

THE ENGLISH ARTS CHORALE ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1153599

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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THE ENGLISH ARTS CHORALE ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

for the year ended 31 August 2023

CHARITY TRUSTEES

Trustee name	Role
Vacancy	Chair
Rosemary Scott	Acting Secretary (position Vacant) & Trustee
Kate Cheema	Hon. Treasurer (Appt. 27/03/2023) & Trustee
Leslie Olive	Artistic Director & Trustee
Nigel Green	Trustee
Alison Martin	Trustee
Catherine Nasskau	Trustee
Dianne Mitchell	Trustee
Christine Arnold	Membership secretary & Trustee
Geoff Whiffin	Events treasurer & Trustee

Retirees

Christine Arnold	Membership Secretary & Trustee (re-elected 27/03/2023)
Nigel Green	Trustee (re-elected 27/03/2023)

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Charities Aid Foundation
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

60 Tanyard Way
Langshott
Horley
Surrey
RH6 9PG

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting by Charities'.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The English Arts Chorale Association (EACA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered on 30 August 2013. It was created as a result of a formal agreement between The Music Trust, a company registered by guarantee and a registered charity (No. 1071501) and The English Arts Chorale Members and Friends Association, a former registered charity, (No. 1076164) each of which dealt with different aspects of the operation of the English Arts Chorale.

The transfer of assets to the EACA from The Music Trust and The English Arts Chorale Members and Friends Association was effected on 31 August 2014. The year to 31 August 2023 was therefore the ninth year of operation for the EACA.

The EACA operates under a constitution dated 30 August 2013 which includes regulations for the appointment of trustees. This requires there to be at least 8 trustees and no more than 12 and that the trustees will include the Artistic Director. Two trustees are appointed each year by Leslie Olive, whilst he is the Artistic Director. One third of the trustees (excluding the Artistic Director and appointments made by him) will retire each year (and be eligible for re-election) and elections will be made by and out of the Association membership.

OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the EACA are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals. This is achieved through the activities of the English Arts Chorale, a voluntary choir. Great importance is placed on encouraging people of all ages to join, provided they are able to pass a simple audition. The activities of the EACA are structured to provide choral training to its members and for these members to demonstrate the skills learned through a series of public concerts and activities both for the community of Reigate and across the south-east of England. Membership subscriptions are reviewed annually and no-one is precluded from membership simply on the basis that they are unable to pay the annual subscription.

The aim and ethos of the English Arts Chorale is to share with everyone the profound human and spiritual experience of great choral music. In shaping the activities each year, the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. In setting the level of ticket prices for concerts, the trustees give careful consideration to accessibility for those on low incomes. Prices are kept as low as possible to maximise the number of members of the public that can afford to attend.

At certain events, non-members of the Chorale are invited to participate in both rehearsals and performances, so as to widen the experience, learning and enjoyment which come from understanding and singing great choral works.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

The EACA was delighted to hold a full season of events during 2022/2023, the Chorale's 43rd season. As part of the celebrations of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 150th birthday on the 12th October 2022, the Chorale gave two performances of his majestic first symphony, *A Sea Symphony*, in the spectacular venues of Dorking Halls, built to accommodate the Leith Hill Musical Festival with which Vaughan Williams' name will forever be associated, and St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The programme also included his second symphony, *A London Symphony*, or as Vaughan Williams put it "a symphony by a Londoner". Both concerts were well received.

Continuing the Chorale's long-standing practice of extending the opportunity to sing to other local singers we held two very successful open singing days, the first in November focussed on the majestic Verdi's *Requiem* and the second in February on the evergreen glory of Mozart's *Requiem*. Both days saw St Mary's Reigate completely packed and also served as useful opportunity for potential new members to discuss joining the Chorale with current membership. Our open rehearsals are also popular, and this year saw Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* as the focus for rehearsal at our usual venue at Wray Common Primary School.

In December, St Mary's rang to the seasonal gems in the Chorale's Christmas Sparkler concert; celebratory music for trumpet, soprano, orchestra, organ and choir including Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*, favourites from Handel's *Messiah* and a scrumptious setting of *In the Bleak Midwinter*, with guests including Christian Barraclough, trumpet, Jane Burnell, soprano, James Edgeler, tenor, and Ian le Grice, organ.

For the Chorale's spring concert in March the Chorale performed the well-known and much-loved Faure's *Requiem* alongside the, very contemporary, Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* a setting of the traditional church Mass in four movements. An emotional and dramatic piece, *Sunrise Mass* was brought to life by the fabulous English Arts Orchestra to accompany the blended sound of the Chorale.

Members of the EAC and other singers took part in a tour to Umbria in April. The hugely successful concerts showcased the Chorale's talent and ambition to an international audience, and a return visit has been planned for April 2024.

In our final concert of the season there was a distinct French theme at our Soirée Musicale, encompassing the famous *Requiem* by Duruflé and the transcendent *Gloria* by Poulenc. The choral works were accompanied by a delightful solo organ piece, the *Suite Carmelite* by Jean Francaix. After the concert, a French-themed supper was served by way of celebrating another successful and music-filled season of concerts, workshops and musical fellowship.

PLANS FOR FUTURE YEARS

The 2023/24 season, our 44th, comprises a programme of five events planned across the season, opening with "Into the Light" in October. The concert, in St Mary's Church, Reigate, represents a journey in music from dawn to dusk. In December, also in Reigate, we present A Christmas Sparkler, a selection of seasonal gems, accompanied by brass ensemble. A week later, in St Mary's Church, East Grinstead, we will be performing a programme of Christmas carols and readings.

In March 2024, on the eve of Palm Sunday, our Spring concert features Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross* and Cecilia McDowall's *Stabat Mater*, and our Summer concert in July is a pot pourri of Nature's Melodies, with Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and other cameos of the natural world, by Lauridsen, Stanford, Britten and Finzi.

For singers we will be holding three workshops, the first for upper voices in November, led by the renowned vocal coach Suzzie Vango. Two workshops for all voice parts, led by Leslie Olive, are planned for February 2024 on Haydn's *The Creation*, and in May on Haydn's *Harmonie-Messe*.

All singers will also be most welcome at our open rehearsals, one in September and one in January, when we will be rehearsing Brahms' *Requiem* (in German) and Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*, and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* respectively.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the start of the year, the total net asset position (after allowing for creditors, debtors and net current assets) was £28,056. At the end of the year, this figure had increased slightly to £28,687. This small increase of £631 was made up of a £3,077 surplus raised by donation, sponsorship, subscriptions and other fund-raising efforts, less administration and rehearsal costs, offset by a £2,445 deficit from the concert programme.

In light of increasing rehearsal costs in the form of venue hire, music hire and other expenses, the Trustees have reviewed the cost of subscriptions for members for the coming season (2023/24) and agreed a modest increase of 9% for all members, equating to a change from £264 per annum to £288 per annum or the majority of members. This is equivalent to a £2 per month increase.

With the 23/24 season forecast to break even, the Chorale is in a good position to embark on a more expansive programme of concerts and workshops for the following years, plans for which are now being formulated.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES

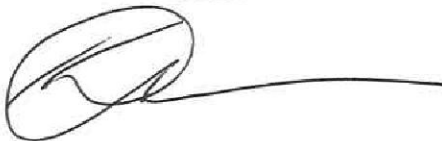
Legislation applicable to charities requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the financial activity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011. We are 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.

The accounts have been verified by an independent examiner.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'R' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon. Treasurer

Date: 25/3/24

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ENGLISH ARTS CHORALE ASSOCIATION, A CHARITABLE
INCORPORATED ORGANISATION**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met.



Date: 040324

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	2023	2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	Total All Funds £
Income				
Donations, legacies, grants & Gift Aid	12,550	5,736	-	5,736
Member subscriptions	15,018	14,445	-	14,445
Other membership income	972	18	-	18
Tour income	15,950			
Charitable Activities	22,781	10,385	-	10,385
Fund-raising Activities	1,003	359	-	359
Sundry income	135	2,326	-	2,326
Bank interest	243	14	-	14
Total income	68,652	33,283	-	33,283
Expenditure				
Donations to charity	-	-	-	-
Rehearsal costs	15,922	16,933	-	16,933
Other membership costs	3	30	-	30
Tour costs	15,950			
Concerts	33,964	26,214	-	26,214
Insurance & professional subscriptions	508	437	-	437
Sundry expenses	1,673	1,364	-	1,364
Total expenditure	68,020	44,978	-	44,978
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	631 -	11,695	- -	11,695
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	28,056	33,403	8,642	42,045
Transferred to P&L		-	2,294 -	2,294
Transferred to Unrestricted Funds		6,348 -	6,348	-
Total funds carried forward	28,687	28,056	-	28,056

There are no other recognised gains or losses.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets:			
Stock	3	218	305
Debtors	4	3,456	9,310
Cash at bank and in hand		28,078	26,661
Total Current Assets		31,752	36,276
Current Liabilities:			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	5	3,064	8,220
Total Liabilities		3,064	8,220
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		28,687	28,056
Funds:			
Unrestricted Funds	6	28,687	28,056
Total Funds as at 31 August 2023		28,687	28,056

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and were signed on their behalf by Rosemary Scott.



Secretary to the Trustees

Date: 15th November 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information

The EACA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is disclosed in the company information.

The principal activity of the charity is to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of music in all its aspects.

The company meets the definition of a public benefit entity in accordance with FRS 102. The financial statements are presented in Sterling and this is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These accounts have been prepared under the Historic Cost convention and on the accruals basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014.

These accounts have been prepared on a going-concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Association will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Turnover

Turnover comprises income from the following revenue streams: membership subscriptions, ticket sales and sponsorship of concerts, donations and legacies including gift aid and other income, all excluding value added tax.

HMRC's rules on claiming Gift Aid on members' subscriptions require us to estimate the value of any personal benefits that members receive in return for their subscription. We are not able to claim Gift Aid on this value. The trustees estimate the current value of tuition benefits received to be £24 per member per year.

Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in the furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are funds which must be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed.

Stock

Stock consists of CDs, Christmas cards and refreshments which are held for resale. Items have been valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term instruments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction values and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pounds sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation are included in the Income and Expenditure Account for the period.

2. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS AND CONNECTED PERSONS

The Trustees are required to confirm whether any member of the committee, or any person connected with them, received or is due to receive any remuneration for the year, directly or indirectly from the Charity's funds.

Leslie Olive received £11,173.34 (2022: £11,568) in professional fees and expenses during the year for rehearsals, concerts, singing days and other work for the choir throughout the year. This remuneration has been made in respect of his responsibilities as Artistic Director and as a professional musician serving the objects of the Association and not in view of his position as a trustee. This is in line with the requirements of the constitution. These payments are included in the financial statements.

3. STOCK

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
CDs	146	246
Other stocks	72	59
	<u>218</u>	<u>305</u>

4. DEBTORS

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Gift aid receivable	3,276	2,897
Other prepaid expenses, deposits, accrued revenue	180	6,413
	<u>3,456</u>	<u>9,310</u>

Financial assets carrying amounts included in the above are £3,456 (2021: £9,310). There were no impairment provisions at the year end (2022: £nil).