

WALTHAM SINGERS – Charity number 1153650

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Administrative details

Waltham Singers is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with charity registration number 1153650. The principal address of the charity is currently 69 Maltese Rd. Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2PB.

During the year to 31 March 2024, and up to the date that this report was approved, the trustees of Waltham Singers were Christine Eason, Geoff Jenkinson, Jane Jenkinson, Kate Hanson, Sarah Moran, Sabine Nussey, Jill Readings, Stephen Readings, Emma Russell and Mike Wall.

We pay for the professional services of our Musical Director, Andrew Fardell, and our Deputy Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, Jonathan Lilley.

Waltham Singers is affiliated to Making Music.

Governance

Waltham Singers is governed by a constitution last amended on 24 October 2013.

Trustees are elected from the membership at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees serve until the following Annual General Meeting when they retire and are eligible for re-election. The current trustees were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 29th June 2023.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission when exercising their powers or duties.

Objectives

To promote, improve, develop and maintain high standards of music, particularly singing, through the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other means as the trustees determine from time to time.

Activities

We maintained our normal cycle of three full concerts per year but with an extra Carol Concert in December 2024 in support of Chelmsford City MENCAP. We have recruited a number of new singers during the year, but inevitably we have lost some others, so overall numbers are still down compared to the pre Covid period.

In June 2023 we presented our 50th Anniversary Concert in Great Waltham Church, Chelmsford. This presented a programme of works that Waltham Singers have been involved with commissioning over the fifty years that it has been operating. The main feature was a World Premiere of 'Endless Song' by local composer Alan Bullard. We also reprised 'So Strong is His Love' by Roxanna Panufnik and 'The Pandora Sketches' by Jeffery Wilson.

The accompaniment was by the renowned Maggini String Quartet, with double bass player John Tattersdill, and it featured Kayleigh McEvoy as soprano soloist. This was a very lively concert which was appreciated by a large audience and several dignitaries including the composers, Alan Bullard and Jeffery Wilson, and the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. Roxanna Panufnik presented her apologies as she was prevented from travelling by ill health.

Former members of the choir and past accompanists were specially invited, with a special welcome for the founding Musical Director, Peter Cross, who is still very much part of the Chelmsford music scene.

Another anniversary was that our current musical director, Andrew Fardell, had at that concert completed forty years with the choir. The choir marked this milestone with a small presentation to Andrew after the event.

In November 2023 we performed Haydn's 'Creation' in Chelmsford Cathedral with The Salomon Orchestra, a thirty-eight-piece orchestra who specialise in Haydn, and professional singers were Soprano, Jessica Edom-Carey, Tenor, Henry Ross and Bass, Daniel Vening. Jonathan Lilley played the organ.

In December 2023 we provided the choir for the Chelmsford MENCAP carol concert at Chelmsford Cathedral and performed a number of choir carols as well as supporting the congregational carols. It was a pleasure for us to support this local charity again, at its first carol concert after COVID, and help it raise money for its ongoing work.

In March 2024 we presented 'Harmonie Française' in Great Waltham Church, Chelmsford, which was a programme of work by French Twentieth century composers including Poulenc's 'Stabat Mater' and Langlais's 'Petit Messe Solonelle', with accompaniment on the organ by Jonathan Lilley and Soprano soloist, Sian Sulke. This concert continued Waltham Singers' long established tradition of presenting more challenging and maybe less well-known works. The concert was a success, and audience feedback was very favourable, but the audience and choir were of a reduced size compared to previous concerts.

A significant number of choir members were unable to take part because of health issues or family commitments, which was a shame, but it is hoped they will be back for the Summer 2024 concert.

Financial summary

- This has been another difficult year financially as the number of members remains around 70 compared with 90 before Covid.
- We also commissioned and paid for a major new work from composer Alan Bullard for our 50th anniversary concert in June 2023. The commission fee was £10,000.
- We stepped up our fund-raising activities to meet this challenge with a direct appeal to our members and our Friends of Waltham Singers for funds, a Quiz Night, which was well supported and a Raffle, licensed so that members can sell tickets to friends outside the choir. This latter raised £2,364.
- Total choir funds at 1st April 2023 £8,370
- Total choir funds at 31st March 2024 £9,136
- We have received Gift Aid repayments from HMRC for 2022/2023 of £2,466.

Future activities

- We will be performing 'Palgrave's Poets' in June 2024. This concert will feature works related to poets whose work can be found in Palgrave's 'Golden Treasury of Verse', to mark the 200th anniversary of Palgrave's birth. We are delighted that we will be joined by the well-known actor, Robert Bathurst, to read some of the poems to accompany the music.
- We will be performing Beethoven's C Minor Mass in Chelmsford Cathedral in November 2024
- We are continuing a recruitment campaign, largely by social media and word of mouth, to encourage new members to join us in September.

Steve Readings (Chair, Waltham Singers)
19 April 2024

	<u>WALTHAM SINGERS</u>			
	<u>Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered in England and Wales</u>			
	<u>RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</u>			
	<u>FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024</u>			
Last year				
	Receipts			
9,229	Concerts	11,252.68	note 1	
1,604	Other Events & Fundraising	3,959.90	note 2	
10,505	Subscriptions	11,150.00		
455	Member Donations	700.00		
2,082	Gift Aid	2,465.57		
144	50:50 Club	240.00		
1,355	Friends	1,275.00		
74	Music Lending	110.05		
0	Programme advertising	75.00		
2,299	Other Receipts	430.00	note 3	
5	Interest Received	0.00		
27,752	Total - General account	31,658.20		
	Payments			
14,126	Concerts	13,845.33	note 1	
319	Other Events	652.80	note 2	
7,490	Musical Director	7,760.00		
2,074	Accompanists	2,392.00		
500	Rehearsal Facility	880.00		
7,500	Music Library	2,599.23		
646	Making Music (NFMS)	583.60		
0	Publicity	0.00		
0	Administration	0.00		
179	Other Payments	544.56	note 4	
635	Payments for last year	1,634.00	note 5	
411	Payments for next year	0.00		
33,880	Total - General account	30,891.52		
-6,128	Surplus/ deficit for this period	766.68		
14,497	Opening bank balances	8,369.10		
8,369	Closing bank balances	9,135.78		
	<u>CASH FUNDS BREAKDOWN</u>			
	Deposit Accounts	75.00		
	Current Account	9,060.78		
	Total	9,135.78		
	Accounts prepared by M J Wall			
	<u>Treasurer</u>			

WALTHAM SINGERS				
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT				
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024				
Note 1 - Concerts		June	December	March
		Gt Waltham	Cathedral	Gt Waltham
	<u>Total</u>	<u>endless song</u>	<u>creation</u>	<u>tba</u>
Ticket Sales	10,338.00	2,819.00	5,110.00	2,409.00
Programme Sales	682.75	260.05	260.00	162.70
Music Sold to Members	231.93			231.93
Sponsorship	0.00			
Total Receipts	11,252.68	3,079.05	5,370.00	2,803.63
Orchestra / Accompanist	7900.00	2600.00	5300.00	
Workshop fees	0.00			
Soloists	2250.00	500.00	1200.00	550.00
Venue Fees/staging/chair hire	1620.25	420.00	1038.25	162.00
Ticket/Prog/Posters Printing	108.00	65.00	43.00	
Instrument Hire	1015.00		400.00	615.00
Music Bought	303.12			303.12
Music Hire	529.96		250.46	279.50
Flowers/Food/Sundries/PRS	119.00	45.00	74.00	
	0.00			
Total Payments	13,845.33	3,630.00	8,305.71	1,909.62
Surplus / Deficit	-2592.65	-550.95	-2935.71	894.01
Note 2 - Other events& fund raising				
	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Surplus</u>	
Quiz night	996.00	269.23	726.77	
Raffle	2,415.00	51.00	2,364.00	
Rehearsl coffees	293.90		293.90	
Summer Concert Social	255.00	332.57	-77.57	
Total	3,959.90	652.80	3,307.10	

WALTHAM SINGERS					
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT					
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024					
Note 3 - Other Receipts					
Folder duncan			5.00		
late Endless Song Fund		352	20.00		
late Endless Song Fund		353	100.00		
late Endless Song Fund		354	100.00		
scarves		355 & 359	15.00		
folders			35.00		
KF prints			60.00		
KF print Nussey			25.00		
KF print Hanson			20.00		
scarf+ 2 more + 1 more		366+ direct	40.00		
2 folders		367	10.00		
			430.00		
Note 4 - Other Payments					
Extra Staging for GW Church		749	166.34		
AGM costs		766	72.37		
AF 40 years presentation		770	263.00		
open rehearsall costs		770	34.86		
material for archive		799	7.99		
Total			544.56		
Note 5 - Payments for last year					
New Hall School - printing music/posters/tickets		741	42.00		
St Cedd's hall hire		742	300.00		
Chair hire (March concert)		743	180.00		
gt Waltham church		762	590.00		
Empire pianos		771	522.00		
Total			1634.00		
Note 6 - Payments for next year					
music hire for summer concert					
ACCOUNTING POLICIES					
Income is dealt with on a cash received basis and no provision has been made for income due but not received at the accounting year end.					
Receipts have been shown gross with related expenses from fundraising events shown separately. Costs are recognised as they are paid and no provision has been made for any expenses incurred during the year but not settled until after 31st March 2024					
Fixed assets acquired during the year have been written off in the receipts and payments account.					

WALTHAM SINGERS

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "Waltham Singers" Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2024

which are set out on pages 1, 2 and 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The CIO's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The CIO's 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.

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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CIO 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:


(1) 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, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Name: Roger Bearman

Address:

WOODSTOCK CHURCH LANE FORD END
CHELMSTFORD CM3 1HT.

Date:

8/05/2024