarkable achievement of the LYC Experience programme,

we will partner with 16 schools, four within each region of our four junior choirs: LYC South East in South Bermondsey, LYC West in Ealing, LYC South West in Streatham, and LYC North East in Tottenham. The aim of this focussed work is to establish a network of pathways in each locality offering young people opportunities to explore choir singing and providing seamless avenues for their integration into LYC. All schools chosen will have above average (more than 20%) pupil premium numbers and reduced music provision, and we expect the programme will reach approximately 2,500 young people in the capital, over double our engagement this year.

In addition to our concentrated efforts in regional areas of our choirs, we remain committed to our work across various London boroughs. For example, in collaboration with Tower Hamlets Music Education Service, we are crafting a program tailored for secondary schools within the borough. Furthermore, we are actively exploring partnerships with leading choral organisations such as Tenebrae, The Sixteen, and the Bach Choir to jointly deliver engagement initiatives. This strategy responds directly to the refreshed National Plan for Music Education, published June 2022, which states that 'Music should be embedded in every primary school. Singing should be the golden thread through these years, with a clear commitment to quality teaching and opportunities for progression for all children from the start of their school education.'

As we mark a decade of achievements and explore ways for LYC to significantly enhance young people's access to high quality, inclusive singing education, we reflect upon our approach to working with and for young people. With this in mind, in 2023/24 we are establishing frameworks, which will enable us to more effectively listen to and address the needs of our members.

Youth Voice | LYC Young Leaders Collective

October 2023 will see the launch of LYC's Young Leaders Collective. This will mark the beginning of a sustained drive to activate youth voice at the top level of LYC's decision making structure. This project is being designed and overseen by Freddie Aitken, LYC's Membership and EDI Manager and Ishani O'Connor, our Head of Engagement, with guidance and assistance from an external facilitator.

The purpose of this project is two-fold:

- For the young people: whilst developing skills in teamwork, organisation, creativity and critical thinking, members of the collective will also learn about careers in the music industries, charity governance, how to bring about positive change and much more. Membership will offer them opportunities to develop CVs and working skills, with the potential for more tailored mentoring.
- For LYC: the collective will represent the voice of our beneficiaries and will ingrain that voice within LYC's decision making structure. In doing so, LYC and its Board will be better informed to support the young people it serves.

We hope to build a sustained, purposeful and dynamic Young Leaders Collective with tangible outcomes. This project will enable us to embed youth voice at the top levels of our organisation, with young people working collaboratively with our charity Trustees and executive team, influencing planning, strategy, and learning about what goes into the effective running of a modern arts organisation.

Business Planning

LYC is in the initial stages of developing its first Business Plan for 2024/25 and beyond. The Plan will be organised around five primary objectives:

- Enhancing musical excellence and quality of the choirs, with a particular emphasis on addressing the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Establishing a Trading Arm | LYC Voices, enabling young people from the broadest range of backgrounds in our choirs to have aspirational opportunities that provide avenues into the professional performing world – high profile events, recordings and films – whilst also generating a new income stream for LYC.
- Restructuring LYC Chamber Choir to optimise its reach, visibility, and impact by becoming the 'mobile ambassador for LYC', demonstrating the musical excellence of our organisation across all our work.
- Advancing the LYC Experience programme
- Implementing a new choir, tailored for young individuals aged 23 and above.



These key strands will guide LYC's strategic direction and operational focus in the coming years, reinforcing its commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusivity in the realm of choral education and performance.

Financial Review

The current level of funds held by the charity at the year end amounted to £241,427 (2022: £235,746) and included a designated reserve of £15,000 (2022: £50,000 and restricted funds of £360 (2022: £360). After deducting designated reserves, restricted funds and funds held as functional assets, the charity had free reserves of £215,479 (2022: £177,155)

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy which, in the long term, aims to build reserves to cover at least two terms' expenditure amounting to £324,514. Unrestricted free reserves at the end of the year stood at £215,479.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the 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 & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

.....

and signed on their behalf by:

..... Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choirs

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Dated:

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA

Azets Audit Services Limited
12 King Street

Leeds
LS1 2HL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2	534,955	-	534,955	383,920	-	383,920
Charitable activities	3	206,396	-	206,396	84,432	-	84,432
Investments		2,846	-	2,846	400	-	400
		744,197	-	744,197	468,752	-	468,752
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	67,104	-	67,104	54,599	-	54,599
Charitable activities	5	671,411	-	671,411	407,815	-	407,815
		738,515	-	738,515	462,414	-	462,414
Net income		5,682	-	5,682	6,338	-	6,338
Transfers between funds	13	35,000	-	35,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		40,682	-	40,682	6,338	-	6,338
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward							
General Funds		185,385	360	185,745	179,048	360	179,408
Designated Funds		15,000	-	15,000	50,000	-	50,000
Total funds carried forward	12	241,067	360	241,427	235,386	360	235,746

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 27-37 comprise these parts of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	9	3,727		4,514	
Tangible assets	10	6,861		3,717	
			10,588		8,231
Current assets					
Debtors	11	14,746		8,489	
Cash at bank and in hand		251,732		356,611	
		266,478		365,100	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(35,639)		(137,585)	
Net current assets			230,839		227,515
Total net assets			241,427		235,746
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted general	13		226,067		185,386
Unrestricted designated	13		15,000		50,000
Restricted funds	13		360		360
Total funds			241,427		235,746

The accounts were approved by the Board on

and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

London Youth Choir meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have at the time of approving the financial statements a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities, and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: website costs – 25% straight line.

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows: equipment – 20% straight line.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the

Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2. Income from donations

	Total funds 2023 (£)	Total funds 2022 (£)
Donations	304,382	259,972
Legacies	-	-
Donated facilities and services	23,500	19,760
Grants	207,073	104,188
	534,955	383,920

The comparative figure for 2022 includes £0 of restricted income.

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

3. Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Membership fees	95,117	66,067
Concert fees	111,279	18,365
	206,396	84,432

4. Raising funds

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	47,935	11,585
Fundraising consultancy fees	15,971	30,000
Other costs	3,198	13,014
	67,104	54,599

5. Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	248,046	190,841
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	212,616	72,530
Bursary awards	17,632	16,049
Venue hire	60,315	23,245
Music hire	23,231	12,686
Advertising and marketing	18,887	17,847
Bank charges	60	200
Depreciation	5,685	3,081
Subscriptions	412	202
Professional fees	-	-
Travel	6,570	6,714
Support costs (see note 6)	77,957	64,420
	671,411	407,815

The comparative figure for 2022 includes £0 of expenditure from restricted funds.

6. Support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	30,000	23,047
Accounting & administration fees	-	13,750
Staff costs	10,195	6,365
Office costs	16,937	8,478
Printing, postage and stationery	4,550	3,066
Rent	11,652	7,194
Governance costs		
Independent examiners fees	3,020	2,520
Legal fees	1,603	-
	77,957	64,420

7. Staff costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Gross salaries	298,021	202,991
Employer's National Insurance	20,913	16,186
Employer's Pension Costs	7,046	6,296
	325,980	225,473

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 8.4 (2022: 5.2). One member of staff earned over £60,000 in both years.

8. Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director and Executive Director. During 2023 £130,331 (2022: £106,395) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance & pension contributions) and £27,571 (2022: £51,900) in consultancy fees to key management personnel. None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. No Trustees received reimbursement for expenses. The husband of the Executive Director was contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £7,568. (2022: £8,034).

9. Fixed Assets

Intangible assets	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2022	18,100	18,100
Additions	3,468	3,468
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2023	21,568	21,568
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2022	13,586	13,586
Additions	4,255	4,255
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2023	17,841	17,841
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2023	3,727	3,727
At 31 August 2022	4,514	4,514

10. Fixed Assets

Tangible assets	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2022	5,443	5,443
Additions	4,982	4,982
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2023	10,425	10,425
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2022	2,134	2,134
Additions	1,431	1,431
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2023	3,565	3,565
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2023	6,861	6,861
At 31 August 2022	3,717	3,717

11. Debtors

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Trade debtors	1,475	900
Prepayments and accrued income	9,613	6,251
Gift aid	3,658	1,338
	14,746	8,489

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Trade creditors	9,040	6,628
Other tax and social security	10,316	5,520
Accrued expenses	11,283	8,419
Deferred income	5,000	117,018
	35,639	137,585
Deferred income brought forward	117,018	55,461
Amounts released in the year	(117,018)	(55,461)
Income deferred in the year	5,000	117,018
Deferred income carried forward	5,000	117,018

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

13. Movement in funds

Current year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	185,386	744,197	(738,515)	35,000	226,068
Designated funds	50,000	-	-	(35,000)	15,000
Unrestricted funds	235,386	744,197	(738,515)		241,068
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
	360	-	-	-	360
	235,746	741,197	(738,515)	-	242,428

Prior year	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	179,048	468,752	(462,414)	-	185,386
Designated funds	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Unrestricted funds	229,048	468,752	(462,414)	-	235,386
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
	360	-	-	-	360
	229,408	468,752	(462,414)	-	235,746

Designated Funds

The Designated Fund of £50k was specifically set up for the celebration of LYC's 10th Anniversary in 22-23. On 9 May 2023, 1,500 young people performed at the Royal Albert Hall to celebrate the LYC's 10th Anniversary in a milestone concert, RISE UP. This included LYC's 10 choirs, plus 1,024 young people from our LYC Experience programme. £35k was used in 22-23 as a contribution to the costs of that concert.

Restricted Funds

The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitate visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £		Total funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	-	10,588		10,588
Current assets	360	266,118		266,478
Creditors due within one year	-	(35,639)		(35,639)
	360	241,067		241,427

Prior Year	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fixed assets	-	8,231	8,231
Current assets	360	364,370	365,100
Creditors due within one year	-	(137,585)	(137,585)
	360	235,386	235,746

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

Charity no: 1151714



LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022**

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Tel: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

www.londonyouthchoirs.com

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Founding President	Suzi Digby OBE
Patrons	Sir Andrew Parmley Gareth Malone OBE Dame Janet Rifferman Dr. John Rutter CBE Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE (Founding Patron) Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)
Trustees	Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair) Leslie East OBE Mark Gallagher Michael Llewelyn-Jones Kate Ludlow Duncan Watts George Wills
Executive Director	Nina Camilleri
Development Committee	Kate Ludlow (Chair) Richard Huntingford Mary Quillen Andy Roberts Elizabeth Ross
Artistic Director	Rachel Staunton
Charity registered number	1151714
Registered office	Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent examiner	Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA Azets Audit Services Limited 33 Park Place Leeds LS1 2RY
Bankers	CAF Bank Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME14 4TA

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2022. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by a Charity Commission Scheme.

The charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1151714.

The principal object of the charity is to provide high quality choral training and performance opportunities for young people living and studying in London.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme.

Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are identified and approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The LYC Board of Trustees meets three times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees give their time voluntarily.

The Executive Director and Artistic Director are afforded full artistic and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

Objectives and Activities

Policies and Objectives

The objects of the London Youth Choirs are to advance the education and training of young people living or educated in London in the subject of music and the performing arts, and in particular, choral music. For the purposes of these objects, 'London' means the boroughs covered by the Greater London Authority or any successor body, and the City of London.

The charity will achieve this by:

- providing a world-class choral training programme for young people;
- promoting and supporting musical and choral education to young people regardless of their financial or social background;
- delivering open access workshops for young people, irrespective of their training or experience; and
- financially supporting talented young people to enable them to receive musical education of the highest standard and to achieve their potential.

In reviewing the objectives and planning the charity's activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Activities for Achieving Objectives

'Unlocking young people's potential through the power of choral singing'.

Our organisation provides a progression pathway for young people aged 7 to 23, embracing everyone from absolute beginners up to those looking to pursue a career in the performing arts.

LYC members receive outstanding tuition from our fabulous music team of choral conductors who have many years' experience of drawing the very best from young people. The conductors encourage, nurture and challenge the members of their choirs, giving them a fantastically engaging and enlightening musical experience. The training they receive also helps to build confidence and develop skills in teamwork and leadership, all whilst championing inclusivity and understanding.

The scale of London Youth Choirs has grown significantly over the past four years. In 2019, there were five choirs, whereas now there are six City-based choirs and two regional junior choirs; LYC South East based in Bermondsey and LYC West in Ealing. In the coming year, we will launch two more regional junior choirs in the South West and North East of London, fulfilling our mission to have 10 choirs by our 10th Anniversary.

"Throughout the year, I've been inspired and delighted to see our membership, music, and mission continue to develop their representation of the diversity of the city in which we all live and work. And I've been proud to see an ever-larger LYC family working together to provide the best quality opportunities for young people who love to sing in London."

LYC Artistic Director Rachel Staunton



LYC Chamber Choir

Members sing with London Youth Choir but also form their own ensemble, comprising 20 of our finest young singers.

London Youth Choir

This is our flagship mixed voice choir for ages 15-23, where members have the opportunity to extend their skills and experience with more challenging repertoire.

Cambiata Choirs

Choirs for singers in school years 7-11, nurture voices as they are changing and further develop members' musicianship skills.

Junior Choirs

For young people in school years 3-6. Here, the foundations of choral singing, music reading and performance are established in an environment that is creative, supportive and fun.

All choir rehearsals at City of London School, our principal venue partner.

Regional Choirs

established to bring music education closer to home for the youngest groups we work with.

Rehearsals for the six central choirs are held at the City of London School on Monday evenings during term time, and membership is achieved through audition. LYC South East rehearsals are held at City Hope Church, Bermondsey and take place on Thursday evenings during term time. LYC West rehearsals are held at St. Barnabas Church, Ealing and also take place on Thursday evenings.

Each choir sings a diverse range of music in a variety of languages and styles, from pop, gospel and jazz to classical music spanning over 500 years, brand new commissions and everything in between. In their weekly rehearsals, our members develop their vocal ability, learn musicianship skills, build their confidence in performing and establish life-long friendships.

LYC Experience

LYC Experience is an initiative that reaches out to the localities of our new regional choirs and reinstates music as a valuable part of the community. The key aim of the programme is to bring the joy and unifying power of singing to musically underserved parts of our country's capital. To do this, we work closely with schools, music hubs and families, empowering individuals and organisations to make a difference to young people's lives through music.

To drive forward and implement LYC's strategy for engagement, LYC created the new role of Head of Engagement and, in May 2022, LYC successfully appointed Ishani O'Connor to this position. Previously at Chineke! Foundation, Ishani has many years' experience working closely with communities delivering arts-based, socially-focused projects. Her role now focuses on expanding our connections to communities and schools in the more disadvantaged and ethnically diverse parts of London, and creating a progression pathway into our older choirs.

Looking ahead, from September 2022 to May 2023, LYC will plan an ambitious performance project engaging 16 primary schools, four in each of the areas of our regional choirs. We will specifically target schools with higher than average pupil premium numbers, and work with local Music Hubs to identify schools where there is a lack of music provision, so we can ensure our work reaches those who most need it. Through workshops, singing assemblies and Continued Professional Development (CPD) sessions for teachers, around 1,000 pupils will learn two new works commissioned by LYC, with youth voice at its heart. The culmination of this project will be a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in May 2023, alongside our 10 LYC choirs.

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

Following on from the strong foundations laid down in our first nine years, LYC has continued to develop and grow throughout the academic year 2021/22. The resilience and determination of every single one of our LYC members and team is to be applauded. The whole LYC family can feel proud of what we continue to achieve together.

Membership comprised 415 young people drawn from 31 London boroughs (plus Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire and Essex), ranging in age from 6 to 23 of which 108 were male, 289 were female and 4 identified in another way - the remaining 14 did not disclose their gender. LYC members represented 227 different educational establishments, including at least 64% in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools, 5% in Higher Education and 2% who were Home Educated.

415
members from london
and neighbouring
counties

We are dedicated to making sure LYC's outstanding musical opportunities are available to all young people, whatever their financial situation. This is particularly important at this time when arts and music are being pushed to the margins of education policy and becoming less available to those who cannot afford to pay extra, and as we enter a cost of living crisis that is likely to squeeze the budgets of those who are already struggling.

227
different educational
establishments

All LYC membership fees are subsidised by 85%, costing £255 per year to take part including all sheet music costs and a free LYC T-shirt; the true cost of membership is currently £983 per annum.

Alongside our subsidised fee structure, we have a comprehensive **financial assistance scheme**, which offers full or partial help with membership costs, grants for travel to and from rehearsals and concerts, free concert tickets for families, and help with the cost of concert uniform.

Currently 1 in 5 young people in LYC receives a completely free place, but, as a result of the planned creation of two new regional choirs, plus increased recruitment into our existing ensembles, we anticipate needing to double this provision over the next two years.

We regularly offer free workshops for young people to try out our choirs, and all of our friendly auditions are completely free, helping to make LYC accessible to all. We provide free food at our central rehearsals via the kind donations from The Felix Project, and always have snacks on hand for any other children who turn up hungry, making sure young people aren't facing additional barriers to taking part.

LYC's partnership with City of London School, our Monday evening rehearsal home, continues to have a tremendously positive impact on our artistic output, enabling the implementation of sectional rehearsals and musicianship classes to take place on a weekly basis, as well as providing a fabulous performance space in the spectacular Great Hall. Grateful thanks are due to Alan Bird, Head of CLS for his unstinting support of our work.

In preparation for the launch of our third regional choir, LYC South West, LYC has established a similar in-kind partnership with Streatham and Clapham High School, providing free rehearsal space for the Choir from September 2022. We are very grateful to Richard Hinton, Head of SCHS and Andrew Christie, Assistant Headmaster for their most generous support of this partnership.

Such friendships are the lifeblood of our organisation - critical not only to the ongoing strategic development of LYC but also to our capacity to learn from and connect with inspiring people and institutions. We hope for long and flourishing relationships with the schools.

Highlights of 2021/22

We have been grateful to be back to delivering choir rehearsals in person, but have learnt much from delivering our activity online and are proud of our resilience as a charity during this difficult time. The pandemic also highlighted the importance of singing together in choirs, as many young people have missed out on vast amounts of creative activity and social contact over the past two years.

Thankfully, the lifting of many Covid restrictions saw LYC's vibrant and innovative events programme and our auditions return with gusto. As we began to resume our regular in-person rehearsals, our choirs were excited to show off their hard work, resilience and love for music and looked forward to sharing these live performance experiences with families, friends and stakeholders.

Here are some highlights of the academic year 2021/22:

September – October	The start of term – following auditions in July and September 2021, 90 new LYC members joined the choirs. LYC Chamber Choir performed for the Worshipful Company of Curriers at the Tallow Chandlers Hall.
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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



November	LYC Junior Boys and London Youth Choir held open rehearsals, allowing prospective members to come and try out the choir for free. Both choirs gained three new members immediately, with one person also joining LYC Chamber Choir. Four LYC members were recorded as part of BBC's Children in Need singing Rise Up at the Cutty Sark in Greenwich. This was broadcast on Friday 19 November, with the performance available on YouTube. Members of LYC South East and LYC Cambiata Girls performed at the launch party of high street retailer TK Maxx's 2021 Christmas Advert, and were all given sparkly boots for the occasion! Medhurst Media visited rehearsals to record all choirs singing Seasons of Love from the musical Rent, a special arrangement written for LYC by our pianist Dan Moriyama. The subsequent videos, a two-minute Big Give teaser and the full-length song, helped us to raise over £109,000 in our Big Give Christmas online appeal in December. LYC Chamber Choir performed at a special Christmas PR event at LEGO Store Leicester Square. LYC Chamber Choir recorded their Live from London performance of Let it Snow at the Gresham Centre in London. This is aired at the beginning of Apollo5's concert on 11 December, through the Voces8 produced series.
December	London Youth Choir and LYC Chamber Choir members sang carols at the Queen's House ice rink in Greenwich. LYC Chamber Choir and LYC South East members performed at the Christmas party of Convex Insurance Group. LYC Chamber Choir performed at the Curriers' Carol Service at St Michael Paternoster Royal. LYC's Festive Concert Seasons of Love in the City took place at City of London School, our partner and rehearsal venue. LYC West, LYC Junior Boys, LYC Cambiata Girls and London Youth Choir all performed. The sold-out show was a delight after two years of no LYC concerts. LYC South East performed at the Carol Service of their rehearsal venue, City Hope Church in South Bermondsey. Sadly LYC's second Festive Concert Seasons of Love in Shoreditch at Shoreditch Town Hall was cancelled, as the venue had too many staff away ill or isolating due to Covid. Instead, LYC held an informal carol sing-along on Zoom, including streaming a photo montage of the term's activities, sound-tracked by LYC Chamber Choir's recording of Let it Snow.
January 2022	Following auditions, a further 26 new members joined LYC.
February	Open rehearsal evenings were held for LYC South East and LYC West. 9 new members joined LYC West immediately after this event, with several more signed up to start with the new term in April.



TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



March	LYC West, LYC Junior Girls and London Youth Choir performed at Cadogan Hall with Wylie East High School from Texas. The programme included Cecilia McDowall's <i>Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo</i>. Online Open Evening: A Zoom event for parents, guardians, school and music teachers, to come and hear more about encouraging young people to join LYC, and what we offer. LYC Cambiata Girls performed a pop-up performance at the Southbank Centre as part of the Women of the World Festival, showcasing a programme of music composed by women. LYC Chamber Choir performed at Westminster Abbey to celebrate Commonwealth Day. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and then Prime Minister, Boris Johnson attended the prestigious event. An informal musical sharing for LYC families at Holy Sepulchre Church, featuring LYC Junior Boys, LYC Junior Girls, LYC Cambiata Girls and LYC Cambiata Boys.
April	Bach's St John Passion performance with English Touring Opera, featuring LYC Junior Girls, LYC Junior Boys and London Youth Choir.
June - July	20 LYC members appeared at the Platinum Party at Buckingham Palace as part of the Jubilee Celebrations, performing 'Any Dream Will Do' with Jason Donovan. Singing in the City, a series of pop-up performances funded by the City of London Corporation's 'Inspiring London through Culture' grant programme, saw LYC perform at Leadenhall Market, The Sky Garden, Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, Devonshire Square and UBS, 5 Broadgate. Young Composers Day: 30 Junior LYC members had the opportunity to join a workshop day led by Brenda Rattray, allowing them to explore the process of composing, and inspiring them to write their own songs.

"Since returning to in person rehearsals in Autumn 2021 my favourite memory with LYC has to be recording 'Let it snow' at the Voces8 centre for the Live from London Festival (video below). Voces8 are a huge inspiration to me and I have listened to their recordings on repeat for years so recording in the same place where they make their videos felt really special – like we were Voces8 for an evening!"

Orla, LYC Chamber Choir

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Like many organisations, LYC is on a developmental path. There is a strong understanding among the Trustees and staff that the inequities within society and within the sectors that we serve need to be addressed.

We strive for a creative community where everyone feels able to participate and achieve their potential: a community that is inclusive and representative of the society we live and work in, and which enhances the safety, wellbeing and belonging of everyone.



Our commitment to EDI:

LYC will ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion principles set out in this statement – including accessibility, anti-racism, respect and difference – are the foundation of areas of its work and future planning.

The principles set out in our EDI Statement and Strategy continue to be integrated into everyday working practice. Our EDI Staff Group meets monthly to discuss and reflect on all matters that fall under the umbrella of EDI. Recent areas of reflection have been fair recruitment, child poverty, disability and monitoring & evaluation.

LYC has recently refreshed its annual programme of monitoring & evaluation. Having access to robust data at regular intervals will help our organisation make informed decisions that will better serve our beneficiaries. Next year, we will be reviewing our EDI action plan with the help of an external consultant.

Impact and Evaluation

In February 2022, we conducted an organisation-wide survey, giving all members and their parents or guardians an opportunity to give feedback on LYC's programme. 268 members responded, out of 321 members at that time, meaning an 83% response rate. Some of the feedback included:

92.1% of LYC members felt that their singing had improved through taking part in LYC.

97.3% of LYC members felt that LYC is a welcoming community, with 73.5% saying that it was a 'really' welcoming community.

89.8% of LYC members felt that their mental health and wellbeing had been supported at LYC

"My daughter has complex learning challenges and the choir has not only expanded her social circle but it has given her confidence through performing with others to large audiences, with her independence from travelling to rehearsals and with her communication skills. LYC has been very inclusive and she has felt accepted there. She has a sense of belonging to a community where she feels she can belong without needing to fit in."

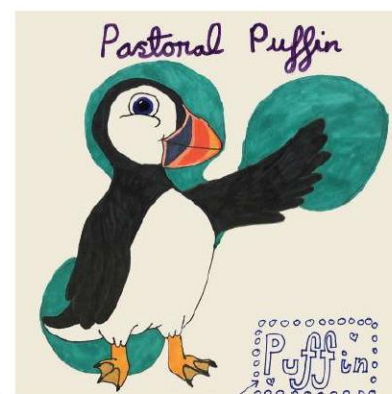
Supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing

LYC is committed to supporting our members' wellbeing and safety throughout their involvement with the organisation.

Our Wellbeing programme is responding to an increasing need to assist LYC members in developing and maintaining positive mental health and self-care. For many, our rehearsals are often the only place where they have a dedicated pastoral support network and someone to talk to. This was certainly true before the pandemic, but over the past two years, the increasing importance of offering a safe and caring community in which to make music has come to light. Issues arising within the last year include anxiety and stress, depression, eating disorders, and self-harm alongside child-caring responsibilities.

Over the course of the year, Alison has been busy developing and expanding our safeguarding practices, policies and weekly pastoral care programme. This includes supporting individual members through one-to-one chats, weekly check-ins or programme adjustments, as well as planning the general wellbeing programme for all members, including social activities and 'wellbeing week' activities. A Safer Recruitment Policy has recently been implemented, which is being used to support the recruitment of many LYC positions and provides a framework for secure recruitment practice.

In the summer of 2022, LYC launched a Pastoral Character competition. This competition was open to all members with the challenge to design a 'mascot', the idea being that all future pastoral work (including an online dedicated platform) will be represented by the mascot. We had several fantastic entries, and a puffin was chosen as the winner.



We have seen from our work over the last nine years that providing robust and proactive safeguarding, wellbeing and pastoral support is vital for the delivery of the LYC programme, without which our music education services would be less effective. Making sure that this side of our programme is well supported allows our most vulnerable members to continue taking part in LYC, ensuring greater access to music education for young people.

"What we are trying to achieve at LYC is very simple: that every child and young person knows that they matter and that we care about their wellbeing. We will not be able to help solve every issue, but we will always show we care."

Alison Bastable, Head of Safeguarding at LYC - Music Teacher Magazine article, April 2022

Infrastructure and staffing

As we approach our second decade, LYC is currently enjoying a period of unprecedented growth. We are growing and enriching our core membership with new choirs, recruitment and programme renewal, and stand on the threshold of a truly exciting relaunch of our Engagement programme.

To support these significant developments, we have successfully recruited four new Heads of Departments:

- Alison Bastable, Head of Safeguarding & Pastoral Care (September 2021)
- Ishani O'Connor, Head of Engagement (May 2022)
- Tom Hansell, Head of Operations (June 2022)
- Alice Beverley, Head of Development (September 2022)

The Operations function of LYC is underpinned by two exceptional team members, each of whom bring the highest levels of professionalism, commitment, and fun to the work that we do; our grateful thanks to Freddie Aitken, Membership Officer and Zoe Nendick, Operations & Communications Executive.

Although LYC is undergoing an exciting period of growth, it is important to take time for reflection and to be thankful to those people who have worked so hard to create outstanding opportunities for our members. One of these individuals is Penny Lewis who has been our Development Director for over five years. Penny and her small team have worked tirelessly to ensure that membership of our choirs is not restricted by financial circumstance, and that the organisation can achieve its artistic and strategic aims going forward. We offer her heartfelt thanks and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Fundraising

As the majority of LYC's income comes from fundraising, the opportunity to meet and engage with those who support our work is crucial. The return to live rehearsals and performances in the 2021/22 academic year was therefore greatly welcomed.

With LYC's 10th anniversary on the horizon and a commitment to further expansion of the choir network and membership, an ambitious 2-year target of raising £1 million was set for 2021/22 and 2022/23, representing a significant uplift in fundraising activity. Expanding income across all sectors - individual donations, grants from trusts and livery companies, and corporate sponsorship - enabled the team to meet this challenge.

Ongoing donations from individuals, through The LYC Circle and Patrons programme, play an important role in our fundraising as they enable LYC to plan ahead with confidence. Thank you to everyone who supports our work in this way.

Our matched-giving appeals on The Big Give platform continue to be the biggest single contributor to our fundraising income. For the Big Give Christmas Challenge in December 2021, we set our biggest-ever target of £100,000, made possible by £50,000 of match funding generously provided by The Childhood Trust and communications consultancy, Pagefield. Including Gift Aid, the total raised was £109,156 from 104 donations received from individuals, trusts and livery companies.

For the summer 'Champions for Children' appeal, in June 2022, we set a target of £40,000, with match funding kindly provided by The Childhood Trust and our Premier Sponsor, China Construction Bank. £44,889 (including Gift Aid) was raised from 49 donations, bringing the combined total of the two appeals to £154,045 and representing over 30% of our fundraising target for the year.

A highlight of LYC's fundraising year was the honour and privilege of being chosen to be the Master's Charity of the Drapers' Company, ranked number three of 'The Great Twelve' Livery Companies of the City of London. The Drapers had been supporting LYC for several years, but this represented a significant step up in the relationship between the two companies. Sincere thanks go to 2021/22 Master, David Chalk for choosing LYC as his charity of the year.

Through the Master's Appeal to members, we received donations totalling over £20,000. Our

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



grateful thanks go to everyone who contributed and sent enthusiastic messages of support. The Drapers' Company also donated £10,000 from their charitable funds towards our Big Give Christmas Appeal.

The privilege of being the Master's Charity also brought opportunities to perform at key events at Drapers' Hall during the year, raising awareness of our work, not only amongst the Drapers' membership, but representatives from the field of education and many of the City's other livery companies too. These introductions have already sparked future partnerships from which our members will benefit in years to come.

The undoubted highlight of our year as the Master's Charity was having the opportunity to host an LYC Showcase event in July 2022 attended by around 200 guests in the stunning surroundings of Drapers' Hall. A particular joy was witnessing the expressions of awe and wonder on the faces of 100 LYC members, aged 7 to 23, from 4 of our 8 choirs as they entered the building, ascended the magnificent staircase and proceeded to the Livery Hall. Having the chance to perform in extraordinary spaces makes memories for life and this was an evening that none of them will ever forget.

Our year as the Master's Charity significantly raised LYC's profile, attracted new funders and has sown the seeds of future collaborations with those who saw our choirs perform at our Showcase event, all providing the perfect springboard for our 10th Anniversary Year.

Increased efforts in applying to charitable trusts have produced a valuable development in support from this sector with grants from many new, as well as existing, supporters. The Leverhulme Trust and John Lyon's Charity continued to provide major funding as part of established 3-year commitments towards our financial assistance programme and Ealing-based junior choir, LYC West respectively.

Grants specifically in support of financial assistance & fee subsidy, safeguarding & pastoral care, individual choirs and our summer programme of pop-up performances in the City were received from the Garrick Charitable Trust, Three Monkeys Trust, Arnold Clark Community Fund, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The BRIT Trust, Lord & Lady Lurgan Charitable Trust, Southwark Council Neighbourhood Fund, United St Saviour's Charity, the Inspiring London Through Culture Fund, Heathrow Community Trust, Sir Edward Lewis Foundation, Sir William Boreman's Foundation, Sir Nigel Brookes 1993 Charitable Trust, The Radcliffe Trust and Ealing Music Service. All of these organisations have helped to make special things happen for LYC.

In addition to the Drapers' Company, LYC continued to enjoy the generous support of the Basketmakers', Tallow Chandlers', Curriers' and Musicians' Livery Companies.

We would like to pay special tribute to the generosity of the Thorpe family, whose kind gift enabled LYC to commission two new choral works, which will be premiered at the 10th Anniversary Celebration in 2023. Not only did their donation inspire the commissions, but it has sparked additional gifts, which have enabled the scope of the project to be expanded.

It means a great deal to have the backing of two London adult choirs who support both financially and by promoting our activities, namely, London Philharmonic Choir who support LYC Chamber Choir and west London-based chamber choir, Petros Singers who support LYC West. We are keen to encourage more adult choirs across London to forge links with LYC in this way.



Having completed an initial 3 years as LYC's first Premier Sponsor, China Construction Bank renewed their major sponsorship for a further 3 years early in 2022. We are extremely grateful to Mr Aimin Yang, general manager of CCB London Branch and his executive team for their terrific support and interest in promoting LYC's work. We look forward to working with the CCB London team and enjoying more singing events with their staff in the years to come.

Spring 2022 also saw the start of new relationship between LYC and property company, Savills with their commitment to financially supporting increased access to LYC membership. We are delighted to have forged this new partnership and greatly value Savills' commitment to this vital area of our work.

In assisting the efforts of the LYC team, the LYC Development Committee, chaired by Trustee Kate Ludlow, play a key role in expanding our network of donors and making introductions to prospective supporters. They played a vital role in building our audience for the Drapers' Hall Showcase event and everything they do to support our fundraising activity, including making generous personal donations, is greatly valued. Our grateful thanks go to Committee members Kate Ludlow, Richard Huntingford, Andy Roberts, Elizabeth Ross, Mary Quillen and Charles Sanford.

Looking ahead - LYC's 10th Anniversary

As we enter our 10th Anniversary in the 2022/23 academic year, we will be celebrating a decade of impactful work and inspirational projects, having worked with over 1,000 young people within our LYC choirs, and 6,000 through singing projects and workshops with schools and community groups.

During our special year and beyond, we will be championing three themes:

Accessibility

Having made every LYC audition free of charge, we will remove further barriers to participation through community engagement, target initiatives and a continued focus on encouraging boys to sing.

Belonging

We will extend our reach by establishing two more regional choirs for South West and North East London, growing the LYC family to 10 choirs.

Choral Excellence

We will continue to establish and grow partnerships with leading arts organisations, including our first summer residency for LYC members at Snape Maltings, the home of Britten Pears Arts.

With the expansion of our choir network comes the need to consider the best strategy to engage, nurture and encourage a wide range of young people across London. We are committed to doubling down on our founding commitments to unlock young people's potential through the power of choral singing, and to be a singing home for all young Londoners.

To achieve this, we will be reinvigorating our LYC Experience programme, forging links with schools and community groups around our four regional junior choirs, based in disadvantaged communities where there is little or no music provision. Over 1000 children from 16 schools

beyond our current membership will participate in our 2022/23 singing programme, culminating in a performance with all 10 London Youth Choirs, around 1,500 young Londoners in total, at the iconic Royal Albert Hall in May 2023. The legacy of this project will be continued connections with the schools we have worked with and, after the performance, we expect to offer many of those who take part places in one of the LYC choirs.

LYC has had an impressive start to its fundraising and despite the uncertainty of the past two years, our fundraising efforts have weathered the storm. However, to meet the aspirations of the rapidly growing LYC and to ensure our expansion is sustainable, we will launch a 10th Anniversary Appeal, with the aim of raising £1 million over 2 years (September 2022 - August 2024). Funds will launch LYC's next decade of work, continuing to provide a raft of unique musical experiences and performance opportunities that will make a real difference to both the lives of young people and the music education landscape.

As we celebrate everything we have achieved in our ten years, and are poised to implement ambitious plans for the future, it is exciting to contemplate the impact LYC will have on the lives of many more young Londoners.

Financial Review

The current level of funds held by the charity at the year end amounted to £235,746 (2021: £229,408) and included a designated reserve of £50,000 and restricted funds of £360 (2021: £360). After deducting designated reserves, restricted funds and funds held as functional assets, the charity had free reserves of £177,155 (2021: £168,144).

Reserves policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy which, in the long term, aims to build reserves sufficient to cover at least two terms' expenditure amounting to £258,000. Unrestricted free reserves at the end of the year stood at £177,155.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

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

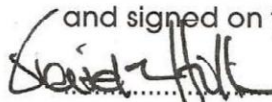
The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

06.06.2023

and signed on their behalf by:

 Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: *Jessica Lawrence*

Jessica Lawrence FCA CTA
Azets Audit Services Limited
33 Park Place
Leeds
LS1 2RY

Dated: 08/06/2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



	Notes	2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £
Income from:			-				
Donations	2	383,920	-	383,920	329,585	-	329,585
Charitable activities	3	84,432	-	84,432	62,975	-	62,975
Investments		400	-	400	259	-	259
		468,752	-	468,752	392,819	-	392,819
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	54,599	-	54,599	30,451	-	30,451
Charitable activities	5	407,815	-	407,815	288,357	-	288,357
		462,414	-	462,414	318,808	-	318,808
Net income		6,338	-	6,338	74,011	-	74,011
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,338	-	6,338	74,011	-	74,011
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		229,048	360	229,408	155,037	360	155,397
Total funds carried forward	13	235,386	360	235,746	229,048	360	229,408

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 21-29 comprise these parts of these financial statements.



BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	9	4,514		6,888	
Tangible Assets	10	3,717		4,016	
			8,231		10,904
Current assets					
Debtors	11	8,489		8,044	
Cash at bank and in hand		356,611		284,019	
		365,100		292,063	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12				
		-137,585		-73,559	
Net current assets			227,515		218,504
Total net assets			235,746		229,408
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted general	13		185,386		179,048
Unrestricted designated	13		50,000		50,000
Restricted funds	13		360		360
Total funds			235,746		229,408

The financial statements were approved by the Board on06.06.2023.....
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chair



1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Charities SORP (FRS 102) rather than Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

London Youth Choirs meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choirs is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into considerations the current economic climate and have, at the time of approving the financial statements, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities.

and creditors are measured at their settlement value

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- website costs – 25% straight line

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- equipment – 20% straight line

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2 Income from donations

	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£
Donations	259,972	205,943
Legacies	-	-
Donated facilities and services	19,760	19,220
Grants	104,188	104,422
	383,920	329,585

The comparative figure for 2021 includes £0 of restricted income.

During 2022 £579 was received in Furlough Grants (2021:£27,663).

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



3 Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Membership fees	66,067	52,345
Concert fees	18,365	10,630
	84,432	62,975

4 Raising funds

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Wages and salaries	11,585	10,782
Fundraising consultancy fees	30,000	19,200
Other costs	13,014	469
	54,599	30,451

5 Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Wages and salaries	190,841	136,393
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	72,530	47,259
Bursary awards	16,049	12,341
Venue hire	23,245	16,911
Music hire	12,686	6,979
Advertising and marketing	17,847	12,442
Bank charges	200	156
Depreciation	3,081	6,962
Subscriptions	202	1,139
Professional fees	-	-
Travel	6,714	1,889
Support costs (see note 6)	64,420	45,886
	407,815	288,357

The comparative figure for 2021 includes £0 of expenditure from restricted funds.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



6 Support costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Wages and salaries	23,047	16,797
Accounting and administration fees	13,750	11,373
Staff costs	6,365	3,871
Office costs	8,478	5,392
Printing, postage and stationery	3,066	1,533
Rent	7,194	5,000
Governance Costs		
Independent examiners fees	2,520	1,920
	64,420	45,886

7 Staff costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Gross salaries	202,991	147,752
Employer's National Insurance	16,186	11,426
Employer's Pension Costs	6,296	4,794
	225,473	163,972

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 5.2 (2020: 3.2).

One member of staff earned over £60,000 in both years.

8 Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director and Executive Director. During 2022 £106,395 (2021: £100,273) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance and pension contributions) and £51,900 (2021: £37,803) in consultancy fees to key management personnel.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. No Trustees received reimbursement for expenses.

The husband of the Executive Director was contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £8,034 (2021: £5,780).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



9 Fixed Assets

Intangible Assets

	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2021	18,100	18,100
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2022	18,100	18,100
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2021	11,212	11,212
Additions	2,374	2,374
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2021	13,586	13,586
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2022	4,514	4,514
At 31 August 2021	6,888	6,888

10 Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2021	5,443	5,443
Additions	408	408
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2022	5,851	5,851
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2021	1,427	1,427
Additions	707	707
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2022	2,134	2,134
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2022	3,717	3,717
At 31 August 2021	4,016	4,016



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



11 Debtors

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Trade Debtors	900	3,304
Prepayments and accrued income	6,251	3,601
Gift aid recoverable	1,338	1,139
	8,489	8,044

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Trade creditors	6,628	10,162
Other tax and social security	5,520	4,473
Accrued expenses	8,419	3,463
Deferred income	117,018	55,461
	137,585	73,559
Deferred income brought forward	55,461	77,492
Amounts released in the year	-55,461	-77,492
Income deferred in the year	117,018	55,461
Deferred income carried forward	117,018	55,461

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



13 Movement in funds

Current Year	Brought forward	Income	Resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general	179,048	468,752	-462,414	-	185,386
Designated funds	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Unrestricted funds	229,048	468,752	-462,414	-	235,386
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
	360	-	-	-	360
Total Funds	229,408	468,752	-462,414	-	235,746
Prior Year	Brought forward	Income	Resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general	155,037	392,819	-318,808	-50,000	179,048
Designated funds	-	-	-	-50,000	50,000
Unrestricted funds	155,037	392,819	-318,808		229,048
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
	360	-	-	-	360
Total Funds	155,397	392,819	-318,808	-	229,408

Purpose of funds:

Restricted -

The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitated visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

Designated -

During the year £50,000 was transferred to a designated fund. The purpose of this fund is to support LYC's 10th Anniversary in 2022-2023.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



14 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fixed assets	-	8,231	8,231
Current assets	360	364,740	365,100
Creditors due within one year	-	-137,585	-137,585
	<u>360</u>	<u>235,386</u>	<u>235,746</u>

Prior Year	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fixed assets	-	10,904	10,904
Current assets	360	291,704	292,064
Creditors due within one year	-	-73,559	(73,559)
	<u>360</u>	<u>229,049</u>	<u>229,049</u>

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021**

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Tel: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

www.londonyouthchoirs.com

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2021

Founding President	Suzi Digby OBE
Patrons	Sir Andrew Parmley Gareth Malone OBE Dame Janet Rifferman Dr. John Rutter CBE Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE (Founding Patron) Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)
Trustees	Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair) Leslie East OBE Mark Gallagher (joined November 2021) Michael Llewelyn-Jones Kate Ludlow Duncan Watts George Wills
Executive Director	Nina Camilleri
Development Committee	Kate Ludlow (Chair) Richard Huntingford Mary Quillen Andy Roberts Elizabeth Ross
Artistic Director	Rachel Staunton
Charity registered number	1151714
Registered office	Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent examiner	Laura Masheder FCA, DChA Azets Audits Services Limited Triune Court Monks Cross Drive York YO32 9GZ
Bankers	CAF Bank Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME14 4TA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2021. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by a Charity Commission Scheme.

The charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1151714.

The principal object of the charity is to provide high quality choral training and performance opportunities for young people living and studying in London.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme.

Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are identified and approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The LYC Board of Trustees meets three times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees give their time voluntarily.

The Executive Director and Artistic Director are afforded full artistic and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives and Activities

Policies and Objectives

The objects of the London Youth Choirs are to advance the education and training of young people living or educated in London in the subject of music and the performing arts, and in particular, choral music. For the purposes of these objects, 'London' means the boroughs covered by the Greater London Authority or any successor body, and the City of London.

The charity will achieve this by:

- providing a world-class choral training programme for young people;
- promoting and supporting musical and choral education to young people regardless of their financial or social background;
- delivering open access workshops for young people, irrespective of their training or experience; and
- financially supporting talented young people to enable them to receive musical education of the highest standard and to achieve their potential.

In reviewing the objectives and planning the charity's activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Activities for Achieving Objectives

'Unlocking young people's potential through the power of choral singing'.

In 2020/21 LYC consisted of eight choirs for young people aged 7-23. Despite the challenges of the global pandemic, we successfully launched our second regional choir, LYC West (in Ealing) in February 2021 online. Building on the engagement work that we have carried out in schools in some of London's most disadvantaged regions in recent years, the establishment of our new regional choirs is helping to create opportunities for more young people and to diversify our membership.

Over the course of the year, LYC provided 31 weeks of online rehearsals directed by our core team of conductors, together with a programme of extra curricular activities for our members. From May 2021, as Covid-19 restrictions began to ease, LYC was able to undertake in-person rehearsals (six weeks in total) for our Junior Choirs, Cambiata Girls, Cambiata Boys' and Chamber Choir. Sadly, London Youth Choir was unable to come together to rehearse due to the size of the choir.



"It turns out that after over a year online our young people have truly been learning and developing as singers and as people. It is such a pleasure to be reunited with our younger members. Never again will we take the simple joys of singing together in a room for granted."

LYC Artistic Director Rachel Staunton

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Rehearsals for the six central choirs are held at the City of London School on Monday evenings during term time, and membership is achieved through audition. LYC SE rehearsals are held at Alfred Salter Primary School, Rotherhithe and take place on Thursday evenings during term time. LYC West rehearsals are held at St. Barnabas Church, Ealing and also take place on Thursday evenings. All LYC membership fees are subsidised, and an extensive financial assistance scheme is available to help cover the residual costs of fees and travel for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. The current choirs are split according to age and experience levels:

LYC JUNIOR GIRLS

Our early stages choir for girls in school years 3–6. Here, the foundations of choral singing, music reading and performance are put in place in an environment that is creative, supportive and fun.

LYC JUNIOR BOYS

Our early stages choir for boys in school years 3–6. Here, the foundations of choral singing, music reading and performance are put in place in an environment that is creative, supportive and fun.

LYC SOUTH EAST

The first of our region choirs, helping more young people to access a brilliant musical education closer to their homes. It is a mixed voice choir for boys and girls in school years 3–6.

LYC WEST

This is the second of our region choirs. It is a mixed-voice choir for boys and girls in school years 3–6.

LYC CAMBIATA GIRLS

For girls in school years 7–11. The choir provides support and inspiration to nurture girls at this stage of their vocal development.

LYC CAMBIATA BOYS

For boys in school years 7–11. The choir provides support and inspiration to nurture boys at this stage of their vocal development.

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

A four part, SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) choir for people in school year 11 to age 23. Tackling challenging repertoire in a variety of languages and styles, the members of London Youth Choir also receive separate musicianship classes to help improve their music-reading skills.

LYC CHAMBER CHOIR

Twenty-voice SATB choir (ages 16–23). Chamber Choir is the culmination of the exceptional musical training members receive in their journey with LYC.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

LYC Experience

By our 10th anniversary, LYC will have established choirs in SW, SE, W, and NE London, in addition to our six centrally located choirs.

LYC Experience is an initiative that reaches out to the localities of our new choirs and reinstates music as a valuable part of community. The key aim of the programme is to bring the joy and unifying power of singing to musically disadvantaged parts of our country's capital. To do this, we work closely with schools, music hubs and families, empowering individuals and organisations to make a difference to young people's lives through music.

We have thoughtfully devised a variety of strategies and activities for engaging educators, families and young people alike.

- Train school leaders to introduce Singing Assemblies, reinstating singing with peers as a staple part of the school day.
- Hold 'Family Come & Sing Days' across London during the school holidays. These inclusive events allow families to share in their children's love of singing.
- Work closely with Music Hubs to raise awareness of the musical opportunities available to young people, including membership of LYC.

Whilst Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the pace of which we have been able to implement LYC Experience activity this year, we are confident that the programme will help to establish LYC's presence in these new London regions.

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

Following on from the strong foundations laid down in our first eight years, LYC has continued to develop and grow throughout the academic year 2020/21. The resilience and determination of every single one of our LYC members and team is to be applauded and the whole LYC family can feel proud of what has been achieved together in such difficult circumstances.

Membership comprised 307 young people drawn from 29 London boroughs (plus Surrey, Hampshire and Essex), ranging in age from 7 to 23 of which 29% were male and 71% female. LYC members represented 171 different educational establishments, including at least 58% in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools, 5% in Higher Education and 2% who were Home Educated.

307
members from
across london

171
different
educational
establishments

As part of LYC's mission to be a truly accessible arts organisation, LYC continued to subsidise all member fees by over 70% of the true cost of membership which is £940 per annum. The subsidised fees are £255 per annum. Historically, payments have been made on a termly basis, however, to streamline our payment structure, a new direct debit system was implemented in September 2021. Members continued to benefit from a comprehensive Financial Assistance Fund, which

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ensures the choirs remain accessible to all, irrespective of financial circumstances.

LYC's partnership with City of London School, our Monday evening rehearsal home, continues to have a tremendously positive impact on our artistic output, enabling the implementation of sectional rehearsals and musicianship classes to take place on a weekly basis, as well as providing a fabulous performance space in the spectacular Great Hall. Grateful thanks are due to Alan Bird, Head of CLS and Anita Murray for their unstinting commitment to LYC.

Such friendships are the life-blood of our organisation - critical not only to the on-going strategic development of LYC but also to our capacity to learn from and connect with inspiring people and institutions. We hope for a long and flourishing relationship with the School.

Highlights of 2020/21

After months and months of virtual rehearsals, conductor Greg Beardsell says that the first Chamber Choir meet-up was "a sheer delight that rendered some of us, ironically, too emotional to sing!" Although the strict distancing rules obliged the singers to spread out across the venue, "the choir members seemed to really appreciate having the extra room to find their own voices after such a long time."

Despite the many restrictions imposed upon during the year, LYC has kept active and continued to offer a calendar of extraordinary experiences and opportunities for our young people.

September – October 2020	Members of all our Junior choirs worked with composer Shruthi Rajasekar on a collaborative project to commemorate the sailing of the Mayflower from Southwark 400 years ago, exploring the history of the area and producing written work to be incorporated into the final composition. The premiere of the Mayflower Anthem was performed in our virtual Spring Concert 2021.
October-November	All choirs enjoyed workshops in gospel singing by Naveen Arles . Naveen became Conductor of Cambiata Boys' Choir later in the year.
November	LYC Chamber Choir met for one rehearsal before the second lockdown and recorded two pieces for our Festive Concert. Later in the month Gareth Malone , TV choirmaster and LYC Patron, and soul singer Louise Marshall held a workshop open to all young Londoners launching a competition to find a singer to perform Once in Royal David's City at LYC's online Festive Concert. Over 100 children participated and, as well as opening the concert with a solo, the winner was offered a place in LYC Junior Girls.
December	LYC presented its Festive Concert online, sponsored by China Construction Bank . Over 500 family tickets were booked, including a good number by CCB staff.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

January 2021	Online auditions were held and 25 new members joined LYC. 35 LYC members also successfully auditioned for National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. A two-week partnership with Tenebrae's Associate Artists provided sectional rehearsals for LYC.
February	LYC launched 'LYC Pals', a way for members of the various choirs to connect during lockdown as pen pals. The Happiness Zone within LYC Live was revamped to create weekly themes. Cambiata Girls' Choir participated in a workshop with Jeremy Haneman exploring migration and refugee experience through music, in preparation for our Spring Concert entitled 'Voyage'. Senior members of LYC enjoyed an online social event with yoga, designed to help them to relax and combat stress. In collaboration with Ealing Music Service, two online workshops and auditions were held to launch LYC West, our new junior choir based in Ealing. Olivia Shotton was appointed conductor and 43 new members joined. LYC created a weeklong programme of online activities for the half-term holidays, including yoga and creative art, as well as singing. These were opened to young people outside LYC and over 600 took part.
March	LYC Chamber Choir worked with beatboxing legend SK Shlomo and produced a recording of the Jamiroquai hit from 25 years ago, Virtual Insanity. The recording was featured on Scala Radio. LYC presented its Spring Concert online. Entitled 'Voyage', all the pieces were on a theme of travel. Over 400 individual recordings submitted by members were gathered in order to present this concert, which was also sponsored by China Construction Bank.
April	Four of our choirs participated in Tenebrae's Holy Week Festival in collaboration with St John's Smith Square.
May-June	Junior Boys and Cambiata Boys were the first to return to in person rehearsals on Monday 17 May, with all other choirs continuing to meet online. Over the following weeks, LYC South East, Junior Girls, LYC West and Chamber Choir made its comeback to live rehearsals. Although precautions including social distancing were still in place, the experience for returning members and staff alike was full of emotions. Of these the most significant was the first rehearsal for LYC West, the newest choir in the LYC family which was launched during lockdown in early 2021 and had until now only met online.



"It was so amazing to hear everyone's voices instead of being on mute! During lockdown I had missed seeing my friends in person and I had really missed Rachel making us laugh! I loved looking around and seeing everyone singing at the top of their lungs!"
LYC South East, Sienna

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Supporting members' mental health

Some members have struggled to cope with the isolation of lockdown and have missed interacting with peers. While the activities we provided within **LYC Live's Happiness Zone** were enjoyed by all members, it was the opportunity to have one-to-one counselling sessions with our Wellbeing & Pastoral Care Team each Monday evening that was a lifeline for a small number of members. In fact, there were members with whom contact was retained during the school holidays, such was their need for support.

As we strive to make our musical training accessible to young people from all backgrounds, we know that there will always be some members for whom the community we create is as important as the singing. We believe that being part of the LYC family is truly life-changing for many of our members.

Infrastructure and staffing

The LYC story of the last eight years has been one of growth. Following the establishment of the LYC West regional in February, we now have a family of eight choirs, a growing membership of 311, with plans afoot to implement a further two regional choirs (SW and NE) in our 10th Anniversary in 2022/23.

Over the past year LYC has become a stronger organisation. Our music-making has prevailed, we have invested wisely in our marketing resources at a time when visibility is of paramount importance and, by being prudent with our expenditure and ambitious with our fundraising LYC finances are in a positive position.

The pandemic provided space to reflect, to reset and shine the spotlight on our infrastructure and to prepare, in a systematic way, for future growth and expansion.

LYC has had an impressive start to its **fundraising** and despite the uncertainty of the current year, our fundraising efforts have weathered the storm. However, to meet the aspirations of the rapidly growing LYC, a restructure and expansion of the development function was required. In March 2021, the Board adopted a proposal to create of a new full-time development position and to restructure the freelance Development Director role.

The **Development Manager** position, now assumed by **Alice Beverley**, plays a key part in establishing the LYC Development Office with the remit to both broaden the fundraising base and provide the infrastructure necessary to support an expanding professional fundraising operation. The **Development Director** position, undertaken by Penny Lewis, now assumes overall responsibility for the annual development targets set, in consultation with the Executive Director. To further support LYC's fundraising ambitions, the Development Committee, under the leadership of Kate Ludlow, implemented a plan to refresh and recruit new members to the Committee. A new Terms of Reference document was also created to provide clear guidance for these members.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

To aid the growth of LYC's choir network, the Board agreed to recruit a **full time Office Assistant** role to support the operations team and Music Director. As of August 2021, the structure of the Operations team is as follows:

- Operations Manager | Bethan Thomas
- Membership Officer (previously, Membership & Projects Administrator) | Freddie Aitken (joined July 2021)
- Operations Assistant | Zoe Nendick (joined August 2021)

Working with LYC members through lockdown enabled us to gain a greater understanding of the breadth of issues young people experience in today's world. To support their growing needs, we recognised the need for a dedicated role within our organisation, one that is totally separate from operations and logistics. Following a thorough recruitment process in the summer, **Alison Bastable** joined the team as **Head of Safeguarding and Pastoral Care**.

During the course of the year, we were delighted to welcome many new faces to the LYC **music team**. In February 2021, Mariana Rosas became conductor of LYC Cambiata Girls' and we were thrilled to welcome Naveen Arles into the role of conductor for LYC Cambiata Boys'. Olivia Shotton became the new conductor of LYC West, alongside Harry Baker as accompanist. Antonio Oliveira, Meg Storer, Stella Werth and Elliot Mercer were appointed as Assistant Leaders for Junior Boys, Junior Girls and LYC West respectively.

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The legislation defines fundraising as "soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property for charitable purposes". Such amounts are presented in our financial statements within "Donations and legacies" which includes donations from individual supporters, corporate donations and legacies. In relation to this, we confirm that all solicitations are managed internally, without the involvement of commercial participators, professional fundraisers or third parties. The day to day management of all income generated is delegated to the executive staff team who act under authority delegated by the Trustees. There were no complaints regarding fundraising received during the financial year.

Over 80% of London Youth Choirs' income comes from fundraising. In a normal year, rehearsals and concerts provide a welcome opportunity to meet and get to know donors. During 2020/21, all contact with existing and prospective supporters had to be conducted online due to the pandemic. While there was understandably major fundraising underway for medical charities, it was heartening how many individuals and charitable trusts demonstrated the value they place on LYC's musical education and pastoral care by financially supporting our work.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Our matched-giving appeals on **The Big Give** platform have become the **single biggest contributor to our annual fundraising**. All funds raised this way support our Financial Assistance Fund, enabling membership fees to be subsidised and free places offered to those whose families are unable to afford fees at all.

The opportunity for donations to be doubled during the appeal week provides an incentive for individuals and trusts to deliver greater benefit to LYC. We are grateful to **The Childhood Trust** for being our Champion Funder and providing half of the match-funding each time we participate.

Our **Big Give Christmas Appeal in December 2020**, which we named 'No Barriers', broke all previous records, raising **£92,289 including Gift Aid** against a target of £85,000. These gifts from 136 donors put LYC in the top 3% of the 764 participating charities in terms of funds raised, which was an impressive achievement. The balance of the match-funding was provided by group of generous donors. LYC Honorary Patron, Gareth Malone and loyal ambassador, Jo Brand recorded videos endorsing our appeal, greatly adding to our promotional efforts during the appeal week.

£92,289
raised in the
Big Give
Christmas
challenge

£50,382
raised in
Champions for
Children Appeal

The Childhood Trust extended their support by inviting LYC to participate in their **Champions for Children Appeal** on the Big Give platform in June 2021. Premier Sponsor, China Construction Bank generously pledged the remaining match-funding for our £45,000 target. Once again, LYC supporters rose to the challenge, **enabling us to raise a magnificent £50,382 including Gift Aid**.

Special recognition goes to **China Construction Bank as LYC's Premier Sponsor**, providing major core funding and support towards regional junior choir LYC South East. We are hugely grateful to Mr Aimin Yang, Chief Executive and his executive team for their enthusiastic commitment to LYC's work. As well as playing a vital role in our 2021 Champions for Children Appeal, CCB was recognised as sponsor of our Festive Concert in December and our Spring Concert 'Voyage' in March, both of which were delivered online and enabled CCB to entertain clients virtually.

Premier Sponsorship from
China Construction Bank

The **number of trusts and foundations supporting LYC continues to grow**. The Attwood Education Foundation, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Sir Edward Lewis Foundation, Sir Nigel Broackes 1993 Charitable Trust and the Golsoncott Foundation all maximised the impact of their donations by supporting LYC through The Big Give. Additional support towards our Financial Assistance Fund came from The Alchemy Foundation, while the Radcliffe Trust supported the establishment of our newest

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

junior choir, LYC West and the Sir William Boremans Foundation, administered by the Drapers' Company, supported LYC South East.

For a third consecutive year, we were honoured to receive a grant of €25,000 towards core funding from Benecare Foundation based in Liechtenstein and sincere thanks go to their Trustees from this significant donation. Towards the end of the financial year, LYC was awarded major 3-year funding from both The Leverhulme Trust and John Lyon's Charity towards Financial Assistance and LYC West respectively.

3 years
of support from
John Lyon's and The
Leverhulme Trust

Throughout 2020/21, we enjoyed the continued support as the **Master's Charity of the**

Worshipful Company of Curriers, as the Master, Mary McNeil's term of office was extended for a second year due to Covid. We gratefully acknowledge the support of other Livery Companies during the year, namely the Wonderful Companies of Basketmakers, Tallow Chandlers, Makers of Playing Cards and Musicians.

A special conclusion to our year was LYC's appointment as the **Master's Charity of the Drapers' Company**, thanks to incoming Master, David Chalk. The Drapers' Company is ranked number three of 'The City of London's Great 12 Livery Companies' and it is a great honour for LYC to be chosen. We look forward to working with The Drapers' Company in the year to come.

London Youth Choirs pays tribute to members of the Development Committee. Special thanks go to Trustee Leslie East, who handed over the role of Committee Chair after many years to new Trustee Kate Ludlow; to David Symondson, whose support from the earliest days was instrumental in the launch and early success of LYC, and LYC parent Clément Daudy, both of whom retired from the Committee. Sincere thanks go to current Development Committee members Richard Huntingford, Andy Roberts, Elizabeth Ross and Mary Quillen, who continue play a key role in supporting LYC's fundraising efforts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Looking ahead - a year of restoration and preparation

What is clear from our experience of lockdown, is that our members love LYC, cherish their membership and really do rely on us, whether as a musical education, pastoral support network or simply a place (virtually or otherwise) to check in with friends.

We have all had to re-evaluate our lives throughout this challenging period, but together, by keeping our sense of love and community strong, we have been able to endure this challenging time.

As we begin to resume our regular in-person rehearsals, our choirs are excited to show off their hard work, resilience and love for music and we look forward to sharing these live performances with families, friends and stakeholders.

As we work through this next year, our focus is very much on plans for our 10th Anniversary, which commences September 2022.

To celebrate this important milestone we are doubling down on our founding commitments **to unlock young people's potential through the power of choral singing**, and to be a singing home for all young Londoners.

Throughout the anniversary year we will celebrate and champion **Accessibility, Belonging and Choral Excellence** – three themes which will play throughout our next decade.

Financial Review

The current level of funds held by the charity at the year end amounted to £229,408 (2020: £155,397) and included a designated reserve of £50,000 and restricted funds of £360 (2020: £ 360). After deducting designated reserves, restricted funds and funds held as functional assets, the charity had free reserves of £168,144 (2020: £139,827).

Reserves policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy which, in the long term, aims to build reserves sufficient to cover at least two terms' expenditure amounting to £160,000. Unrestricted free reserves at the end of the year stood at £168,144.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the 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 & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

14.06.2022

and signed on their behalf by:

Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Laura Masheder FCA, DChA
Azets Audits Services Limited
Triune Court
Monks Cross Drive
York
YO32 9GZ

Dated:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2	329,585	-	329,585	312,530	-	312,530
Charitable activities	3	62,975	-	62,975	57,067	-	57,067
Investments		259	-	259	185	-	185
		392,819	-	392,819	369,782	-	369,782
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	30,451	-	30,451	43,315	-	43,315
Charitable activities	5	288,357	-	288,357	269,744	21,349	291,093
		318,808	-	318,808	313,059	21,349	334,408
Net income		74,011	-	74,011	56,723	(21,349)	35,374
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		74,011	-	74,011	56,723	(21,349)	35,374
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		155,037	360	155,397	98,314	21,709	120,023
Total funds carried forward	13	229,048	360	229,408	155,037	360	155,397

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

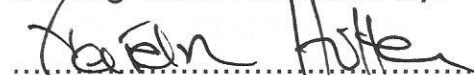
The notes on pages 19-27 comprise these parts of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	9	6,888		12,921	
Tangible Assets	10	4,016		2,289	
			10,904		15,210
Current assets					
Debtors	11	8,044		6,476	
Cash at bank and in hand		284,019		225,380	
		292,063		231,856	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(73,559)		(91,669)	
Net current assets			218,504		140,187
Total net assets			229,408		155,397
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted general	13		179,048		155,037
Unrestricted designated	13		50,000		-
Restricted funds	13		360		360
Total funds			229,408		155,397

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 14.06.2022
and signed on its behalf by:



Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chairman

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Charities SORP (FRS 102) rather than Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

London Youth Choirs meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choirs is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into considerations the current economic climate and have, at the time of approving the financial statements, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities.
and creditors are measured at their settlement value

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- website costs – 25% straight line

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- equipment – 20% straight line

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2 Income from donations

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	205,943	211,101
Legacies	-	-
Donated facilities and services	19,220	25,424
Grants	104,422	76,005
	329,585	312,530

All income in the current and previous year is unrestricted.

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

Grant income above includes £27,663 (2019 - 19,675) of government grants relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Membership fees	52,345	33,901
Concert fees	10,630	23,166
	62,975	57,067

4 Raising funds

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Wages and salaries	10,782	10,313
Fundraising consultancy fees	19,200	31,300
Other costs	469	1,702
	30,451	43,315

5 Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Wages and salaries	136,393	129,882
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	47,259	56,211
Bursary awards	12,341	12,645
Venue hire	16,911	20,484
Music hire	6,979	5,770
Advertising and marketing	12,442	8,322
Bank charges	156	568
Depreciation	6,962	5,620
Subscriptions	1,139	1,244
Professional fees	-	-
Travel	1,889	4,832
Support costs (see note 6)	45,886	45,515
	288,357	291,093

The comparative figure for 2020 includes £21,349 of expenditure from restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6 Support costs

	Total funds £	2021	Total funds £	2020
Wages and salaries		16,797		16,022
Accounting and administration fees		11,373		12,560
Staff costs		3,871		901
Office costs		5,392		7,269
Printing, postage and stationery		1,533		1,923
Rent		5,000		4,800
Governance Costs:				
Independent examiners fees		1,920		2,040
		45,886		45,515

7 Staff costs

	Total funds £	2021	Total funds £	2020
Gross salaries		147,752		140,951
Employer's National Insurance		11,426		10,752
Employer's Pension Costs		4,794		4,514
		163,972		156,217

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 3.2 (2020: 3).

The number of higher paid employees in the band £60,000 - £70,000 was 1 (2020: none). No other employees were paid in excess of £60,000.

8 Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director and Executive Director. During 2021 £100,273 (2020: £95,127) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance and pension contributions) and £37,803 (2020: £44,970) in consultancy fees to key management personnel.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. No Trustees received reimbursement for expenses.

The husband of the Executive Director was contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £5,780 (2020: £4,776).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Fixed Assets

Intangible Assets

	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2020	18,100	18,100
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2021	18,100	18,100
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2020	5,179	5,179
Additions	6,033	6,033
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2021	11,212	11,212
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2021	6,888	6,888
At 31 August 2020	12,921	12,921

10 Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2020	2,787	2,787
Additions	2,656	2,656
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2021	5,443	5,443
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2020	498	498
Additions	929	929
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2021	1,427	1,427
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2021	4,016	4,016
At 31 August 2020	2,289	2,289

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

11 Debtors

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Trade Debtors	3,304	-
Prepayments and accrued income	3,601	3,618
Gift aid recoverable	1,139	2,858
	8,044	6,476

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Trade creditors	10,162	4,281
Other tax and social security	4,473	4,066
Accrued expenses	3,463	5,830
Deferred income	55,461	77,492
	73,559	91,669
Deferred income brought forward	77,492	6,215
Amounts released in the year	(77,492)	(6,215)
Income deferred in the year	55,461	77,492
Deferred income carried forward	55,461	77,492

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13 Movement in funds

Current Year	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted general	155,037	392,819	(318,808)	(50,000)	179,048
Unrestricted designated	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Unrestricted funds	155,037	392,819	(318,808)		229,048
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	360	-	-	-	360
Chamber Choir	-	-	-	-	-
Widening Access	-	-	-	-	-
	360	-	-	-	360
Total Funds	155,397	392,819	(318,808)	-	229,408
Prior Year	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted fund	98,314	369,782	(313,059)	-	155,037
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	590	-	(230)	-	360
Chamber Choir	-	-	-	-	-
Widening Access	21,119	-	(21,119)	-	-
	21,709	-	(21,349)	-	360
Total Funds	120,023	369,782	(334,408)	-	155,397

Purpose of funds:

Restricted -

The Widening Access Programme, which is an extension of the Aspire pilot project continued to work in its final year collaboratively with schools and music hubs to reach young people in London in areas of high deprivation who have little or no music provision.

The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitated visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

Designated -

During the year £50,000 was transferred to a designated fund. The purpose of this fund is to support LYC's 10th Anniversary in 2022-2023.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fixed assets	-	10,904	10,904
Current assets	360	291,704	292,064
Creditors due within one year	-	(73,559)	(73,559)
	360	229,048	229,408

Prior Year	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Fixed assets	-	15,210	15,210
Current assets	360	231,496	231,856
Creditors due within one year	-	(91,669)	(91,669)
	360	155,037	155,397

LONDON YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1151714

Accounts

Charity no: 1151714



LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

London Youth Choirs
Rich Mix
35-47 Bethnal Green Road
London
E1 6LA

Tel: 07388 623 178
Email: office@londonyouthchoirs.com

www.londonyouthchoirs.com

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2020

Founding President	Suzi Digby OBE
Patrons	Sir Andrew Parmley Gareth Malone OBE Dame Janet Ritterman Dr. John Rutter CBE Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE (Founding Patron) Patrick Russill (Founding Patron)
Trustees	Dame Deirdre Hutton (Chair) Leslie East OBE Michael Llewelyn-Jones Kate Ludlow (Joined June 2020) Duncan Watts George Wills
Executive Director	Nina Camilleri
Development Committee	Leslie East OBE (Chair) Clément Daudy (Joined March 2020) Richard Huntingford Mary Quillen (Joined March 2020) Andy Roberts Elizabeth Ross (Joined March 2020) David Symondson
Artistic Director	Rachel Staunton
Charity registered number	1151714
Registered office	Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent examiner	Laura Masheder FCA, DChA Garbutt & Elliott LLP 33 Park Place Leeds LS1 2RY
Bankers	CAF Bank Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME14 4TA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of London Youth Choirs for the year ended 31 August 2020. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of "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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The reference and administrative information on the preceding page forms part of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by a Charity Commission Scheme.

The charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1151714.

The principal object of the charity is to provide high quality choral training and performance opportunities for young people living and studying in London.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme.

Under the requirements of the Constitution, the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity, after which they must be re-elected.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills and expertise required for the effective administration of the charity. In the event of particular skills or expertise being lost due to retirement, appropriate individuals are identified and approached to offer themselves for election to the Board of Trustees. The charity has produced an induction policy which outlines how a Trustee is approached and introduced to the charity and the formal procedure for appointing them as Trustee. Trustees are also offered the opportunity to visit the charity office and spend time with staff understanding systems and details of the operation of the charity.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The LYC Board of Trustees meets three times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees give their time voluntarily.

The Executive Director and Artistic Director are afforded full artistic and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and Activities

Policies and Objectives

The objects of the London Youth Choirs are to advance the education and training of young people living or educated in London in the subject of music and the performing arts, and in particular, choral music. For the purposes of these objects, 'London' means the boroughs covered by the Greater London Authority or any successor body, and the City of London.

The charity will achieve this by:

- providing a world-class choral training programme for young people;
- promoting and supporting musical and choral education to young people regardless of their financial or social background;
- delivering open access workshops for young people, irrespective of their training or experience; and
- financially supporting talented young people to enable them to receive musical education of the highest standard and to achieve their potential.

In reviewing the objectives and planning the charity's activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Activities for Achieving Objectives

'Unlocking young people's potential through the power of choral singing'.

In 2019/20 LYC consisted of seven choirs for young people aged 7-23. In September 2019, to provide an even better experience for children in school years 7-11, our former mixed-voices Training Choir for 11-15-year olds was divided to become **Cambiata Boys' Choir** and **Cambiata Girls' Choir**. This is a important development which now enables LYC to provide additional encouragement and specialist support for young singers undergoing voice change.

As well as refining and expanding our central choirs, LYC has plans to expand much further across London, to four additional locations in the SE, NW, SW, and NE. The first of these regional junior choirs, LYC SE, was implemented in January 2020.

Rehearsals for the six central choirs are held at the City of London School on Monday evenings during term time, and membership is via audition. LYC SE rehearsals are held at Alfred Salter Primary School, Rotherhithe and take place on Thursday evenings during term time. All LYC membership fees are subsidised, and an extensive financial assistance scheme is available to help cover the residual costs of fees and travel for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend.



LYC is the time of the week I look forward
to the most!

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The current choirs are split according to age and experience levels:

GIRLS' CHOIR

Our early stages choir for girls in school years 3–6. Here, the foundations of choral singing, music reading and performance are put in place in an environment that is creative, supportive and fun.

BOYS' CHOIR

Our early stages choir for boys in school years 3–6. Here, the foundations of choral singing, music reading and performance are put in place in an environment that is creative, supportive and fun.

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR CHOIR

The first of our area choirs, helping more young people to access a brilliant musical education closer to their homes. It is a mixed voice choir for boys and girls in school years 3–6.

CAMBIATA GIRLS

For girls in school years 7–11. The choir provides support and inspiration to nurture girls at this stage of their vocal development.

CAMBIATA BOYS

For boys in school years 7–11. The choir provides support and inspiration to nurture boys at this stage of their vocal development.

SENIOR CHOIR

A four part, SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) choir for people in school year 11 to age 23. Tackling challenging repertoire in a variety of languages and styles, the members of Senior Choir also receive separate musicianship classes to help improve their music-reading skills.

CHAMBER CHOIR

Twenty-voice SATB choir (ages 16–23). Chamber Choir is the culmination of the exceptional musical training members receive in their journey with LYC.

Membership of the youth choirs provides a high-calibre, accessible musical education in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Alongside technical and musicianship training and social activities, members benefit from high-level and varied performance opportunities including soundtrack recordings, television appearances and performances in iconic venues. Most importantly, these encounters help form the foundation of a lifelong passion for music and the Arts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The ASPIRE Programme

2019/20 marked the third and final year of LYC's ASPIRE engagement programme, generously supported by the John Lyon's Charity. Activity in 2019/20 was focused on deepening relationships with the music hubs that we have worked with across the three-year grant period and, in terms of our artistic framework, curating bespoke projects according to the needs of each area.

As much as possible, we focused on raising the profile and opportunities for boys' singing and the changing male voice, which typically transitions from year 6 to year 10. We also assessed the infrastructure for boys singing in each region, addressing challenging questions about the provision from KS3 and sharing our experience in this area.

Recruiting, retaining and training male voices is a challenge, particularly at the crucial stage when their voices are changing. Through our ASPIRE workshops, it is clear that the boys involved have developed a sense of confidence in singing, camaraderie with their peers, together with a renewed sense of motivation for participating in music, both inside and outside school. This important work has driven us to provide better for our current young male voices, and has helped us to drive towards a more equal gender balance across the singing provision in the music hubs that we have worked with so far.



The boys absolutely loved the workshop and concert. They were proud of their involvement and performances and took on the whole experience with increased maturity.

The Junior Apprenticeship scheme has been a beacon of success of ASPIRE. As part of our legacy work with the schools, we collaborated with teachers and parents to identify young singers who were invited to join LYC as an Apprentice; the Apprentices attended weekly rehearsals in the City and took part in major performances, events and recordings. Fully funded bursaries were provided, together with support with all travel costs to and from rehearsals and concerts. In 2019/20 we continued to work with the Junior Apprentices from the previous two years of ASPIRE, offering places to 30 young people from Brent and Ealing (summer 2019) for the academic year, 2019/20.

30
Fully funded
places

Over the past two years, we expanded our provision to offer a dedicated chaperone service to escort the children from their home borough to rehearsals; this removed the potential barrier for parents and carers who were unable to accompany the children who were too young to travel across London on their own. LYC sees this as the lifeblood of this initiative as it enabled us to continue to break down the barriers for young people accessing high quality music provision. We also provided free tickets to LYC events for parents or carers of those young people.

Whilst it has been costly, it has made something we thought was very unlikely - children coming together from such a wide geographical spread - a possibility. It has significantly changed the make-up of our junior choirs and we are confident to be able to sustain their involvement into our more senior choirs.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

LYC Experience

LYC Experience is born out of ASPIRE.

ASPIRE was integral to growing our central choirs and has inspired us to grow our family of choirs into other parts of the city. By our 10th anniversary, LYC will have established choirs in SW, SE, NW, and NE London, in addition to our centrally located choirs.

LYC Experience is an initiative that reaches out to the localities of our new choirs and reinstates music as a valuable part of community. The key aim of the programme is to bring the joy and unifying power of singing to musically bereft parts of our country's capital. To do this, we work closely with schools, music hubs and families, empowering individuals and organisations to make a difference to young people's lives through music.

We have thoughtfully devised a variety of strategies and activities for engaging educators, families and young people alike.

- Train school leaders to introduce Singing Assemblies, reinstating singing with peers as a staple part of the school day.
- Hold 'Family Come & Sing Days' across London during the school holidays. These inclusive events allow families to share in their children's love of singing.
- Work closely with Music Hubs to raise awareness of the musical opportunities available to young people, including membership of LYC.

Whilst Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the pace of which we have been able to implement LYC Experience activity this year, we are confident that the programme will help to establish LYC's presence in these new London areas.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

Following on from the strong foundations laid down in our first seven years, LYC has continued to develop throughout the academic year 2019/20.

Membership encompassed 311 young people drawn from 29 London boroughs (plus Surrey, Kent and Essex), ranging in age from 7 to 23 of which 32% were male and 68% female. LYC members represented 228 different educational establishments, including at least 55% in Free, Voluntary Aided, Academy or State Schools, 3% in Higher Education and 2% who were Home Educated.

311
members from
across london

228
different
educational
establishments

Members continued to benefit from the early bird membership fee payment discount implemented in 2015/16, as well as a comprehensive Financial Assistance Fund which ensures the choirs remain accessible to all, irrespective of financial circumstances. Aware that some of our Choir members were coming to rehearsals without food and not having eaten since lunchtime, LYC secured the support of The Felix Project, a London-based charity that distributes unsold fresh food from cafes and shops. Since January, we received a delivery

of sandwiches, salads, fruit and yogurts free of charge, which we gave to members who needed it. This has significantly improved the concentration levels of members who were previously going hungry.

LYC's partnership with City of London School, our Monday evening rehearsal home, continues to have a tremendously positive impact on our artistic output, enabling the implementation of sectional rehearsals and musicianship classes to take place on a weekly basis, as well as providing a fabulous performance space in the spectacular Great Hall. Grateful thanks are due to Alan Bird, Head of CLS and Bursar, Charles Griffiths for their unstinting commitment to LYC.

Such friendships are the life-blood of our organisation - critical not only to the on-going strategic development of LYC but also to our capacity to learn from and connect with inspiring people and institutions. We hope for a long and flourishing relationship with the School.

Highlights of 2019/20

The early part of 2019/2020 was an exciting period of development for LYC that is reflected in the extraordinary experiences and opportunities that we have been able to offer our young people.

We began the season with an invitation for Senior Choir members to join the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir** in a performance of 'Mahler's 2nd Symphony', conducted by **Vladimir Jurowski**. Taking place at the iconic Royal Festival Hall, this was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

A few weeks later, members of the Chamber Choir were invited to take part in **Choral Evensong at the beautiful St Martin-in-the-Fields** alongside the St Martin-in-the-Fields Choir.

Due to the growth of membership, **LYC's Christmas concerts** were split across two venues this year. The first, '**Good News**', involving our Junior and Cambiata Boys' Choirs and Chamber Choir took place in the magnificent **Great Hall of the City of London School**. This was followed the week after by '**Now may we sing**', which involved performances by our Junior and Cambiata Girls Choirs, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir at the exquisite **Milton Court Concert Hall**. The use of the Hall was generously gifted to us by Jonathan Vaughan, Vice Principal and Director of Music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

We are delighted to report that LYC was one of the nominated charities to receive support from the **ICAP Charity Day 2019**. On 10th December, hundreds of celebrity charity ambassadors visited ICAP offices around the world to assist brokers seal lucrative deals all in aid of charity. All commissions and revenues taken from the day's trading are donated to selected charities. On the Charity Day itself, LYC Patron Gareth Malone played an important role as a LYC ambassador and the London Youth Chamber Choir shone in their performance of Christmas music, which added greatly to the impact of LYC's participation in the event.

Our Choirs, especially Chamber Choir were much in demand for Festive performances, including the Worshipful Company of Curriers' annual Christmas Carol Concert at the Tallow Chandlers' Hall and a magical performance at the Coutts Music Marathon Day on the Strand. A particular highlight was the Choir's performance of three Christmas songs live on Zoe Ball's **BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show** (approximately 9 million listeners UK-wide) on Christmas Eve.

A week before Christmas, a group from the Junior Girls' Choir had a once in the life-opportunity to perform on a major film set. Producers from the **Hulu/Netflix new hit series 'The Great'**, starring renown actors Nicholas Hoult and Elle Fanning, required a group of girls to sing a Russian folk song in bespoke costume in one of the key scenes. It was an amazing experience for all involved!

In January 2020, auditions and first rehearsals took place for **LYC South East**, the first of our 4 new regional Junior Choirs. Drawing children (7-11 years) from around 8 primary schools in the Southwark area, this mixed choir has 35 members and rehearses on Thursday evenings at a local primary school. **This brings the number of choirs to 7 and total members to 311.**

At the beginning of March, the Junior Boys' Choir joined the chorus of **English Touring Opera** to sing the chorales in a performance of **JS Bach's 'St John Passion'**, which was recorded and broadcast on YouTube on Easter Sunday.

Unfortunately, LYC's Junior Choirs Showcase and the Spring Concert, entitled '**Soundworlds**' scheduled for the second half of March had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Impact of Covid-19

When lockdown was announced in the middle of March, LYC had to cancel all its weekly face-to-face rehearsals, concerts and education experiences for children and young people across London, urgently requiring us to evolve the delivery of our work. As champions for musical excellence and social change, our primary aim was to maintain interaction with our members. And so, in deciding not to charge membership fees for the summer term, we could ensure access for all throughout this very difficult period. Furthermore, whilst four key members of staff were able to take advantage of the government's furlough scheme, we were determined to look after our team of self-employed tutors, helping to sustain an element of their working life and income.



LYC LIVE

Click here to access
your rehearsal links
and more each week!

In less than two weeks from the lockdown announcement, we had launched 'LYC Live'; a series of weekly online sessions designed to keep members singing and learning. As well as streaming online rehearsals and seminars for each choir, a dedicated 'Happiness Zone' was created. Here, members could explore a range of self-care activities and request 1-1 sessions with our pastoral care team via the **Pastoral Zoom Room**; this was implemented to facilitate further pastoral support for our more vulnerable choir members. For many, LYC rehearsals are

a place where they can talk things through with a trusted adult and receive support, as well as signposting to other organisations.

Despite all the obstacles, our music-making prevailed. One of the serendipities of lockdown has been the chance to create 'virtual choir' recordings, both on our own and in collaboration with other choirs. These videos capture an especially memorable experience for our members and have also helped to raise awareness of London Youth Choirs worldwide through sharing on social media. Highlights have included:

- A virtual choir collaboration project with the Boston Children's Choir, recording 'We are One' by Brian Tate, a song of hope, connectivity and togetherness.
- LYC Boys' and Girls' Choirs, worked on two Russell Hepplewhite and Michael Rosen pieces composed for Friday Afternoons, entitled 'Earth' and 'Language'. All members contributed to the virtual choir recordings of these pieces, which were launched with a digital premiere in May.
- Members of LYC SE worked with composer Shruthi Rajasekar on a collaborative project to commemorate the sailing of the Mayflower from Southwark 400 years ago, exploring the history of the area and producing written work to be incorporated into the final composition.
- Members of London Youth Chamber Choir performed 'Words' by Anders Edenroth, conducted by Greg Beardsell. Huge thanks go to Ben Parry, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain for music editing and Alastair Uhlig for creating the film.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Fundraising

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The legislation defines fundraising as “soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property for charitable purposes”. Such amounts are presented in our financial statements within “Donations and legacies” which includes donations from individual supporters, corporate donations and legacies. In relation to this, we confirm that all solicitations are managed internally, without the involvement of commercial participators, professional fundraisers or third parties. The day to day management of all income generated is delegated to the executive staff team who act under authority delegated by the Trustees.

Embarking on a major 3-year sponsorship with **China Construction Bank (CCB)** shortly before the start of the 2019/20 financial year gave LYC a

significant financial boost. As LYC's first Premier Sponsor, CCB values inclusivity and was keen to provide core funding to secure the charity's operations and helping to ensure that LYC's teaching and support was available to all young Londoners. At the outset, no-one could have imagined quite how vital this commitment would prove to be.

Premier Sponsorship from
China Construction Bank

Involving CCB staff in the sponsorship and introducing LYC to CCB's clients were key elements of the arrangement and, in the autumn, a number of singing workshops for CCB staff were held at their offices. Such was the success of these, a CCB staff choir performed at an in-house event attended by the Chinese Ambassador to the UK and key board members from China in November, firmly putting the CCB/LYC relationship on the map. LYC is hugely grateful to Almin Yang, CCB Chief Executive London and his team for their enthusiastic support.

In September 2019, LYC launched its Cambiata Choir for Boys, a special initiative to encourage boys to keep singing when their voices start to change in their early teens. This is a long-term initiative, for which LYC is already being seen as a leader in the field. Support for workshops to recruit new members and help with the costs of securing an additional conductor for the new choir were secured from the **Worshipful Company of Musicians** and **Lucille Graham Trust**, both new supporters for LYC.

The teaching of musicianship, led by conductor Greg Beardsell, is a key part of the musical education delivered by LYC. Members of the Chamber and Senior Choirs receive small-group training in sight-reading and ear-training skills on a weekly basis. LYC is grateful to Nicola and Phil Garcia of **Pinpoint Trust** for funding this initiative and their recognition of the importance of this part of LYC's programme. The London Philharmonic Choir now makes an annual donation to support the Chamber Choir.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In October 2019, when Mary McNeil became Master of the **Worshipful Company of Curriers**, she chose LYC as her **Master's Charity**, further cementing the relationship between the two organisations. Members of the Curriers responded generously to her appeal for donations and, when these funds were directed through the Big Give Summer Appeal in June 2020, their impact was doubled.

In 2019, LYC was chosen by international trading company **TP-ICAP** to be a **beneficiary of their annual Charity Day**, which took place in December. There is huge competition among charities to be on their list of recipients and LYC was thrilled to be chosen. This resulted in a grant of £50,000 to support the establishment of LYC's first regional choir in Southwark. LYC would like to thank TP-ICAP Executive Director Phillip Price, who hosted the LYC team on the day, and the Charity Day team led by Tina Christou, for making this such a day to remember for LYC.

£50,000
to support the set up
of LYC South East

£53,984
raised in the
Big Give
Christmas
challenge

During 2019/20, the opportunity to secure donations through The Big Give's online match funding appeal delivered the single biggest boost to the year's fundraising. The opportunity for donors to have their donation doubled during the week-long online appeal is an attractive proposition. For the **Big Give Christmas Challenge in December 2019**, LYC doubled its previous year's target to £50,000. Provision of the matching fund was shared between **The Childhood Trust** (which supports disadvantaged children in London) and one of LYC's major individual donors and LYC is most grateful to them for playing this key role in the Appeal's success. 105 donations resulted in a net total of £53,984 including Gift Aid.

LYC also had the opportunity to participate in **The Big Give Summer Appeal**, entitled '**Champions for Children**', which was specifically focused on charities supporting young people in London who had been disadvantaged as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. LYC's success in continuing to deliver both musical training and pastoral support online throughout the crisis made it an attractive candidate for this Appeal. An ambitious target of £45,000 was set, with matching funds being provided by a new corporate donor and The Childhood Trust.

The response from both existing and new supporters was overwhelming. The £45,000 target was reached just 25 hours into the appeal week and the final total raised including Gift Aid was £54,500. All the funds raised contribute to LYC's Financial Assistance Fund, which enables participation by those whose families cannot afford membership fees.

£45,000
target reached
in just
25 hours!

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In February 2020, LYC was successful in receiving a grant of £3,500 from the **Mayflower 400 Fund**, in order to commission a historian, poet and composer to work with the SE Junior Choir to write a Mayflower Anthem. The original plan was that the Anthem would be performed at special events during celebrations in 2020 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Rotherhithe. Due to the pandemic, the project has been delayed and the first performance is currently scheduled for spring 2021.

£3,500
to support the
commission of
a brand new
piece

Support from individual donors continues to play a key role in LYC's fundraising success and at the heart of this is the **LYC 100 Circle**, a group of major donors who have committed to donate a minimum of £1,500 a year for 3 years. LYC also has a growing number of Friends donating annually at various levels from £50 to £1,000.

In May 2020, LYC successfully secured a second grant of €25,000 from **Benecare Foundation** in support of core activity. Increasing recognition from funders of the importance of core funding has been hugely beneficial during the pandemic and LYC sincerely thanks the Trustees for this significant grant.

**Continued support
from Benecare
Foundation**

During spring 2020, the opportunity to apply for special pandemic-related funds from public sector organisations and charitable trusts became available.

Having submitted a number of applications, LYC was successful in securing new funds from **Arts Council England** (£20,000) and **Schroder Charity Trust** (£5,000).

LYC continues to enjoy the support of London's Livery Companies and would like to thank members of the Worshipful Companies of Drapers, who administer the Sir William Boreman's Foundation, Basketmakers, Curriers, Musicians, Makers of Playing Cards and Tallow Chandlers for their vital funding.

Grateful thanks also go to the **Trustees of the Attwood Education Foundation, St James's Place Charitable Foundation, Sir Edward Lewis Foundation, Derrill Allatt Foundation** and **Morris Kahn Memorial Fund** for their ongoing support of LYC's work.

Finally, LYC pays tribute to long-standing members of the **Development Committee**; Leslie East (Chair), David Symondson, Andy Roberts and Richard Huntingford; and new members, Elizabeth Ross, Mary Quillen and Clément Daudy, all of whom play a key role in supporting LYC's fundraising efforts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

A new look, a new website and a new office

In summer 2019, LYC underwent a major rebrand, which included changing the charity's name from London Youth Choir to London Youth Choirs in order to reflect the increasing number of choirs and that, in future, there would be regional choirs, as well as those rehearsing in the City. For this, we turned to Brand Cooke, the award-winning design agency, which has provided in-kind sponsorship for the past 2 years by designing all concert programmes and other print. Brand Cooke also designed and co-ordinated the delivery of a new website.



In preparation for the new academic year, LYC also moved from its small office in Russell Square to share an office with another music charity Sound Connections in the Rich Mix (community arts centre) building in Shoreditch, East London. This move is providing considerable savings in rent and, being surrounded by other arts organisations, it is proving to be a better base.

Future Plans and development

Despite the challenges faced as a result of current circumstances, LYC has and continues to retain a significant proportion of its membership. The number of members across all choirs now sits at 240. Whilst this number has dropped from the 311 members at the start of the 2019/20 academic year, it is now growing as a result of a regular schedule of on-line auditions, previous members returning (having initially decided not to do choir online) together with the implementation of our second regional junior choir in Ealing. This choir will begin life on-line in February 2021 and will move to face to face rehearsals when it is safe to do so.



The pandemic has provided space and time to reflect on the infrastructure of our organisation. To this end, having invested in a new website and logo this year, we will be further prioritising marketing by way of recruiting a Marketing Consultant. At this time, visibility is of paramount importance, enabling us to continue to demonstrate the value of our organisation to those it serves.

LYC has had an impressive start to its fundraising and despite the uncertainty of the current year, our fundraising efforts have weathered the storm so far, but we all acknowledge that more support is required in this area. In the short-term, we will reconfigure the LYC team in order to put more support and energy into fundraising; this will include re-deploying one member of staff from operations to assist with essential fundraising efforts. However, to meet the aspirations of the rapidly growing LYC, we recognise the need to create a sustainable and secure fundraising programme and deliver a top-quality experience to our supporters.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The story of the last seven years has been one of growth. As a result, there is more pressure on the organisation to sustain higher levels of income to keep the core operation going. The key question for us next year, is what should the fundraising operation and team look like over the next five years as the organisation evolves from being a 'start-up' to an established regional arts organisation?

At this time, it is difficult to predict when LYC will be able to fully resume its regular face to face activity. Currently, we have provisional plans in place for a gradual coming together of our choirs (rehearsing in smaller groups) but alternating with on-line rehearsals, from March/April 2021.

As with many other performing groups, we have to plan for the worst and hope for the best. What we do know, however, is that choir (in whatever its form) will always be there for our members and that it's needed more now than ever before.

“ Thank you so much for managing to keep the children singing and not losing this sense of connection during this difficult time ”

“ It was so lovely to hear him singing away, his little brother joined in a bit too! Thank you so much for doing this. LYC continues to brighten up our week for all of us! ”

“ Thank you for all your incredible work to keep young people singing over the last 10 months and for maintaining your vision and commitment for a better future in the face of such huge challenges. Everyone will be in tears when choirs finally sing together again in person! ”

“ LYC, you are our anchor in these strange times. ”

Financial Review

The current level of funds held by the charity at the year end amounted to £155,397 (2019: £120,023) and included restricted funds of £360 (2019: £ 21,709). After deducting restricted funds and funds held as functional assets, the charity had free reserves of £139,827 (2019: £85,267).

Reserves policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy which, in the long term, aims to build reserves sufficient to cover at least two terms' expenditure amounting to £100,000. Unrestricted free reserves at the end of the year stood at £139,827.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

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

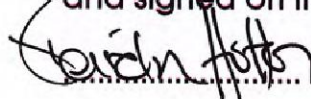
The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's governing document. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees of the London Youth Choirs on

21 May 2021

and signed on their behalf by:

 Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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

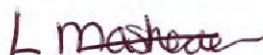
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Laura Masheder FCA, DChA
Garbutt & Elliott LLP
Chartered Accountants
33 Park Place
Leeds
LS1 3RY

Dated: 24 May 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Unrestricted £	2019 Restricted £	2019 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2	312,530	-	312,530	264,587	44,500	309,087
Charitable activities	3	57,067	-	57,067	70,284	1,200	71,484
Investments		185	-	185	133	-	133
		369,782	-	369,782	335,004	45,700	380,704
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	43,315	-	43,315	57,576	-	57,576
Charitable activities	5	269,744	21,349	291,093	227,615	58,963	286,578
		313,059	21,349	334,408	285,191	58,963	344,154
Net income		56,723	(21,349)	35,374	49,813	(13,263)	36,550
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	(8,452)	8,452	-
Net movement in funds		56,723	(21,349)	35,374	41,361	(4,811)	36,550
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		98,314	21,709	120,023	56,953	26,520	83,473
Total funds carried forward	13	155,037	360	155,397	98,314	21,709	120,023

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 21-29 comprise these parts of these financial statements.

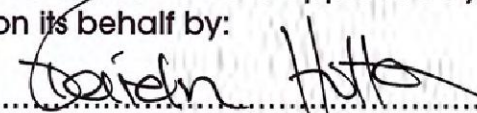


BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	9	12,921		12,050	-
Tangible Assets	10	2,289		997	
			15,210		13,047
Current assets					
Debtors	11	6,476		13,751	
Cash at bank and in hand		225,380		137,206	
		<u>231,856</u>		<u>150,957</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(91,669)</u>		<u>(43,981)</u>	
Net current assets			140,187		106,976
Total net assets			<u><u>155,397</u></u>		<u><u>120,023</u></u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	13		155,037		98,314
Restricted funds	13		360		21,709
Total funds			<u><u>155,397</u></u>		<u><u>120,023</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Board on 21 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Dame Deirdre Hutton
Chairman

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

London Youth Choirs meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Status

The London Youth Choirs is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into considerations the current economic climate and have, at the time of approving the financial statements, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

Donated facilities and services are recognised at the date that they are utilised and are measured at their estimated fair value.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Concert fees are recognised at the date of the event. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. The Trustees consider that there is only one activity, which is running the choirs. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs are those costs relating to functions which assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to its activities.
and creditors are measured at their settlement value

1.6 Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.7 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged as an expense to the SoFA in the period in which they fall due.

1.8 Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise of software and website development costs capitalised at cost and amortised over the estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- website costs – 25% straight line

1.9 Tangible assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives in annual instalments, with a full year's charge in the acquisition year and no charge in the year of disposal as follows:

- equipment – 20% straight line

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1.11 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.12 Taxation

The CIO is a registered charity and has no liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.13 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. The charity's short term debtors and creditors are measured at their settlement value.

2 Income from donations

	Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019
	£	£
Donations	211,101	204,287
Legacies	-	-
Donated facilities and services	25,424	27,729
Grants	76,005	77,071
	312,530	309,087

The comparative figure for 2019 includes £44,500 of restricted income.

Donated facilities and services relate to the provision of office space as well as marketing and professional services.

Grant income above includes £19,675 (2019 - nil) of government grants relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Charitable activities

Income	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Membership fees	33,901	44,544
Concert fees	23,166	26,940
	57,067	71,484

4 Raising funds

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Wages and salaries	10,313	10,049
Fundraising consultancy fees	31,300	42,970
Other costs	1,702	4,557
	43,315	57,576

5 Charitable activities

Expenditure	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Wages and salaries	129,882	113,610
Musical leader and pastoral support fees	56,211	60,968
Bursary awards	12,645	15,740
Venue hire	20,484	19,128
Music hire	5,770	5,649
Advertising and marketing	8,322	10,136
Bank charges	568	78
Depreciation	5,620	57
Subscriptions	1,244	1,822
Professional fees	-	-
Travel	4,832	7,827
Support costs (see note 6)	45,515	51,563
	291,093	286,578

The comparative figure for 2019 includes £58,963 of expenditure from restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Support costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Wages and salaries	16,022	16,083
Accounting and administration fees	12,560	15,577
Staff costs	901	1,746
Office costs	7,269	5,306
Printing, postage and stationery	1,923	2,495
Rent	4,800	8,216
Governance Costs:		
Independent examiners fees	2,040	2,140
	45,515	51,563

7 Staff costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Gross salaries	140,951	126,376
Employer's National Insurance	10,752	9,984
Employer's Pension Costs	4,514	3,381
	156,217	139,741

The average number of employees during the year, based on headcount, was 3 (2019: 3).

No member of staff earned over £60,000 in either year.

8 Related party transactions

The charity's key management personnel are the Trustees, Artistic Director and Executive Director. During 2020 £95,127 (2019: £92,023) was paid in employment benefits (including employer's National Insurance and pension contributions) and £44,970 (2019: £42,970) in consultancy fees to key management personnel.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year. No Trustees received reimbursement for expenses.

The husband of the Executive Director was contracted in the year to provide conductor services, including expenses, totaling £4,776 (2019: £6,849).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 Fixed Assets

Intangible Assets

	Website £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2019	12,050	12,050
Additions	6,050	6,050
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2020	18,100	18,100
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2019	-	-
Additions	5,179	5,179
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2020	5,179	5,179
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2020	12,921	12,921
At 31 August 2019	12,050	12,050

10 Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2019	997	997
Additions	1,790	1,790
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2020	2,787	2,787
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2019	57	57
Additions	441	441
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2020	498	498
Net Book Value		
At 31 August 2020	2,289	2,289
At 31 August 2019	997	997

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Debtors

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Trade Debtors	-	5,721
Prepayments and accrued income	3,618	2,569
Gift aid recoverable	2,858	5,461
	6,476	13,751

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Trade creditors	4,281	29,263
Other tax and social security	4,066	3,088
Accrued expenses	5,830	5,415
Deferred income	77,492	6,215
	91,669	43,981
Deferred income brought forward	6,215	16,575
Amounts released in the year	(6,215)	(16,575)
Income deferred in the year	77,492	6,215
Deferred income carried forward	77,492	6,215

Deferred income relates to pledges received in advance, which the donor has specified is to be used in future time periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

13 Movement in funds

Current year	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted fund	98,314	369,782	(313,059)	-	155,037
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	590	-	(230)	-	360
Chamber Choir	-	-	-	-	-
Widening Access	21,119	-	(21,119)	-	-
	21,709	-	(21,349)	-	360
Total Funds	120,023	369,782	(334,408)	-	155,397

Prior year	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted fund	56,954	335,003	(285,191)	(8,452)	98,314
Restricted funds:					
Cathedral Choirs	590	-	-	-	590
Chamber Choir	-	4,500	(12,952)	8,452	-
Widening Access	25,930	41,200	(46,011)	-	21,119
	26,520	45,700	(58,963)	8,452	21,709
	83,474	380,703	(344,154)	-	120,023

Purpose of funds:

The Widening Access Programme, which is an extension of the Aspire pilot project continued to work in its final year collaboratively with schools and music hubs to reach young people in London in areas of high deprivation who have little or no music provision.

The Cathedral Choirs project seeks to engage members with church music and facilitated visits and joint performances with church choirs during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Fixed assets	-	15,210	15,210
Current assets	360	231,496	231,856
Creditors due within one year	-	(91,669)	(91,669)
	360	155,037	155,397
Prior year	Restricted funds 2019 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Fixed assets		13,047	13,047
Current assets	21,709	129,248	150,957
Creditors due within one year	-	(43,981)	(43,981)
	21,709	98,314	120,023