

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 1156769

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-04-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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19 Percy Circus
London
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Website www.thefourthchoir.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:(1) THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART OF CHORAL MUSIC THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS, PUBLIC RECITALS AND OTHER SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DECIDE; AND(2) TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(I) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY;(II) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS;(III) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN PARTICULAR THROUGH CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY.

Activities: The Fourth Choir is an LGBTQ choir that aims to educate the public in the art of choral music by performing and recording a wide range of choral music with specific reference to the promotion of equality and diversity, with particular relevance to the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (?LGBT?) community.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£41,234	£44,293	-	-
2024-08-31	£41,226	£35,847	-	-
2023-08-31	£64,467	£87,007	-	-
2022-08-31	£22,000	£38,215	-	-
2021-08-31	£31,433	£15,985	-	-
2020-08-31	£37,369	£37,998	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Edward Andrew Gilmore Long	Chair	2016-02-08
Alexander Graham Edward Luck		2024-03-13
Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann		2021-12-13
JAMES DANIEL MCGRENERA BA HONS		2014-03-11
Katherine Mary Cullinan		2026-01-14

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

Accounts

The Fourth Choir: Trustees' Annual Report

For the Period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

Chair's Report

This report covers our thirteenth year as The Fourth Choir (Registered Charity Number: 1156769) and our twelfth full reporting period as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Following our milestone tenth anniversary season, 2024–25 has been a year of continued artistic growth and increased international reach under the musical leadership of Jamie Powe.

We began the season with a notable milestone achievement: our debut performance at the BBC Proms in September 2024. As one of six choirs forming a "super choir" for Handel's *Messiah*, this performance—broadcast live on BBC Radio 3—was a significant moment in our mission to bring visibility to LGBTQ+ voices at the heart of the UK's classical music establishment.

Having completed the recording of our debut full-length album, *Songs of Ourselves*, a core strategic goal for this year was to secure the album's long-term legacy and we were delighted to successfully sign a distribution deal with Orchid Classics during this period. This partnership with a widely respected specialist label unlocks global professional distribution and marketing, supporting our mission to educate the public through the promotion of diverse choral works.

Another significant highlight of our artistic output was our staging of a musically-integrated version of James Joyce's short story *The Dead* at Wilton's Music Hall: the world's oldest functioning music hall. Blending literature, folk tradition, and classical music, and starring legendary actor Niamh Cusack, this performance continued to push the boundaries of our artistic outputs, brought significant new audiences to our work in two sold out nights and received critical acclaim in a review in The Guardian Newspaper.

Rounding out the season, we were thrilled to perform our first full booking at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, having taken part in a choir festival at the venue during Euro Pride in 2016. Coinciding with Amsterdam Pride weekend, we performed our *My Beloved Man* programme – conducted for the first time by Jamie Powe – earning a five-star review in the Netherlands' *Trouw* newspaper.

Having completed mastering, we look forward to the release of *Songs of Ourselves*, in September 2025 with a launch event at London's iconic and historical LGBTQ+ venue the Royal Vauxhall Tavern.

Edward Long

Chair, The Fourth Choir

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) remain:

1. **Education:** To educate the public in the art of choral music through concerts, recitals, and other decided means.
2. **Equality and Diversity:** To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit, with particular reference to the LGBTQ+ community, through raising awareness and fostering understanding between diverse backgrounds.

Our Values

The choir's activities are guided by five core values:

- **Pride:** Celebrating our identity as LGBTQ+ singers and allies.
- **Excellence:** A passion for musical skill and artistic achievement.
- **Inclusion:** Nurturing a diverse and celebratory space.
- **Ambition:** Being creative, collaborative, and forward-thinking.
- **Community:** Maintaining a supportive and "big-hearted" environment.

Achievements and Performance 2024–2025

Key milestones for this reporting period include:

- **BBC Proms Debut:** Participation in a nationally broadcast performance at the Royal Albert Hall.
- **Orchid Classics Partnership:** Signing a professional distribution deal for our debut album.
- **International Debut:** Our first overseas tour with Jamie Powe, performing at the **Amsterdam Concertgebouw**.
- **Artistic Innovation:** Staging a major collaborative performance at **Wilton's Music Hall**.
- **Community Impact:** Raising significant funds for **Say It Loud Club** and **Rainbow Railroad** through retiring collections and festival participation.

Performance Review: The 2024–25 Season

BBC Proms (September 2024), Royal Albert Hall

The Fourth Choir joined forces with no fewer than five other choirs to create a giant "massed choir" to give the Messiah choruses their full dramatic potential – and were even joined by members of the audience for the iconic Hallelujah chorus.

The Messiah, in Mozart's orchestration, was conducted by John Butt and played by the Academy of St Martin's in the Fields. Other choirs performing in the work were the Philharmonia Chorus, the J Max Ferdinand Singers – who also performed in their own prom earlier in the day – London Youth Chamber Choir, the Bath Minerva Choir and Voices of the Rivers Edge.

Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst: The Call (October 2024–February 2025), Serpentine Gallery

The Fourth Choir were one of 15 choirs from around the UK participating in an exploration of AI technology and choral music by artists Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst. Having recorded a choral dataset earlier in the year, the choir's voices formed part of a generative output created by the artists in partnership with a group of technologists. The work was nominated for a STARTS (Science, Technology and the Arts) prize from the European Commission.

Music for a Winter's Night (December 2024), St Clement Danes Church

In our annual Winter concert, we performed a beautiful, varied programme of Christmas music featuring works by Joanna Marsh, Bob Chilcott and Reena Esmail, a gorgeous Ave Maria by Tudor composer Robert Parsons, and the atmospheric, 8-part 'First Snow' by Danish composer Bo Holten.

We were joined by Alicia Bruce-Doig, a representative of the Cambridgeshire-based LGBTQ+ charity The Kite Trust and took a retiring collection to support their work with young people.

James Joyce's *The Dead* (January 2025), Wilton's Music Hall

This choral-drama, adapted and directed by Séamus Rea, the Choir's Creative Producer, explored how unaccompanied singing adds layers of emotion to a powerful story and was narrated by the distinguished Irish actress, Niamh Cusack. The music included Irish folk songs, an exquisite Tudor Ave Maria, and showcased works by contemporary Irish composers, Áine Mallon and Rhona Clarke, as well as a new arrangement by our MD, Jamie Powe, of *Bid Adieu*, the only known song for which Joyce wrote both the words and the melody. It also featured atmospheric Christmastide music by Joanna Marsh, Sarah MacDonald and Bo Holten.

As well as selling out both nights, the performance received effusive reviews from the arts press:

“The exceptionally polished LGBTQ+ chamber choir teamed with Niamh Cusack for a beautifully paced production of Joyce’s short story.” – Flora Willson, The Guardian

“The performers created a highly effective synthesis, Niamh Cusack was a wonderfully engaging yet also a highly sympathetic performer, you never felt that the choral items were interrupting her, but were a natural part of the flow. The choir sang admirably and effectively, making us think about the music and its role in the drama rather than worrying about details of the performance.” – Robert Hugill, Planet Hugill

A Requiem for Those Who Had None (March 2025), Farm St Church

Held in Farm St Church – the home of LGBT+ Catholics Westminster – this concert commemorated the thousands of LGBTQ+ people sentenced to death in Europe during the 14th to 19th centuries. The programme featured Herbert Howells' *Requiem* and extracts of Alonso Lobo's *Lamentations of Jeremiah* as well as contemporary works celebrating love including *I Gaze Upon You* by Gabriel Jackson, Jake Runestad's *Let My Love Be Heard*, Michael Bussewitz-Quarm's *Nigra Sum* and a setting of texts by the poet Sappho by the choir's Musical Director Jamie Powe.

The concert and partnership with LGBT+ Catholics Westminster received press coverage, including mentions in Gramophone Magazine, The Tablet and Independent Catholic News.

Queer Cosmos (June 2025), Wigmore Hall

The choir celebrated Pride in London in this concert with works spanning nine centuries of human experience in collaboration with celebrated musician and author CN Lester and Classical Pride.

Kicking off the concert with a mystical work by American contemporary composer Meredith Monk, featuring a solo by CN, the concert also featured works by Dominique Phinot, who was executed for his sexuality in the 16th century, contemporary gems by Michael Genese, Mary Offer, Caroline Shaw and Kerry Andrew and the world première of *Though You Have Left Me*: a heartbreaking recently rediscovered poem by Siegfried Sassoon set to music by the choir's own Kit Grahame.

Amsterdam Tour (August 2025)

The choir was thrilled to be making its debut at the world-famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in its first overseas tour since COVID, and first with Musical Director Jamie Powe. The concert, entitled *My Beloved Man*, told the story of the 39-year relationship between Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears using extracts from their letters to each other, in a script collated by Séamus Rea. The letters were read by Classic FM presenter Zeb Soanes, and Ab Nieuwdorp, presenter on Dutch radio station NPO Klassiek.

The concert fell on the day of the Amsterdam Pride parade and was a celebration of the love of Britten and Pears with music by Britten himself as well as their friends, contemporaries and historical composers whose music influenced Britten..

The performance received a five-star review in *Trouw*:

“A stunning tribute to Britten and Pears. The quality of this non-professional choir is outstanding.” – Peter van der Lint, *Trouw*

Public Benefit & Impact

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

- **Education:** By performing rare works including many by Renaissance women (e.g., Raffaella Aleotti) and contemporary queer composers (e.g. Michael Bussewitz-Quarm, Kerry Andrew), we have brought dozens of rarely performed choral works to audiences in new contexts and formats.
- **Diversity:** Our partnership with The Kite Trust at our winter concert provided a platform for service providers working with LGBTQ+ youth to share their stories, directly advancing our aim to "cultivate a sentiment in favour of equality".
- **Accessibility:** We continue to use varied venues—from historic churches to modern concert halls—to ensure choral music is accessible to different communities. We continue to operate policies for financial accessibility for our members and audiences, providing travel bursaries to allow lower-income members to participate in our tour and offering discounted and free tiers of tickets for some of our concerts to allow audiences access to music who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

Structure, Governance, and Management

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a CIO on 22 April 2014.

- **Trustee Recruitment:** We have explored widening our Trustee group to include non-singers to enhance our governance and professional skills.
- **Reserves Policy:** The Board maintains a target reserve of £7,000 to ensure financial stability and mitigate against unexpected operational costs.
- **Financial Health:** The Choir remains in a stable financial position, supported by a mix of ticket sales, member subscriptions, and successful fundraising for the *Songs of Ourselves* project.
- **Charity’s Principal Address:** The Fourth Choir, Flat 5, 19 Percy Circus, London WC1X 9EE.
- **Names and Roles of Trustees:**
 - Dr Edward Andrew Gilmore Long – Chair
 - Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann - Treasurer
 - Alexander Graham Edward Luck – Trustee
 - James Daniel McGrenera - Trustee

Future Plans (2025–2026)

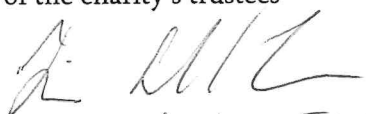
Looking ahead, the Trustees aim to:

- Formally launch and promote the *Songs of Ourselves* album via Orchid Classics and reach a wider audience through album sales and radio play.
- Expand our digital presence to reach a global audience.
- Pursue collaborations with professional orchestras and LGBTQ+ advocacy groups.
- Explore diversification of our funding sources to continue to grow the ambition of our artistic and educational outputs.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature (s) 
Full name (s) *Finn Schulze-Feldmann*
Position (eg chair) *Treasurer*
Date *4/6/26*



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
The Fourth Choir

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1156567

Set out on pages

1-2 below

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/08/2025**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

F J Wilde

Date: 11th June 2026

Name:

F J Wilde

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA, MBA (OPEN), DChA

Address:

4 Marigold Drive

Bisley

Surrey

GU24 9SF



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Fourth Choir

1156567

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/2024

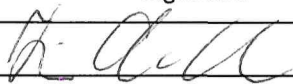
To

31/08/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Special Events	3,500	-	-	3,500	4,758
Other Sales	19	-	-	19	12,861
Concert Sales	11,110	-	-	11,110	23,607
Concert Sales - Tickets	8,925	-	-	8,925	
Donations	1,484	-	-	1,484	
Donations (members)	12,355	-	-	12,355	-
Misc Prior Year Difference	72			72	
Gift Aid	3,769	-	-	3,769	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	41,234	-	-	41,234	41,226
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	41,234	-	-	41,234	41,226
A3 Payments					
Concert Costs	9,176	-	-	9,176	-
Product Costs	56			56	563
Development Costs	31,310			31,310	11,917
Travelling & Entertainment	1,470			1,470	
Professional Fees	750			750	15,749
Bank Charges	320			320	499
General Expenses : Subscriptions	874			874	1,004
General Expenses : Insurance	337			337	543
Advertising and Marketing Costs				-	50
Equipment Hire and Purchase				-	544
Performers				-	4,180
Catering				-	510
Travel Costs				-	288
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	44,293	-	-	44,293	35,847
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	44,293	-	-	44,293	35,847
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,059	-	-	- 3,059	5,379
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,793	-	-	10,793	5,414
Cash funds this year end	7,734	-	-	7,734	10,793

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Bank Balance	6,299	-	-
	Outsavy control account	108		
	Stripe control account	29		
	GoCardless	330		
	Box Office Cash	38	-	-
	Paypal	929	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,734	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Finn Schulze - Feldmann	10/6/26

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

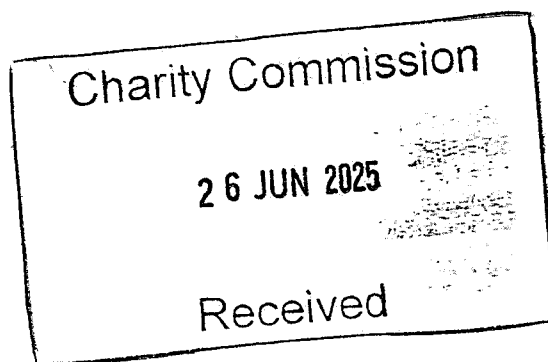
Accounts

The Fourth Choir

**Trustees Annual Report
and Accounts**

For The Year Ended 31 August 2024

Charity Number 1156769



The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024

Chair's Report

This report covers our twelfth year as a choir and our eleventh full reporting period as a charity.

After a period of working with a range of guest conductors, and following a long and competitive interview process, the Trustees were enormously pleased to embark on our second chapter with a permanent Musical Director after appointing Jamie Powe earlier in the year.

Jamie's tenure began in September 2023 where he programmed and conducted a concert to mark the choir's 10-year anniversary. The concert, *Shoulder to Shoulder*, celebrated the life and works of radical bisexual composer and suffragist Dame Ethel Smyth, who wrote the official anthem of the women's suffrage movement. To mark the momentous occasion of the choir's first decade in making music, the Trustees made the decision to commission two new choral works from leading contemporary composers. The songs, "Wild Nights – Wild Nights!" by Kerry Andrew and "Ethel Smyth on Freedom" by CN Lewis received their world premieres at the anniversary concert which took place at Milton Court Concert Hall in the Barbican. The concert featured readings from Ethel's life, read by noted actors Juliet Stevenson and Charlie Josephine.

The celebrations to mark our tenth anniversary season continued with a recording of our first full length album in Spring 2024. To realise this aspiration, the choir launched our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, seeking to raise £10,000 to cover the costs of the recording, editing and distribution. Launching the fundraiser at our anniversary concert, we raised funds online, through community events such as bake sales and via two album preview concerts, reaching our fundraising target in March 2024. We were delighted to work with highly sought after sound engineer Tom Mungall and producer Jacob Ewens for the recording, which focused almost exclusively on unrecorded works and featured a high proportion of composers from LGBTQ+ and other underrepresented backgrounds.

Another highlight of the season was the opportunity of bringing to London our concert, *My Beloved Man*, celebrating the 39-year relationship of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, after its enormously successful debut in Aldeburgh the previous year. We staged the performance once again at Milton Cour , in association with the Classical Pride festival and were thrilled to have the Britten-Pears letters read by Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawny and celebrated actor Samuel Barnett (*Dirk Gently, The History Boys*).

We were very pleased to grow our Trustee group by appointing Alex Luck in March 2024, who took on responsibilities managing the choir's Membership and auditions process and would like to extend our thanks to him for significantly improving our systems and processes in that area since he joined.

Based on the choir's performances during this season, the Trustees were delighted to receive an invitation to participate for the first time in the BBC Proms. The choir was one of six choirs from diverse backgrounds who joined forces to form a "super choir", for Handel's *Messiah*. Rehearsals began in August 2024 and the concert, which like all Proms was broadcast live on Radio 3, took place on September 7th. We also look forward to the release of our debut album once editing and mastering is complete.

Edward Long
Chair, The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Continued)

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBTQ+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.

Values

The choir continues to be led by our agreed core values in planning and managing our activities, namely:

- We are proud to be a choir of LGBTQ+ singers and allies
- We are passionate about musical excellence, about improving our skills and having fun
- We nurture an inclusive space and celebrate diversity
- We are creative, collaborative and ambitious
- We are a supportive, big-hearted and welcoming community

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our twelfth year. These achievements include:

- Beginning our first season with our newly appointed Musical Director, Jamie Powe
- Commissioning two new choral works by leading queer composers
- Successfully fundraising £10,000 to support our album recording
- Recording our first full length album
- Premiering our *My Beloved Man* concert at the Barbican Arts Centre
- Receiving our first invitation to take part in a performance at the BBC Proms

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

Tuning workshop - September 2023

To set our singers up with a foundation for our tenth anniversary concert and album recording, we began our Autumn Term with a workshop on tuning, run by tenor, conductor and producer Jacob Ewens (BBC Singers, Tenebrae, Voces8 & The Monteverdi Choir). The workshop gave singers a deeper insight into approaches to tuning intervals for different musical styles and improving accuracy in intonation.

Shoulder to Shoulder - November 2023

For our 10th anniversary concert The Fourth Choir celebrated the Life, Loves and Legacy of Dame Ethel Smyth at Milton Court Concert Hall in the Barbican.

Dame Ethel Smyth – suffragette, passionate bisexual and the first female composer to be made a Dame of the British Empire – provided the inspiration for a journey through a thousand years of choral masterpieces.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Continued)

We performed music from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the 19th century and the present day, including the two works specially commissioned for this concert: a setting of poetry by Emily Dickinson by composer Kerry Andrew, and a collaboration that paired words by actor and poet Ashleigh Wilder with music by singer-songwriter and activist CN Lester.

Conducted by Jamie Powe, the concert was narrated by leading actors Juliet Stevenson (Truly, Madly, Deeply; Wolf) and Charlie Josephine (I, Joan; Cowboys).

"The choir is incredible, world class. But also that it is rooted in the identity it has and commissions from that place is so inspiring. For me it was one of those quite rare magical evenings, where you realise that you are at something really remarkable"— Juliet Stevenson

Dulwich Picture Gallery Christmas Concert - December 2023

At the start of December, we were invited to sing a Christmas concert for the Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery. The concert included a mix of traditional congregational carols and choral works with intricate harmonies, and were interspersed with seasonal readings by staff from the Gallery.

Music for a Winter's Night - December 2023

We returned to the beautiful church of St Clement Danes in the Strand, our regular winter venue for some years now. We were delighted that our audience numbers had returned to pre-pandemic size and, for the first time since Lockdown, our Winter Concert was sold out, with a waiting list for returns.

The choir sang a wide range of Christmas music that can be enjoyed by people of every religion and none, including pieces by some of our favourite composers such as Cecilia McDowall, Nathaniel Dett and Richard Rodney Bennett. Well-known works, such as In the Stillness by Sally Beamish and an exquisite choral arrangement of Away in a Manger, were contrasted with Renaissance rarities by the Portuguese Vicente Lusitano, believed to be the first published black composer, and the Italian nun, Isabella Leonarda, who, despite living in a convent from the age of 16 until her death at the age of 83, was one of the most prolific women composers of her time.

An address was given by Thelma Ndaula, Operations Manager of the charity Say It Loud Club which provides social, emotional, educational and advocacy support for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

A Christmas Gaiety - December 2023

The Choir was invited for a second time to the Albert Hall to take part in their camp Christmas extravaganza: A Christmas Gaiety. As well as singing our own number, the choir also sang backing vocals for drag legend, Le Gateau Chocolat, in a powerful and moving version of Nothing Compares 2 U, a tribute to the late Sinéad O'Connor, which brought the audience to its feet for a sustained ovation. Organist Anna Lapwood put the Albert Hall organ through its considerable paces, Sandi Tokvig brought effortless star power and the BBC Concert Orchestra (almost) camped everyone else off the stage.

Choral Workshop - February 2024

Continuing to invest in the musical development of the choir, we ran a choral workshop in March with singer and conductor Eamonn Dougan (The Sixteen, Tenebrae, NYCGB & Britten Sinfonia Voices). The workshop was transformational for many of our singers in developing a richer and freer tone, particularly with the early music works the choir was preparing for our album recording.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Continued)

Album Recording - March 2024

Launched to celebrate the choir's tenth anniversary, and made possible through the generous donations of our members and supporters, our debut album showcases works by underrepresented composers from throughout history, most of which have not been previously recorded.

Featured composers include the renaissance writers Raffaella Aleotti, Caterina Assandra and Vicente Lusitano as well as contemporary composers Derri Joseph Lewis, Cooper Baldwin, Marie-Claire Saindon, Jessica Curry and Shruthi Rajasekar.

The album also includes two pieces commissioned by the choir from Kerry Andrew and Stuart Beatch.

Jamie and the choir recorded the album over three weekend days at the stunning St Jude-on-the-Hill church supported by a professional production team of Jacob Ewens and Tom Mungall.

Songs of Ourselves - March/April 2024

We were also pleased to share a preview of the music featured on the album with our supporters in two preview concerts at the sparkling Fitzrovia Chapel and St Gabriel's Church in Pimlico. The Fitzrovia concert was sold out and we were delighted to close the final stretch of our fundraising goal through ticket sales and voluntary donations from concertgoers.

My Beloved Man - July 2024

In July we returned to the Barbican for the second outing of conductor and producer Oliver Zeffman's Classical Pride festival.

This year the festival was expanded to a full week and we were delighted to be invited to perform the London premiere of our My Beloved Man concert at Milton Court.

In the concert the letters of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears were read by actor Samuel Barnett and presenter Petroc Trelawney.

"At the Barbican, as part of its five-day Classical Pride festival I heard the excellent Fourth Choir perform music across the centuries in My Beloved Man" — Fiona Maddocks in The Observer

Classical Pride - July 2024

After our own concert, the choir also joined with queer singers from across London in an expanded community choir, singing Szymanowski's atmospheric Symphony No. 3 "The Night" with the London Symphony orchestra and tenor Russell Thomas in the star-studded finale concert of the Classical Pride festival.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Continued)

Public Benefit

The choir continued to pursue our charitable aims of promoting diversity, both through our concert programming, weekly rehearsal practices and engagement with external initiatives.

Our Musical Director Jamie Powe took part in an Open University research study on gender in contemporary concert programming, sharing details of how the choir has used our concert programmes to shine a light on women, nonbinary and other underrepresented composers and figures.

Our debut album also showcased the talent of underrepresented writers and composers from history and the present day and focused on previously unrecorded pieces so that we can bring their works to a wider audience.

We also used our activities to provide opportunities for other charitable organisations. At our winter concert, we heard from the Say It Loud Club and took a retiring donation to support their work. The Classical Pride festival that we sang in also raised funds for the Terrence Higgins Trust, Rainbow Railroad and Amplifund.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body established on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the eleventh period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2023 and run until 31 August 2024.

The trustees who have served during the period and since commencement are set out on page 1. None of the trustees, nor any person connected to them, has received any paid remuneration from the Charity in the period to 31 August 2024.

The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Continued)

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

Future Plans

For the 2024/25 season the Board of Trustees put in place plans to:

- Participate for the first time in the BBC Proms
- Stage an ambitious performance of James Joyce's short story *The Dead* at the historical Wilton's Music Hall in East London
- Remember LGBTQ+ persecuted throughout history with a requiem concert at a major church in central London
- Organise our first overseas tour with our new Musical Director, performing at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam
- Continue to organise, promote and perform self-promoted concerts
- Continue to grow our professional bookings business
- Find opportunities to perform at classical festivals and venues outside London
- Raise awareness of the choir through increased publicity and social media activities
- Form new relationships, and develop existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBTQ+ organisations.
- Consider widening membership of our Trustee group to non-singers in order to scale our capacity and breadth of skills and governance.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2024 - continued

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Registration Number: 1156769

Trustees: Chair – Dr Edward Long
Trustee – James McGreenera
Trustee – Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann
Trustee – Eleanor May Dragonetti
Trustee – Sophia Josephine Allen (Resigned 22.12.23)
Trustee – Alexander Luck (Appointed 13.03.24)

Principal Contact Address: Flat 5
19 Percy Circus
London
W4X 9EE

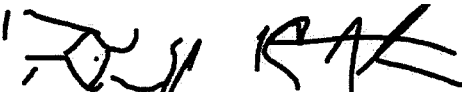
Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

Bankers: HSBC
Lion House
25 Islington High Street
Islington
London
N1 9LJ

Independent Examiner: Mr M Brady FCCA
TC Group
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

Declaration

We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 

Full Name *Finn Feldmann*

Position *Treasurer*

Date 20/06/2025

Signature *Ed Long*

Full Name *Ed Long*

Position *Chair*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
the Fourth Choir ('the CIO')
For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 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').

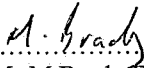
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Mr M Brady FCCA

Dated 23/36/25

TC Group
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

**The Fourth Choir
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>		£	£	£	£
HSBC Bank		4,291		9,252	
Cash in Hand		38		53	
PayPal		1,176		2,554	
Stripe		(91)		-	
			5,414		11,739
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Bank Interest		-		-	
Grant Income		-		-	
Activities for Generating Funds:					
Special Events		4,758		11,263	
Charitable Activities:					
Concert Sales		12,861		11,722	
Voluntary Receipts:					
Donations and Gift Aid		23,607		19,482	
Transfer of Fund Balance	5	-		-	
<u>TOTAL RECIEPTS</u>			41,226		42,467
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
Fundraising Costs:					
Advertising and Marketing Costs		50		153	
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Equipment Hire and Purchase		544		1,740	
Performers		4,180		6,746	
Venue Hire		9,929		14,022	
Commissions and Scores		986		7,249	
Subscriptions		1,004		997	
Product Costs		563		502	
Catering		510		483	
Travel Costs		288		733	
			(18,054)		(32,625)
Support Costs:					
Professional Fees		15,749		14,166	
Insurance		543		418	
Printing, Postage and Stationery		1,002		650	
Bank Charges		499		276	
Miscellaneous		-		-	
Training		-		657	
			(17,793)		(16,167)
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>			(35,847)		(48,792)
Excess Receipts Over Expenditure			5,379		(6,325)
Closing balances: HSBC Bank Balance		9,592		4,291	
Cash in Hand		38		38	
Paypal		1,408		1,176	
Stripe		(260)		(91)	
GoCardless		15		-	
			10,793		5,414

Signature Ed Long Chair
Name Ed Long Date: 20/6/25

Signature [Signature] Treasurer
Name Finn Feldmann Date: 20/6/25

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds 2023/24</u>	<u>Total Funds (All Unrestricted) 2022/23</u>
Cash Funds -	HSBC Bank Balance	£ -	9,592	4,291
-	Cash in Hand	-	38	38
-	Paypal	-	1,408	1,176
-	GoCardless	-	15	-
Amounts – Receivable (debtors)		£ -		
Amounts -	Payable (Creditors)	£ -	493	91
-	Payable (Accrued charges)		792	720

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS102) Issued 1st January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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

The accounts are presented in Sterling £.

- a) Income
This is accounted for on a receivable purpose in the period which it is received.
- b) Payments
These are accounted for as paid.

2. Accountancy Charges

Independent Examination following accounts preparation £792.

3. Taxation

The Charitable Trust is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

4. All monies currently held are unrestricted in their application.

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year – continued

5. No donations were made in the year.

6. **Emoluments of Trustees**

No emoluments were received by the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

There were no other emoluments or expenses paid to any charity Trustees or person connected with such a Trustee directly or indirectly from the funds of the charity.

7. Reimbursement of Trustees Expenses paid in the period in the normal course of the work of the charity.

Sophia Allen	£185	Travel costs
Finn Schulze-Feldmann	£757	Brochures, leaflets, licences, food
Ellie Dragonetti	£255	Brochures, leaflets, costume hire
Edward Long	£1,755	brochures, leaflets

8. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the Charitable Incorporated Organisation did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

9. **Trustee Donations**

The charity received a total of £896 donations from trustees in the year (2023: £480).

10. **Related Party Transactions**

There are no related party transactions

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

Accounts

The Fourth Choir
Trustees Annual Report
and Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023
Charity Number 1156769

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

Chair Report

This report covers our eleventh year as a choir and our tenth full reporting period as a charity.

The choir continued to build on our momentum gained in the previous year in building back to full capacity at our pre-pandemic levels. This was borne out in an increased number of appearances through professional bookings in addition to our own promoted concerts, with a total of ten appearances this season in comparison to four in 2021-22, allowing us to share our music and mission with a wider audience and range of partners.

While we continued to work with a range of leading conductors throughout the year, the choir also took the strategic step of appointing a Musical Director to provide longer term leadership and drive the choir's artistic development. The Trustees made the decision to appoint Jamie Powe after working with him on three highly successful concerts and appearances and noting his passion for, knowledge of and commitment to bringing music by underrepresented composers to the fore, as well as his outstanding musicality and his resolute allyship to the LGBTQ+ community. The start of Jamie's tenure as Musical Director is September 2023 where he will programme and conduct a concert to mark the choir's 10-year anniversary.

The season also saw the choir increase our reach and impact through a number of high-profile projects and performances outside London. We were honoured to participate in the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance, where we sang a setting of The Lord's Prayer, which was televised on BBC1 and broadcast on BBC Radio 2. In July we took part in the Barbican's Classical Pride concert, performing for the first time in the Barbican Hall, and featuring in a performance that was widely shared on social media, including HBO's Youtube channel. We also capped the season with our first performance at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, allowing us to reach an audience of classical music lovers outside London and share our unique programming and perspective.

Diversity and inclusion has continued to be a priority in both our musical programming and management of the choir. We arranged a half-day workshop run by leading charity Gendered Intelligence to provide training on trans awareness and inclusion for our Musical Director, trustee group and section leaders in April. We have also continued to showcase works by underrepresented composers in all our concerts and engagements, bringing awareness of music that is infrequently programmed by other choirs. In July, to mark London's Pride festival, we were also particularly proud to sing a concert of works entirely by queer composers at London's iconic Wigmore Hall.

Looking ahead to our next season, the Trustees are excited to begin our journey with Jamie Powe at the helm as our new Musical Director, a season in which we plan to invest in two new choral commissions and undertake a significant recording project in order to continue widening our reach.

Edward Long
Chair, The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 (Continued)

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBT+ community.

Values

The choir continues to be led by our agreed core values in planning and managing our activities, namely:

- We are proud to be a choir of LGBT+ singers and allies
- We are passionate about musical excellence, about improving our skills and having fun
- We nurture an inclusive space and celebrate diversity
- We are creative, collaborative and ambitious
- We are a supportive, big-hearted and welcoming community

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our eleventh year. These achievements include:

- Appointing Jamie Powe as our new Musical Director
- Increasing the number of performances within the season to eight, thanks to increased external bookings and invites
- Performing for the first time at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Hall, the Wigmore Hall and Eltham Palace.
- Singing at a high-profile televised event for the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance
- Holding our members' residential event in Kent for the first time since the pandemic

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

From Great Kings to the Great Gatsby - October 2022

Our first concert of the season, at the historic Eltham Palace, celebrated the long history of the venue, with works from and inspired by both the Tudor period and the jazz age.

We were thrilled to be conducted for a second time by Hillary Campbell and to work with two leading professional musicians. Ian Shaw provided piano accompaniment - a rarity for the choir - for several pieces including the luxuriant Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams and we welcomed back lutenist Jonatan Bougt, who played the theorbo and guitar.

Actor James Tucker interspersed the musical numbers with readings on the history of the palace and excerpts from The Great Gatsby.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 (Continued)

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance - November 2022

A highlight of the season - and an honour - was our invitation to perform in the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, commemorating all those that have served and sacrificed from Britain and the Commonwealth.

The Choir was conducted by Jamie Powe and sang a setting of The Lord's Prayer by William Petter for the Service of Remembrance. We also joined actress Shona McGarty in a rendition of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and sang the hymns Jerusalem and Sunset (based on the traditional bugle call) with the Bach Choir and congregation.

Philippa Rawlinson, Director of Remembrance at the Royal British Legion commented:

For me your singing of the Lord's Prayer was perfect for the moment and took us beautifully on from the prayers to the poem.

Music for a Winter's Night - December 2022

In December we returned to St Clement Danes church for an eclectic celebration of the winter season across different times, cultures and traditions, again programmed and conducted by Jamie Powe.

Themes of miraculous birth were explored, from early works by underrepresented composers including Vicente Lusitano – the first black composer published in Europe, and the recently rediscovered legacy of women composers who worked in Renaissance Italian convents. These were paired with more modern works by Nathaniel Dett, Cecilia McDowall and Shruthi Rajeskar's shimmering Star of Rohini, which draws parallels between the mythologies surrounding the births of the infant Jesus and Krishna.

In the second half of the concert the choir sang traditional and reimagined carols and seasonal works in Swedish, Spanish, Hebrew and German as well as Jonathan Dove's dramatic work The Three Kings.

We invited Aderonke Apata, the founder of African Rainbow Family, to give an address and took a fundraising collection from the audience to support their work with LGBTIQ+ migrants.

A Christmas Gaiety - December 2022

In December we were also delighted to perform at the Royal Albert Hall for the second time in two months, in their variety show A Christmas Gaiety, produced by conductor Edwin Outwater and drag performer Peaches Christ.

The choir was proud to perform alongside the BBC Concert Orchestra, organist Anna Lapwood, West End star Marisha Wallace, vogue ensemble the House of Revlon and drag artists Le Gateau Chocolat, Cheddar Gorgeous and Pixie Polite.

Royal Academy of Music Choral Conducting Masterclass - January 2023

We were invited to sing as part of a masterclass for the cohort of choral conducting Masters students at the Royal Academy of Music, led by Paddy Russill. The choir was led by students from the first and second year of the programme, with coaching from Paddy and Hilary Campbell.

The Only Planet - April 2023

For our first concert of 2023, we were elated to return to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe: a space we last performed at pre-pandemic in 2019 and which we have developed a strong relationship with.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 (Continued)

The choir was conducted by Dusty Francis, one of our own singers, who put together a program examining our environmental responsibilities as stewards of our planet structured around the folk song *In the Cool of the Day*, by Jean Ritchie.

Many of the works were American, drawn both from early hymnal tradition and 20th century works such as Samuel Barber's *The Coolin*.

Particularly notable works for the choir were a performance of Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi's masterpiece *Canticum Calamitatis Maritimae* - a 13 minute work lamenting the tragic sinking of the MS Estonia - and Cooper Baldwin's dramatic *Libera Me*, which combines texts from the Requiem mass and the 2022 IPCC report to demand action to address the climate crisis.

OneBodyOneFaith Memorial Service - April 2023

The charity OneBodyOneFaith held a memorial service raising awareness among church leaders to loss of life to suicide and the wider experience of harm experienced by LGBT+ people, following exclusion from and mistreatment in church environments.

The Fourth Choir was honoured to participate in the service, which included representatives from ten different Christian denominations, where we sang Fauré's *In Paradisum* as well as works by Stephen Paulus and William Hawley.

Kench Hill members' residential - May 2023

We were particularly thankful to be able to hold our first members' residential weekend in Kent since the pandemic. These events are an opportunity for the choir to develop our wider musicality, focus more deeply on our music and build social bonds among our singers.

In addition to the work on repertoire, highlights of the weekend were a conducting masterclass delivered by MD Jamie Powe and a vocal technique workshop with baritone Bertie Rice.

Love, Loss & the Whole Damn Thing - June 2023

In June we were pleased to make our debut in London's leading classical music venue the Wigmore Hall in an LGBTQ+ Pride concert. Working with conductor Nicholas Chalmers, we prepared a programme celebrating works by queer composers from a wide range of backgrounds.

Particular highlights were *a boy & a boy* by Stuart Beatch, our former composer in residence; Jennifer Higdon's comedic and rhythmically challenging *Telegram* and William Linthicum-Blackhorse's *A Dream Within a Dream*.

We were especially grateful to have the concert presented by BBC Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawny and to feature an introduction and special performance from the choir's Artistic Patron, Dame Ann Murray.

Classical Pride at The Barbican Hall - July 2023

Another highlight of London's Pride celebrations was Classical Pride – a concert devised by conductor Oliver Zeffman and held at Barbican Hall. This was the first European classical pride concert with a major orchestra and the Fourth Choir was proud to participate in the chorus, which also included singers from other queer choirs around London, including the London Trans Choir.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 (Continued)

Our first time performing in the Barbican Hall, we sang in a newly commissioned work, *Echoes*, by Julian Anderson with baritone soloist Davóne Tines and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The concert also starred acclaimed musicians Pavel Kolesnikov, Samson Tsoy, Nicky Spence, and Ella Taylor and raised money for three LGBTQ+ charities: Terrence Higgins Trust, Amplifund and Rainbow Railroad.

The Times wrote:

[The Anderson] was rapturously sung by the LGBTQ+ Community Choir assembled for the occasion.

The choir also sang in an encore number with Ella Taylor, performing the theme from HBO's TV series *The White Lotus*. A recording of the encore was widely shared on social media, receiving over 750,000 views on Youtube.

My Beloved Man - August 2023

Capping an extraordinary season of firsts for the choir, in August we were thrilled to perform for the first time at Snape Maltings in Aldeburgh – the concert hall built by Benjamin Britten and his life partner Peter Pears.

Appropriate to the venue, the concert was inspired by Britten and Pears' 39-year relationship and works by Britten, his contemporaries and influencers were interspersed with readings from their letters to one another read by classical radio presenters Zeb Soans (as Britten) and Petroc Trelawny (as Peter Pears). The readings were compiled by choir member Séamus Rea and the concert was conducted by Nicholas Chalmers.

As well as performing Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin* and extracts from his *Choral Dances from Gloriana*, the concert featured numbers by Imogen Holst, Michael Tippett, Samuel Barber, Purcell, Monteverdi and Pérotin.

The concert was rapturously received with one audience member writing:

I've never known an entire choir to need to come back to take a second curtain call and I've been going regularly to Snape for nearly 40 years! So well deserved.

Public Benefit

Our charity's purposes include the education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts. As noted above, we significantly increased the number of public performances in comparison to our 2021-22 season, as well as reaching wider numbers of people through appearances on publicly broadcast events and widely-shared video recordings..

Our charity's purposes also included the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBTQ+ community. This season we paid for professional development for several of our key members to improve their awareness of trans experiences and best practices for inclusion. We also raised awareness of the lived experience of queer composers through our concert programming, particularly through our Pride concert at the Wigmore Hall, in which we shared biographical information about the featured composers in our concert programme, and our Beloved Man concert in Norfolk, which featured intimate and insightful details of the lives of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.

Our work this year has also supported other charities including the Royal British Legion, African Rainbow Family and Maggie's Cancer Care, for whom our singers participated in a Christmas carol singing fundraiser.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 (Continued)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body established on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the tenth period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2022 and run until 31 August 2023.

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The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

Future Plans

For the 2023/24 season the Board of Trustees plans to continue to build on the achievements of the choir's first ten years by:

- Commissioning two new works to premiere at a concert to celebrate the choir's first decade
- Recording our first full-length album
- Continuing to organise, promote and perform self-promoted concerts
- Continuing to grow our professional bookings business
- Looking for opportunities to perform at classical festivals and venues outside London
- Raising awareness of the choir through increased publicity and social media activities
- Forming new relationships, and developing existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBT+ organisations.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023 - continued

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Registration Number: 1156769

Trustees:

Chair – Dr Edward Long	
Trustee – James McGrenera	
Trustee – Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Sarah De Winter	(Appointed 13.12.21) (resigned 31.08.23)
Trustee – Eleanor May Dragonetti	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Catrin Haf Jones	(Appointed 13.12.21) (resigned 31.12.22)
Trustee – Sophia Josephine Allen	(Appointed 13.12.21)

Principal Contact Address: Flat 5
19 Percy Circus
London
W4X 9EE

Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

Bankers: HSBC
Lion House
25 Islington High Street
Islington
London
N1 9LJ

Independent Examiner: Mr A Butterfield ACA
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

Declaration

We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 
Full Name EDWARD LONG
Position CHAIR
Date 20/06/24

Signature 
Full Name J.D. MCGRENERA
Position TRUSTEE

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

the Fourth Choir ('the CIO')

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 August 2023.

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 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Mr A Butterfield ACA

Chartered Accountant

Dated ...28/06/2024.....

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham NG9 8AA

**The Fourth Choir
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2023**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>					
HSBC Bank		9,252		25,590	
Cash in Hand		53		53	
PayPal		2,554		2,311	
			11,739		27,954
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Bank Interest		-		-	
Grant Income		-		-	
Activities for Generating Funds:					
Special Events		11,263		-	
Charitable Activities:					
Concert Sales		11,722		9,173	
Voluntary Receipts:					
Donations and Gift Aid		19,482		12,827	
Transfer of Fund Balance	5	-		-	
<u>TOTAL RECIEPTS</u>			42,467		22,000
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
Fundraising Costs:					
Advertising and Marketing Costs		153		519	
			-		-
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Equipment Hire and Purchase		1,740		524	
Performers		6,746		8,063	
Venue Hire		14,022		10,509	
Commissions and Scores		7,249		4,354	
Subscriptions		997		728	
Product Costs		502		413	
Catering		483		-	
Travel Costs		733		747	
			(32,625)		(25,857)
Support Costs:					
Professional Fees		14,166		10,411	
Insurance		418		534	
Printing, Postage and Stationery		650		1,137	
Bank Charges		276		176	
Miscellaneous		-		100	
Training		657		-	
			(16,167)		(12,358)
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>			(48,792)		(38,215)
Excess Receipts Over Expenditure			(6,325)		(16,215)
Closing balances: HSBC Bank Balance		4,291		9,252	
Cash in Hand		38		53	
Paypal		1,176		2,554	
Stripe		(91)		(120)	
			5,414		11,739

Signature.....Chair

Name.....EDWARD LONG Date: 20/06/24

Signature.....Treasurer

Name.....FIONA SCHULZE- Date: 20/6/24

FELDMANN

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds 2022/23</u>	<u>Total Funds (All Unrestricted) 2021/22</u>
Cash Funds -	HSBC Bank Balance	£ -	4,291	9,252
-	Cash in Hand	-	38	53
-	Paypal	-	1,176	2,554
Amounts – Receivable (debtors)		£ -		-
Amounts -	Payable (Creditors)	£ 91	91	120
-	Payable (Accrued charges)	720	720	690

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS102) Issued 1st January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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

The accounts are presented in Sterling £.

- a) Income
This is accounted for on a receivable purpose in the period which it is received.
- b) Payments
These are accounted for as paid.

2. Accountancy Charges

Independent Examination following accounts preparation £720.

3. Taxation

The Charitable Trust is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

4. All monies currently held are unrestricted in their application.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Chair's Report

This report covers our eleventh year as a choir and our tenth full reporting period as a charity.

The choir continued to build on our momentum gained in the previous year in building back to full capacity at our pre-pandemic levels. This was borne out in an increased number of appearances through professional bookings in addition to our own promoted concerts, with a total of ten appearances this season in comparison to four in 2021-22, allowing us to share our music and mission with a wider audience and range of partners.

While we continued to work with a range of leading conductors throughout the year, the choir also took the strategic step of appointing a Musical Director to provide longer term leadership and drive the choir's artistic development. The Trustees made the decision to appoint Jamie Powe after working with him on three highly successful concerts and appearances and noting his passion for, knowledge of and commitment to bringing music by underrepresented composers to the fore, as well as his outstanding musicality and his resolute allyship to the LGBTQ+ community. The start of Jamie's tenure as Musical Director is September 2023 where he will programme and conduct a concert to mark the choir's 10-year anniversary.

The season also saw the choir increase our reach and impact through a number of high-profile projects and performances outside London. We were honoured to participate in the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance, where we sang a setting of The Lord's Prayer, which was televised on BBC1 and broadcast on BBC Radio 2. In July we took part in the Barbican's Classical Pride concert, performing for the first time in the Barbican Hall, and featuring in a performance that was widely shared on social media, including HBO's Youtube channel. We also capped the season with our first performance at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, allowing us to reach an audience of classical music lovers outside London and share our unique programming and perspective.

Diversity and inclusion has continued to be a priority in both our musical programming and management of the choir. We arranged a half-day workshop run by leading charity Gendered Intelligence to provide training on trans awareness and inclusion for our Musical Director, trustee group and section leaders in April. We have also continued to showcase works by underrepresented composers in all our concerts and engagements, bringing awareness of music that is infrequently programmed by other choirs. In July, to mark London's Pride festival, we were also particularly proud to sing a concert of works entirely by queer composers at London's iconic Wigmore Hall.

Looking ahead to our next season, the Trustees are excited to begin our journey with Jamie Powe at the helm as our new Musical Director, a season in which we plan to invest in two new choral commissions and undertake a significant recording project in order to continue widening our reach.

Edward Long
Chair, The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBT+ community.

Values

The choir continues to be led by our agreed core values in planning and managing our activities, namely:

- We are proud to be a choir of LGBT+ singers and allies
- We are passionate about musical excellence, about improving our skills and having fun
- We nurture an inclusive space and celebrate diversity
- We are creative, collaborative and ambitious
- We are a supportive, big-hearted and welcoming community

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our eleventh year. These achievements include:

- Appointing Jamie Powe as our new Musical Director
- Increasing the number of performances within the season to eight, thanks to increased external bookings and invites
- Performing for the first time at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Hall, the Wigmore Hall and Eltham Palace.
- Singing at a high-profile televised event for the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance
- Holding our members' residential event in Kent for the first time since the pandemic

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

From Great Kings to the Great Gatsby - October 2022

Our first concert of the season, at the historic Eltham Palace, celebrated the long history of the venue, with works from and inspired by both the Tudor period and the jazz age.

We were thrilled to be conducted for a second time by Hillary Campbell and to work with two leading professional musicians. Ian Shaw provided piano accompaniment - a rarity for the choir - for several pieces including the luxuriant Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams and we welcomed back lutenist Jonatan Bougt, who played the theorbo and guitar.

Actor James Tucker interspersed the musical numbers with readings on the history of the palace and excerpts from The Great Gatsby.

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance - November 2022

A highlight of the season - and an honour - was our invitation to perform in the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, commemorating all those that have served and sacrificed from Britain and the Commonwealth.

The Choir was conducted by Jamie Powe and sang a setting of The Lord's Prayer by William Petter for the Service of Remembrance. We also joined actress Shona McGarty in a rendition of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and sang the hymns Jerusalem and Sunset (based on the traditional bugle call) with the Bach Choir and congregation.

Philippa Rawlinson, Director of Remembrance at the Royal British Legion commented:

For me your singing of the Lord's Prayer was perfect for the moment and took us beautifully on from the prayers to the poem.

Music for a Winter's Night - December 2022

In December we returned to St Clement Danes church for an eclectic celebration of the winter season across different times, cultures and traditions, again programmed and conducted by Jamie Powe.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Themes of miraculous birth were explored, from early works by underrepresented composers including Vicente Lusitano – the first black composer published in Europe, and the recently rediscovered legacy of women composers who worked in Renaissance Italian convents. These were paired with more modern works by Nathaniel Dett, Cecilia McDowall and Shruthi Rajeskar's shimmering *Star of Rohini*, which draws parallels between the mythologies surrounding the births of the infant Jesus and Krishna.

In the second half of the concert the choir sang traditional and reimagined carols and seasonal works in Swedish, Spanish, Hebrew and German as well as Jonathan Dove's dramatic work *The Three Kings*.

We invited Aderonke Apata, the founder of African Rainbow Family, to give an address and took a fundraising collection from the audience to support their work with LGBTIQ+ migrants.

A Christmas Gaiety - December 2022

In December we were also delighted to perform at the Royal Albert Hall for the second time in two months, in their variety show *A Christmas Gaiety*, produced by conductor Edwin Outwater and drag performer Peaches Christ.

The choir was proud to perform alongside the BBC Concert Orchestra, organist Anna Lapwood, West End star Marisha Wallace, vogue ensemble the House of Revlon and drag artists Le Gateau Chocolat, Cheddar Gorgeous and Pixie Polite.

Royal Academy of Music Choral Conducting Masterclass - January 2023

We were invited to sing as part of a masterclass for the cohort of choral conducting Masters students at the Royal Academy of Music, led by Paddy Russill. The choir was led by students from the first and second year of the programme, with coaching from Paddy and Hilary Campbell.

The Only Planet - April 2023

For our first concert of 2023, we were elated to return to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe: a space we last performed at pre-pandemic in 2019 and which we have developed a strong relationship with.

The choir was conducted by Dusty Francis, one of our own singers, who put together a program examining our environmental responsibilities as stewards of our planet structured around the folk song *In the Cool of the Day*, by Jean Ritchie.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Many of the works were American, drawn both from early hymnal tradition and 20th century works such as Samuel Barber's *The Coolin*.

Particularly notable works for the choir were a performance of Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi's masterpiece *Canticum Calamitatis Maritimae* - a 13 minute work lamenting the tragic sinking of the MS Estonia - and Cooper Baldwin's dramatic *Libera Me*, which combines texts from the Requiem mass and the 2022 IPCC report to demand action to address the climate crisis.

OneBodyOneFaith Memorial Service - April 2023

The charity OneBodyOneFaith held a memorial service raising awareness among church leaders to loss of life to suicide and the wider experience of harm experienced by LGBT+ people, following exclusion from and mistreatment in church environments.

The Fourth Choir was honoured to participate in the service, which included representatives from ten different Christian denominations, where we sang Fauré's *In Paradisum* as well as works by Stephen Paulus and William Hawley.

Kench Hill members' residential - May 2023

We were particularly thankful to be able to hold our first members' residential weekend in Kent since the pandemic. These events are an opportunity for the choir to develop our wider musicality, focus more deeply on our music and build social bonds among our singers.

In addition to the work on repertoire, highlights of the weekend were a conducting masterclass delivered by MD Jamie Powe and a vocal technique workshop with baritone Bertie Rice.

Love, Loss & the Whole Damn Thing - June 2023

In June we were pleased to make our debut in London's leading classical music venue the Wigmore Hall in an LGBTQ+ Pride concert. Working with conductor Nicholas Chalmers, we prepared a programme celebrating works by queer composers from a wide range of backgrounds.

Particular highlights were *a boy & a boy* by Stuart Beatch, our former composer in residence; Jennifer Higdon's comedic and rhythmically challenging *Telegram* and William Linthicum-Blackhorse's *A Dream Within a Dream*.

We were especially grateful to have the concert presented by BBC Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawny and to feature an introduction and special performance from the choir's Artistic Patron, Dame Ann Murray.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Classical Pride at The Barbican Hall - July 2023

Another highlight of London's Pride celebrations was Classical Pride – a concert devised by conductor Oliver Zeffman and held at Barbican Hall. This was the first European classical pride concert with a major orchestra and the Fourth Choir was proud to participate in the chorus, which also included singers from other queer choirs around London, including the London Trans Choir.

Our first time performing in the Barbican Hall, we sang in a newly commissioned work, *Echoes*, by Julian Anderson with baritone soloist Davóne Tines and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The concert also starred acclaimed musicians Pavel Kolesnikov, Samson Tsoy, Nicky Spence, and Ella Taylor and raised money for three LGBTQ+ charities: Terrence Higgins Trust, Amplifund and Rainbow Railroad.

The Times wrote:

[The Anderson] was rapturously sung by the LGBTQ+ Community Choir assembled for the occasion.

The choir also sang in an encore number with Ella Taylor, performing the theme from HBO's TV series *The White Lotus*. A recording of the encore was widely shared on social media, receiving over 750,000 views on Youtube.

My Beloved Man - August 2023

Capping an extraordinary season of firsts for the choir, in August we were thrilled to perform for the first time at Snape Maltings in Aldeburgh – the concert hall built by Benjamin Britten and his life partner Peter Pears.

Appropriate to the venue, the concert was inspired by Britten and Pears' 39-year relationship and works by Britten, his contemporaries and influencers were interspersed with readings from their letters to one another read by classical radio presenters Zeb Soans (as Britten) and Petroc Trelawny (as Peter Pears). The readings were compiled by choir member Séamus Rea and the concert was conducted by Nicholas Chalmers.

As well as performing Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin* and extracts from his *Choral Dances from Gloriana*, the concert featured numbers by Imogen Holst, Michael Tippett, Samuel Barber, Purcell, Monteverdi and Pérotin.

The concert was rapturously received with one audience member writing:

I've never known an entire choir to need to come back to take a second curtain call and I've been

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

going regularly to Snape for nearly 40 years! So well deserved.

Public Benefit

Our charity's purposes include the education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts. As noted above, we significantly increased the number of public performances in comparison to our 2021-22 season, as well as reaching wider numbers of people through appearances on publicly broadcast events and widely-shared video recordings..

Our charity's purposes also included the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBTQ+ community. This season we paid for professional development for several of our key members to improve their awareness of trans experiences and best practices for inclusion. We also raised awareness of the lived experience of queer composers through our concert programming, particularly through our Pride concert at the Wigmore Hall, in which we shared biographical information about the featured composers in our concert programme, and our Beloved Man concert in Norfolk, which featured intimate and insightful details of the lives of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.

Our work this year has also supported other charities including the Royal British Legion, African Rainbow Family and Maggie's Cancer Care, for whom our singers participated in a Christmas carol singing fundraiser.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body established on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the tenth period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2022 and run until 31 August 2023.

The trustees who have served during the period and since commencement are set out on page 1. None of the trustees, nor any person connected to them, has received any paid remuneration from the Charity in the period to 31 August 2023.

The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

Future Plans

For the 2023/24 season the Board of Trustees plans to continue to build on the achievements of the choir's first ten years by:

- Commissioning two new works to premiere at a concert to celebrate the choir's first decade
- Recording our first full-length album
- Continuing to organise, promote and perform self-promoted concerts
- Continuing to grow our professional bookings business
- Looking for opportunities to perform at classical festivals and venues outside London
- Raising awareness of the choir through increased publicity and social media activities
- Forming new relationships, and developing existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBT+ organisations.

The Fourth Choir

**Trustees' Annual Report
for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**

Declaration

We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature

Signature

Full Name

Full Name

Position

Position

Date

Date

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year – continued

5. No donations were made in the year.

6. **Emoluments of Trustees**

No emoluments were received by the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

There were no other emoluments or expenses paid to any charity Trustees or person connected with such a Trustee directly or indirectly from the funds of the charity.

7. Reimbursement of Trustees Expenses paid in the period in the normal course of the work of the charity.

Sophia Allen	£1,103	Travel costs
Finn Schulze-Feldmann	£2,187	Brochures, leaflets, flowers, equipment
Sarah De Winter	£543	Travel costs, equipment

8. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the Charitable Incorporated Organisation did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

9. **Trustee Donations**

The charity received a total of £480 donations from trustees in the year (2022: £1,230).

10. **Related Party Transactions**

There are no related party transactions

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

Accounts

The Fourth Choir
Trustees Annual Report
and Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022
Charity Number 1156769

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Chair Report

This report covers our tenth year as a choir and our ninth full reporting period as a charity.

After our first public performance in July 2021 after an extended period of lockdown, we were happy to continue our return to regular programming with our Autumn concert: *A Meeting Place* which was held at Milton Court in the Barbican and marked the choir's Barbican debut. This concert was the culmination of a long collaborative project begun during the pandemic and thanks to grants from The National Lottery Community Fund and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. The concert was a bicultural performance project developed with a group of Deaf professional musicians and performers led by Paul Whittaker OBE. The choir benefited enormously from the experience of working with performers in British Sign Language, including learning the final number of the concert, *And So It Goes*, which was both sung in English and performed by all our members in BSL. The concert was also our first full concert programme conducted by Nicholas Chalmers, a long-term friend and collaborator of the choir, and featured a new commission, *Novel Meetings*, developed by Deaf poet DL Williams and composer Kate Whitley. We are grateful to BSL interpreter Becky Barry for her support in helping us to develop this unique project by connecting us with the performers who took part in the concert, helping to facilitate the planning and development process, and her work as an on-stage interpreter during the concert.

We continued to work with a rota of Guest Conductors throughout the 2021-22 season, some of whom we had come to know through an interview process to select a new permanent Musical Director which included short conducting workshops run with the choir in November 2021. In order to make sure that the choir had sufficient time with candidates for a new long-term appointment, the Trustees took the decision that shortlisted candidates should lead a full concert programme before an offer was made: a process that was concluded at the end of 2022.

At the end of 2021 we significantly expanded our Trustee group, welcoming Cat Jones, Ellie Dragonetti, Finn Schulze-Feldmann, Joe Kelly, Sarah de Winter and Sophia Allen to the committee. This growth in the choir's management has been instrumental in enabling the choir to return to our pre-pandemic levels of activity while growing and developing in many new areas.

In addition to Nicholas Chalmers, during the remainder of the 2021-22 season, the choir produced concerts led by Hilary Campbell (*Winter Light* at our regular Christmas venue, St Clement Danes in the Strand), Jamie Powe (*The Politics of Polyphony* at St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield) and Ben Horden (*Love in Bloom* at the Stone Nest, Shaftesbury Avenue).

In *The Politics of Polyphony* we worked with Jamie Powe for the first of what has become many engagements in more recent months. We were delighted to explore the history of polyphonic singing through a diverse range of underrepresented composers, from 16th century nuns composing in Italian convents to African American composers working in the late 19th century. The spiritual, political and secular events surrounding this development was atmospherically told by actor Nic Mercer through a script developed by Trustee Séamus Rea.

During the season, we continued to build our collection of live recordings from three of our concerts, working with the Milton Court in-house team who recorded *A Meeting Place* and David Jones of Sonus Audio who recorded *The Politics of Polyphony* and *Love in Bloom* concerts.

Finally the Trustees would like to thank Laura Cioffi for her exemplary service as Treasurer of the choir prior to stepping down in December 2021. The role of Treasurer has since been filled by Finn Schulze-Feldmann.

Edward Long
Chair, The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022 (Continued)

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBT+ community.

Values

The choir continues to be led by our agreed core values in planning and managing our activities, namely:

- We are proud to be a choir of LGBT+ singers and allies
- We are passionate about musical excellence, about improving our skills and having fun
- We nurture an inclusive space and celebrate diversity
- We are creative, collaborative and ambitious
- We are a supportive, big-hearted and welcoming community

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our tenth year. These achievements include:

- Returning to performing four self-promoted concerts in one season again for the first time since the pandemic
- Continuing to work with a range of leading conductors and developing the musicality and performing ability of our members
- Staging a highly-innovative concert in collaboration with professional Deaf musicians
- Commissioning a new choral work by Kate Whitley and poem by BSL poet DL Williams
- Recording live performances from three of our concerts: A Meeting Place, The Politics of Polyphony and Love in Bloom.
- Rebuilding our Trustee group with six new volunteers from among the choir's membership

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

A Meeting Place - October 2021

The first concert of our 2021-22 season was a flagship concert for several reasons. It was the first concert in which we received significant funding from grant-making organisations; the first concert working with Deaf musicians; our first performance at the Barbican and a concert that featured work commissioned by both a BSL poet, DL Williams, and composer Kate Whitley. It was also our first concert post-pandemic in which we did not need to impose social distancing measures.

The concert was novel and innovative in many ways, not least pairing signed BSL performance in multiple parts with classical polyphony, but also using a BSL poem as the textual basis for a choral work – the first time we are aware this has been done.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022 (Continued)

Reviews for the concert included:

“The most moving, inspiring and utterly glorious concert I can remember” – Joanne Roughton-Arnold, Director of FormidAbility Opera Company

“Very moving concert with deaf musicians, actors, dancers and poets rightly taking centre stage. Utterly beautiful.” – Rachel Joy Staunton, Artistic Director of London Youth Choir

“It’s been an incredibly special event, from the initial idea through to the concert itself and something I have wanted to see happen for a long time. It really was a privilege and pleasure to be part of the concert” – Paul Whittaker OBE

We are also delighted that our work with Paul Whittaker has led to multiple additional collaborations in recent years.

Winter Light - January 2022

For our Winter concert we were thrilled to work for the first time with choral specialist Hilary Campbell, the director of professional ensemble Blossom Street.

Our concert was an ambitious programme of music that drew on traditions from Northern and Eastern Europe including Rachmaninov’s Nunc Dimittis, Stars by Erik Ešenvalds and Per Nørgard’s evocative Winter Hymn.

With a resurgence of COVID at the end of December, we were sadly forced to postpone the concert date until January and reintroduce social distancing measures but were enormously proud of the quality of the music and appreciative of the attention to detail that Hilary brought to our rehearsals during the Winter Term.

The Politics of Polyphony - Music to Die for - March 2022

In March we staged a hugely atmospheric exploration of the development of polyphonic music in sacred and other settings with our first concert working with Jamie Powe, interspersed with a narrative scripted and directed by Trustee Séamus Rea and delivered by actor Nick Mercer.

The concert was performed in St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield and showcased masterpieces by Josquin, Byrd, Tallis and Palestrina, paired with more modern compositions by Judith Weir, Kerry Andrew, Rosephanye Powell, Nathaniel Dett and Francis Poulenc.

The concert ended with a moving encore – a version of the Māori song Pōkarekare Ana, arranged by choir member Alice Humphrey. The song was notably performed spontaneously by representatives and spectators in the New Zealand Parliament after passing the equal marriage act.

Love in Bloom - July 2022

Our Summer concert took us to Stone Nest – an arts venue in central London that was originally a Welsh chapel and, briefly in the 1980s, an iconic nightclub: the Limelight.

For the concert we worked with conductor Ben Horden and programmed works that celebrated love. The choir was excited to return to the 12 minute long epic Hymn to St Cecilia by Benjamin Britten, having previously programmed it in our Stonewall Warriors concert. Appropriately for the concert’s location in London’s West End, we also included arrangements of songs from well known musicals including West Side Story and Rent.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022 (Continued)

The choir was honoured to perform an encore of Michel Legrand's "How do you keep the music playing?" with a solo by our patron Anne Murray.

Impact of Covid-19

While an improvement on the previous year, COVID-19 continued to make an impact on the choir's activities, with some audiences still cautious about attending indoor events and, during our Winter Term, we were forced to postpone a concert by a month during a period of high case numbers.

Public Benefit

Our charity's purposes include the education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts. This season we returned to our pre-pandemic cadence of self-promoted concerts, enabling us to reach a wider audience than in the 2020-21 season. Through our collaboration with Deaf performers we attracted audience members from the Deaf and disabled community, who might not otherwise frequently attend choral concerts.

Our charity's purposes also included the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community. Our narratives for both the *A Meeting Place* and *Politics of Polyphony* concerts drew attention to the historical oppression of many groups including Deaf, LGBT+, Black, Jewish, Catholic and other marginalised communities through history. Our work with Paul Whittaker and Deaf performers during *A Meeting Place* was also an opportunity for our members to gain awareness of the Deaf community and culture as well as learning about British Sign Language.

Our commissioning project created work opportunities for a poet and composer and the concert was recorded as an asset for future reference.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body established on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the eighth period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2021 and run until 31 August 2022.

The trustees who have served during the period and since commencement are set out on page 1. None of the trustees, nor any person connected to them, has received any paid remuneration from the Charity in the period to 31 August 2022.

The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022 (Continued)

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

Future Plans

For the 2022/23 season the Board of Trustees plans to continue to build on the achievements of the choir's first nine years by:

- Appointing a permanent Musical Director to enable the choir to return to longer-term planning of our concert programs and other projects
- Continuing to organise, promote and perform self-promoted concerts
- Continuing to grow our professional bookings business
- Looking for opportunities to perform at classical festivals and venues outside London
- Raising awareness of the choir through increased publicity and social media activities
- Forming new relationships, and developing existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBT+ organisations.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2022 - continued

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Registration Number: 1156769

Trustees:

Chair – Dr Edward Long	
Trustee – Kathleen Holman	(Resigned 13.6.22)
Trustee – James McGreenera	
Trustee – Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Sarah De Winter	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Eleanor May Dragonetti	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Catrin Haf Jones	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Joseph Kelly	(Appointed 13.12.21)
	(Resigned 22.7.22)
Trustee – Jill Pelt	(Resigned 13.12.21)
Trustee – Laura Cioffi	(Resigned 13.12.21)
Trustee – James Guy	(Resigned 13.12.21)
Trustee – Sophia Josephine Allen	(Appointed 13.12.21)

Principal Contact Address: Flat 5
19 Percy Circus
London
W4X 9EE

Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

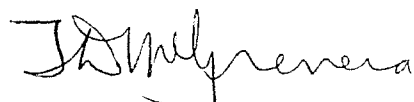
Bankers: HSBC
Lion House
25 Islington High Street
Islington
London
N1 9LJ

Independent Examiner: Mrs D J Lockwood FCA FCCA ATT(Fellow)
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

Declaration

We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 
Full Name EDWARD LONG
Position CHAIR
Date 15/06/23

Signature 
Full Name J.D. MCGREENERA
Position Trustee
Date 15/6/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

the Fourth Choir ('the CIO')

For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 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 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D J Lockwood

Dated *26 June 2023*

Mrs D J Lockwood FCCA FCA ATT(Fellow)
Chartered Accountant

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham NG9 8AA

**The Fourth Choir
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>					
HSBC Bank		25,590		9,149	
Cash in Hand		53		1,253	
PayPal		2,311		2,095	
			27,954		12,497
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Bank Interest		-		-	
Grant Income		-		9,985	
Activities for Generating Funds:					
Service Sales		-		1,000	
Special Events		-		-	
Product Sales		-		-	
Charitable Activities:					
Concert Sales		9,173		728	
Voluntary Receipts:					
Donations and Gift Aid		12,827		19,720	
Transfer of Fund Balance	5	-		-	
<u>TOTAL RECIEPTS</u>			22,000		31,433
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
Fundraising Costs:					
Advertising and Marketing Costs		519		-	
			-		-
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Equipment Hire and Purchase		524		329	
Performers		8,063		-	
Venue Hire		10,509		2,976	
Commissions and Scores		4,354		566	
Subscriptions		728		587	
Product Costs		413		385	
Grants Payable		-		-	
Donations	5	-		-	
Travel Costs		747		68	
			(25,857)		(4,911)
Support Costs:					
Professional Fees		10,411		10,146	
Insurance		534		497	
Printing, Postage and Stationery		1,137		146	
Bank Charges		176		163	
Miscellaneous		100		122	
			(12,358)		(11,074)
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>			(38,215)		(15,985)
Excess Receipts Over Expenditure			16,215		15,448
Closing balances: HSBC Bank Balance		9,252		25,590	
Cash in Hand		53		53	
Paypal		2,554		2,311	
Stripe		(120)		-	
			11,739		27,954

Signature.....Chair

Name...EDWARD LONG Date: 15/06/23

Signature.....Treasurer

Name...FINN SCHULZE-FELD Date: 26/6/23

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds 2021/22</u>	<u>Total Funds (All Unrestricted) 2020/21</u>
Cash Funds -	HSBC Bank Balance	£ -	9,252	25,590
-	Cash in Hand	-	53	53
-	Paypal	-	2,554	2,311
Amounts – Receivable (debtors)		£ -	-	-
Amounts -	Payable (Creditors)	£ 120	120	-
-	Payable (Accrued charges)	690	690	690

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS102) Issued 1st January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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

The accounts are presented in Sterling £.

a) Income

This is accounted for on a receivable purpose in the period which it is received.

b) Payments

These are accounted for as paid.

2. Accountancy Charges

Independent Examination following accounts preparation £690.

3. Taxation

The Charitable Trust is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

4. All monies currently held are unrestricted in their application.

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year – continued

5. No donations were made in the year.

6. **Emoluments of Trustees**

No emoluments were received by the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

There were no other emoluments or expenses paid to any charity Trustees or person connected with such a Trustee directly or indirectly from the funds of the charity.

7. Reimbursement of Trustees Expenses paid in the period in the normal course of the work of the charity.

Catrin Jones	£80	Flowers
Finn Schulze-Feldmann	£319	Brochures, leaflets, flowers
James McGrenesa	£302	Hire of equipment

8. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the Charitable Incorporated Organisation did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

9. **Trustee Donations**

The charity received a total of £1,230 donations from trustees in the year (2021: £1,194).

10. **Related Party Transactions**

There are no related party transactions

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

Accounts

The Fourth Choir
Trustees Annual Report
and Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2021
Charity Number 1156769

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2021

Chair Report

This report covers our ninth year as a choir and our eighth full reporting period as a charity.

In a second year dominated by the Covid pandemic, we began the season hopefully, holding our first in-person rehearsals again since the first lockdown at a larger venue: at the Siobhan Davies Dance Studios in Lambeth. Singers were socially distanced, wore masks and had their temperature taken on arrival and we procured screens to shield our Musical Director. With changing guidance over time, we had a significantly increased workload to respond to the necessary measures to arrange rehearsals – whether in person, online or hybrid – and needed to build back up options into all our future planning in case of tighter restrictions.

The ongoing limitations on public performances in the latter half of 2020 and start of 2021 meant that we focused our time on recording projects, both at home and in our rehearsal space when measures allowed.

We were extremely proud of the results and hugely positive public reception of our *Lighten Our Darkness* and *Home* music videos filmed and edited by David Jones of Sonus Audio and directed by Seamus Rea. Our joint *Earth Song* music video with Canada's Cor Flammae choir and our virtual participation in The Globe's Christmas film were also extremely rewarding collaborative projects for our members.

In late 2020 we also made our first ever applications to grant-making organisations to support a collaborative project we had begun planning with a group of Deaf professional musicians led by Paul Whittaker OBE. We would like to thank Trustee Jill Pett for her work in managing the funding applications, which resulted in awards from both The National Lottery Community Foundation and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. Securing funding meant that we were able to commit to developing the concept with Paul and his team. We ran a British Sign Language and signed song workshop with the choir in April 2021 and began planning for a concert to be held in October 2021. The funding also allowed us to commission both a Deaf poet (DL Williams) and a contemporary composer (Kate Whitley) to create an innovative choral composition based on a sign language poem.

In March our founding Artistic Director, Dominic Peckham, announced that he would be moving on from the choir to begin a role with Aldeburgh Voices. We are enormously grateful to Dominic for his artistic leadership in our first eight years, helping us to build a choir that has attracted wonderful singers, delighted audiences and attracted collaborations with fantastic artists and venues. We were sorry that our last rehearsal with Dominic had to be an online rehearsal but were able to invite a wider number of former members (including several from overseas) to share memories of working together and thank him for his time with the choir.

After learning of Dominic's intention to depart, the Trustees agreed to work with a series of guest Musical Directors until the end of 2021 while also advertising a role for a permanent appointment. After shortlisting a number of conductors who we were keen to work with, we were delighted that Esther Jones, Nicholas Chalmers and Hilary Campbell agreed to lead the choir for our Summer, Autumn and Winter concerts.

In March, we were also thrilled to be invited by the charity Donne UK to be one of their Ambassador organisations promoting women in music. As well as supporting their campaigning and education work, our founder Kathleen Holman, member Ché Ramsden and former Associate Conductor Andrea Brown took part in a livestream discussion about inclusivity in choral settings in June.

Our Summer Term with Esther Jones marked the first real return to normality with the choir, rehearsing in person once again, finally auditioning and admitting new members for the first time in over a year and a rehearsal period that culminated in a real live (though socially distanced) performance. The concert was enormously impactful for the choir and audience, both musically and emotionally, and allowed us to reflect on the challenges and losses of the previous year.

Finally the Trustees would like to express our gratitude to James Guy, who chaired the choir until the end of 2021, for his dedication, thoughtfulness and perspective. James steered the choir through an extremely challenging period while still managing to provide a vital service to our members, audiences and collaborators.

Edward Long
Chair, The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2021 - continued

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBT+ community.

Values

Prior to advertising a vacancy for a new Musical Director, we ran two workshops with choir members to agree a value statement for the choir to ensure that our members, conductors and collaborators understand our ethos. The agreed values are:

- We are proud to be a choir of LGBT+ singers and allies
- We are passionate about musical excellence, about improving our skills and having fun
- We nurture an inclusive space and celebrate diversity
- We are creative, collaborative and ambitious
- We are a supportive, big-hearted and welcoming community

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our ninth year. These achievements include:

- continuing to provide community and belonging through ongoing national lockdown due to Covid-19
- continuing to have a public profile at a time when no public performances were possible, through the use of virtual recordings and social media
- putting in place a plan to begin a series of engagements with leading guest conductors to re-introduce the choir to public performance, broaden our musical learning and re-engage with our audiences
- returning to public performance for the first time in a year and relaunching auditions
- successfully securing funding from two grant-making organisations for a collaborative project with a group of Deaf professional musicians
- commissioning new works of sign language poetry and a choral composition

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

Lighten our Darkness (recording) - November 2020

During a short period of fewer restrictions, we took the opportunity to record a video performance of Ben Parry's *Lighten our Darkness* in our rehearsal space at the Siobhan Davies Dance Studios with recording engineer David Jones of Sonus Audio. Singers were socially distanced and wore facemasks while singing. Parry, the composer, wrote:

Oh my! This is a beautiful video. I hadn't realised when I wrote the piece how resonant the words would be in these bleak times. Thank you to all the choir members for doing this lovely film.

The recording was released on Youtube.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2021 - continued

Christmas at the (Snow) Globe (film) - December 2020

After the success of the previous year's collaboration with Sandi and Jenifer Toksvig and Shakespeare's Globe on their family Christmas show, we were delighted to be invited to contribute for a second year. Due to safety restrictions, the show was filmed for on-demand viewing and Fourth Choir members recorded audio and video clips at home which were edited into the film. The film was available to stream from The Globe's website from 21 December 2020 to 5 January 2021.

Home - a sanctuary in times of peril (recording) - January 2021

In December 2020 we recorded a further two pieces with David Jones. Reflecting the time that we had all been spending at home, we chose two pieces that represented Home as a place of refuge: an arrangement of the traditional Hebrew song *Shomer Yisrael* arranged by Benjamin Till and *The Road Home* by Stephen Paulus. The recording was released to celebrate the New Year on 1 January 2021.

Earth Song (joint recording) - April 2021

In Spring 2021 we arranged a joint recording project with Canadian queer ensemble Cor Flammae from Vancouver. We selected *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli and members from both choirs recorded their parts led by Cor Flammae's conductor Peggy Hua on video. We also created a music video with shots filmed around London and Vancouver featuring a masked figure in urban and natural locations. The video was released on Youtube on 22 April to mark Earth Day.

The Breath of Life - St Augustine's Kilburn, July 2021

In our Summer Term we returned to our first public performance since the start of the pandemic, with our first guest Musical Director Esther Jones. We sang the *Requiem of 1603* by Tomás Luis de Victoria, interspersed with pieces by contemporary composers: *Songs of Sorrow* by Sheena Phillips, a lament for the war in Syria; Jessica Curry's *Home*, a setting of a poem by Warsan Shire that became famous during the refugee crisis ("No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark"); and a setting for double choir by William H. Harris. The rest of the concert consisted of songs of hope by James MacMillan, Joanna Marsh, Eric Whitacre, Ēriks Ešēvalds and Cecilia McDowall's *Regina Caeli* with its thrilling opening exultation of "Alleluia".

The concert was dedicated to former choir member Alvin Chua and Simon de Winter, husband of choir member Sarah de Winter, who passed away in 2020 due to Covid.

Impact of Covid-19

The year from 2020-2021 was characterised by uncertainty and a rapidly changing situation in terms of public health risk, government responses to risk and guidelines issued to performing arts organisations.

Where government guidance was unclear, the choir had to make challenging decisions to protect our singers while still providing them a service. We are grateful to Making Music for their work in clarifying and helping to communicate best practices for rehearsal and performance in a rapidly changing situation.

- After returning to rehearsing together in person in September 2020 we were again forced to run rehearsals remotely from home in November and December as cases rose and our hope of performing a Christmas concert was not realised, though we were grateful to contribute to the Globe's Christmas film
- Once again we were not able to run our annual residential workshop for choir members at Kench Hill, Kent
- Our *Breath of Life* concert was performed with a reduced capacity seating plan so that audience members could be socially distanced

Public Benefit

Our charity's purposes include the education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts. Although we were only able to perform once in public in this season due to Covid restrictions, we were also proud to release several recording projects and to be part of The Globe's Christmas film, which reached a considerably larger audience than our usual concerts. Our collaboration with a Canadian choir and link to Earth Day also helped us to reach a wider number of people.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2021 - continued

Our charity's purposes also included the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community. After securing grant funding, we were delighted to begin an engagement with several Deaf performers – a community that we have not had the opportunity to work closely with before – and provide opportunities both for professional work and creative development.

In our shortlisting of guest conductors and composers for our commission, we prioritised under-represented groups and were pleased that two of the three guest conductors we engaged were women and that we worked with a female composer and nonbinary poet for our commission.

Our participation in Donne's livestream in June also gave us a platform for us to share issues related to inclusivity in choral settings with other musical leaders less accustomed to working in a majority LGBT+ environment, as well as reflecting on how we can still invest more in nurturing inclusive environments.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body established on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the fourth period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2017 and run until 31 August 2018.

The trustees who have served during the period and since commencement are set out on page 1. None of the trustees, nor any person connected to them, has received any paid remuneration from the Charity in the period to 31 August 2018.

The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2021 - continued

Future Plans

For the 2021/22 season the Board of Trustees plans to continue to build on the achievements of the choir's first nine years by:

- Continuing to work with guest Musical Directors with a view to appointing a permanent MD in the longer term
- Continuing to organise, promote and perform self-promoted concerts
- Begin to pursue professional engagements again
- Creating further performance opportunities throughout the year to promote, support and develop the choir and its charitable objectives
- Building on our success in securing funds from national grant-making charities and arts organisations with further applications for more ambitious projects
- Forming new relationships, and developing existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBT+ organisations.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2021 - continued

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Registration Number: 1156769

Trustees:

Chair – Dr Edward Long	
Trustee – Kathleen Holman	
Trustee – James McGreenera	
Trustee – Dr Finn Schulze-Feldmann	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Sarah De Winter	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Eleanor May Dragonetti	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Catrin Haf Jones	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Joseph Kelly	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Sophia Josephine Allen	(Appointed 13.12.21)
Trustee – Jill Pelt	(Resigned 13.12.21)
Trustee – Laura Cioffi	(Resigned 13.12.21)
Trustee – James Guy	(Resigned 13.12.21)

Principal Contact Address: Flat 5
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London
W4X 9EE

Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

Bankers: HSBC
Lion House
25 Islington High Street
Islington
London
N1 9LJ

Independent Examiner: Mrs D J Lockwood FCA FCCA ATT(Fellow)
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

Declaration

We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 
Full Name EDWARD LONG
Position CHAIR
Date 01-06-22

Signature 
Full Name FINN SCHULZE-FELDMANN
Position TREASURER

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
the Fourth Choir ('the CIO')
For the Year Ended 31 August 2021

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 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 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D. J. Lockwood
Mrs D J Lockwood FCCA FCA ATT(Fellow)
Chartered Accountant

Dated 8.6.2022

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham NG9 8AA

The Fourth Choir
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>					
HSBC Bank		9,149		11,375	
Cash in Hand		1,253		398	
PayPal		2,095		1,353	
			12,497		13,126
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
Bank Interest		-		-	
Grant Income		9,985		-	
Activities for Generating Funds:					
Service Sales		1,000		8,000	
Special Events		-		351	
Product Sales		-		558	
Charitable Activities:					
Concert Sales		728		9,521	
Voluntary Receipts:					
Donations and Gift Aid		19,720		18,939	
Transfer of Fund Balance	5	-		-	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>			31,433		37,369
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
Fundraising Costs:					
Advertising and Marketing Costs		-		158	
			-		(158)
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Equipment Hire and Purchase		329		149	
Performers		-		11,850	
Venue Hire		2,976		5,173	
Commissions and Scores		566		2,653	
Subscriptions		587		972	
Product Costs		385		1,325	
Grants Payable		-		-	
Donations	5	-		-	
Travel Costs		68		94	
			(4,911)		(22,216)
Support Costs:					
Professional Fees		10,146		14,558	
Insurance		497		132	
Printing, Postage and Stationery		146		748	
Bank Charges		163		186	
Miscellaneous		122		-	
			(11,074)		(15,624)
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>			(15,985)		(37,998)
Excess Receipts Over Expenditure			15,448		(629)
Closing balances:					
HSBC Bank Balance		25,590		9,149	
Cash in Hand		53		1,253	
Paypal		2,311		2,095	
			27,954		12,497

Signature.....Chair

Name.....EDWARD LONG Date: 01-06-22

Signature.....Treasurer

Name.....FIONA SCHULZE-FELDMAN Date: 1/6/22

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2020/21</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>(All</u> <u>Unrestricted)</u> <u>2019/20</u>
Cash Funds -	HSBC Bank Balance	£ -	25,590	9,149
-	Cash in Hand	-	53	1,253
-	Paypal	-	2,311	2,095
Amounts – Receivable (debtors)		£ -	-	15
Amounts -	Payable (Creditors)	£ -	-	-
-	Payable (Accrued charges)	690	690	690

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS102) Issued 1st January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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

The accounts are presented in Sterling £.

- a) Income
This is accounted for on a receivable purpose in the period which it is received.
- b) Payments
These are accounted for as paid.

2. Accountancy Charges

Independent Examination following accounts preparation £690.

3. Taxation

The Charitable Trust is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

4. All monies currently held are unrestricted in their application.

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year – continued

5. No donations were made in the year.

6. Emoluments of Trustees

No emoluments were received by the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

There were no other emoluments or expenses paid to any charity Trustees or person connected with such a Trustee directly or indirectly from the funds of the charity.

7. Reimbursement of Trustees Expenses paid in the period in the normal course of the work of the charity.

Laura Cioffi	-	£274	For programme printing, catering supplies and publicity material.
James Guy	-	£49	Flowers
Edward Long	-	£41	Flowers

8. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the Charitable Incorporated Organisation did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

9. Trustee Donations

The charity received a total of £1,194 donations from trustees in the year (2020: £810).

10. Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions

THE FOURTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1156769

Accounts

The Fourth Choir
**Trustees Annual Report
and Accounts**
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020
Charity Number 1156769

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020

Chair Report

This report covers our eighth year as a choir and our seventh full reporting period as a charity.

We are incredibly proud of what we achieved during our 2019-2020 season, half of which was spent locked down due to Covid-19 restrictions. For The Fourth Choir, like for the world, it was a year like no other as restrictions forced us to stop our weekly rehearsals, re-think what it meant to exist as a choir, and innovate to find new ways to keep both our members and public engaged.

Prior to the global pandemic, the first half of the season had already been very successful, with a new creatively exciting programme, *Powerful and Dangerous*, which we performed at three London venues. We also collaborated with The Shakespeare's Globe for their Christmas show and appeared on BBC television for Holocaust Memorial Day.

In terms of governance, the trusteeship of the choir expanded from four to six trustees, increasing the choir's capacity to plan, fundraise and strategise. A new chair was elected by trustees.

The Fourth Choir's engagement with the LGBT+ community has continued and featured a virtual broadcast to mark Pride in June 2020 and collaboration with Proud Voices, a network of LGBT+ choirs across the UK and Ireland. The choir's identity as an LGBT+ choir was a part of its participation in the BBC2 broadcast of the national ceremony marking Holocaust Memorial Day. The national lockdown has made it difficult for many of our members to live their LGBT+ identity and our commitment to maintaining weekly rehearsals online has represented an opportunity for many to connect with members of their community.

2020 was a year in which spotlight was shone on the injustice of racial discrimination following the murder of George Floyd in the USA. The Fourth Choir engaged in discussions about diversity and inclusion with its members and made a public statement celebrating the black composers, arrangers and writers whose works we have sung, the singers and musicians we have performed with, and the actors and readers who have contributed to our concerts. We made a commitment to practise active allyship to black and BAME communities, and to become more diverse in our membership, programming and collaborations.

The Fourth Choir has maintained a commitment to charitable work, raising £1170 for Bloody Good Period, a charity which gives period products to those who can't afford them. Our public statement on Black Lives Matters encouraged donations and support for UK Black Pride, UK Black Lives Matter, The Chineke! Foundation, The Stephen Lawrence Trust, and the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group.

2019-2020 has been a challenging year for The Fourth Choir but we are proud of our achievements and look forward to building on these in coming years.

James Guy
Chair, The Fourth Choir

Objects and Organisation

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation are:

1. The education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts, public recitals and other such means as the Trustees shall decide; and
2. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community and, in particular but not exclusively,
 - a. Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b. Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and
 - c. Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity, in particular through celebrating diversity of the LGBT+ community.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020 - continued

Achievements and Performance

We are delighted and proud of the choir's achievements in this, our eighth year. These achievements include:

- maintaining a valuable sense of community and belonging through the national lockdown due to Covid-19
- continuing to have a public profile at a time when no public performances were possible, through the use of virtual recordings and social media
- fundraising for other charities at both our physical events prior to the pandemic and through virtual releases during the lockdowns
- securing a new, permanent base for the choir's weekly rehearsals at the Siobhan Davies Dance Studios, a location which enables socially distanced and Covid-safe rehearsals when these are permitted by government regulations.

Our achievements throughout the national lockdown should not overshadow what we achieved between September 2019 and February 2020:

- performing a run of eight performances to sold-out audiences at Shakespeare's Globe
- being associated with a nationally reviewed, four-star production with high-profile actors
- being featured on national television at a high-profile event attended by politicians, religious leaders and royalty
- pushing our artistic boundaries and creating performances that are musically interesting whilst exploring issues relating to gender, sexual orientation and discrimination
- maintaining the choir's membership at approximately 50 members
- continuing to develop a core sound which has been a solid success with audiences and critics
- promoting equality and diversity by raising the choir's profile through events and publicity initiatives which positively represent the LGBT+ community on the classical music scene
- maintaining core benefactor relationships and relying solely on donations and ticket sales

Performances and Events

(in chronological order)

Powerful & Dangerous - October & November 2019

'Women are powerful and dangerous' - Audre Lorde.

We presented a concert in praise of self-identifying women who have made a difference, from Queen Elizabeth I to Lady Phyll, Sappho to Marielle Franco, and Nina Simone to Lyra McKee.

The music included compositions by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Barbara Strozzi, Meredith Monk, Jessica Curry and Cecilia McDowall as well as a new commission by our Composer-in-Residence, Stuart Beach, a setting of *Girl Hours* by Sofia Samatar, honouring astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt. The concert featured Jonatan Bougt on the theorbo and guitar and narration by Dame Ann Murray and Annette Badland.

We performed the concert at The Charterhouse, London, The Omnibus Theatre, Clapham and were delighted to be invited to perform it at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe as part of their exploration of the perception of women in the work of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

In the Stillness - St Clement Danes - December 2019

We celebrated Christmas in the white-and-gold splendour of St Clement Danes in the Strand. We featured compositions by women including Sally Beamish, Ann Burgess, Cecilia MacDowall, Elizabeth Poston, Elizabeth Maconchy and our own commission of a choral arrangement of *With Us* by Clare Wheeler. We also featured a ground-breaking setting by Eriks Ešenvalds of Stars a poem by Sara Teasdale, which included choir members playing tuned crystal glasses.

An address was given by Gabby Edlin, Founder of Bloody Good Period, and the audience donated £1170 for this charity dedicated to ending period poverty by giving sanitary products to those who cannot afford them.

The Fourth Choir

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2020 - continued

Christmas at the (Snow) Globe - December 2019

We were delighted to be approached by Shakespeare's Globe to perform in their Christmas show 'Christmas at the (Snow) Globe'. It was created and directed by Sandi Toksvig OBE and Jenifer Toksvig; cast and performers included Stella Duffy OBE, Becky Barry, Chris Jarman, Tony Jayawardena, Sophie Trott, Louise Voce, David Perkins and Mary Price O'Connor. The Fourth Choir was conducted by Dominic Ellis-Peckham and David Dellaire.

In a review in *The Guardian* on 20 December 2019, Brian Logan gave the show 4 stars, saying, "*There are few places I'd rather be at Christmastime than crooning carols in the Wooden O with Toksvig, her merry eight-strong cast and singers from the Fourth Choir.*"

Holocaust Memorial Day - BBC2 - January 2020

The Fourth Choir was honoured to be invited to participate in the National Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. This was the second time we have sung at the National Ceremony and in 2020 the ceremony was broadcast on BBC2 and the BBC iPlayer.

Workshop - February 2020

The Fourth Choir ran an all-day workshop for its members with a focus on musicianship. We were joined by professional mentors who ran dedicated sectional rehearsals with the upper and lower voices.

Recording session with Barb Jungr - February 2020

Shortly before the national lockdown, the Choir recorded "*In My Troubled Days*" by Barb Jungr and John McDaniel. The song has been released on Spotify and other streaming services.

Be Proud in Isolation! - June 2020

To mark Pride 2020, the Choir released a YouTube video featuring recordings we had made during the Lockdown and an interview with our Composer-in-Residence Stuart Beatch and *The Letter*, a movement from his commission for the Choir, *I Am Like Many*. The video also featured The Choir's virtual recording of an arrangement of George Michael's *Jesus to a Child* by our Artistic Director, Dominic Ellis-Peckham, which would have featured in our planned June concert, *Invisible Rainbow*.

Virtual Hand In Hand Festival - August 2020

The Choir took part in the Hand in Hand Virtual Festival 2020, run by Proud Voices UK & Ireland. The Fourth Choir contributed an extract from our virtual Pride celebration, *The Letter*, by Stuart Beatch.

Impact of Covid-19

This report has already addressed the impacts of the global pandemic across our work. The following events were organised and cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions:

- *Voyages*, a concert at the Cutty Sark planned for March 2020
- residential workshop for choir members at Kench Hill, Kent - May 2020
- *Invisible Rainbow*, a concert featuring forgotten LGBT+ representation in pop music at *Heaven* nightclub - June 2020

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020 - continued

Public Benefit

Our charity's purposes include the education of the public in the art of choral music through the presentation of concerts. To this end we performed four times prior to the national lockdown, particularly featuring compositions by women. Our performances took place in a variety of venues, including the historic Charterhouse, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and the Clapham Omnibus.

Due to the collaboration with Shakespeare's Globe and our participation in the televised national ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day, we reached a larger audience than in any previous season.

Our charity's purposes also included the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit with particular reference to the LGBT+ community. Our *Power and Dangerous* programme celebrated women in history, with particular reference to women of colour, and members of the LGBT+ community. Our appearance on television for Holocaust Memorial Day as an LGBT+ plus choir brought exposure to a wider audience than ever before.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Fourth Choir was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 April 2014; before that date, the choir existed as a non-registered body which had commenced on 1 September 2013. The accounts for the fifth period of trading of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation commence on 01 September 2017 and run until 31 August 2019.

The trustees who have served during the period and since commencement are set out on page 1. None of the trustees, nor any person connected to them, has received any paid remuneration from the Charity in the period to 31 August 2019.

The power to appoint trustees is vested in existing trustees. Apart from the first Charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity trustees. All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their meetings.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed through the unanimous voting of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is made up of choir members who demonstrate the commitment and ability to contribute valuable skills towards the running of the choir. Trustees are appointed for 3 years. The first trustees were appointed for 2, 3 and 4 years to ensure continuity of leadership.

The organisational structure remains fluid enough to allow the trustees to manage the changing and growing needs of the choir. From September 2018 to August 2019 there were 4 trustees. There is no fixed limit to the number of trustees that can be appointed.

The key skills covered by the trustees include: financial management and planning; day to day running of the choir, including rehearsals, membership and communications; events planning and external liaison; events management and supervision; fund raising; and secretarial roles.

Finance

The attached financial statements show the current state of the Choir's finances which the committee considers to be sound.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020 - continued

Reserves

The Board of Trustees has determined a rolling policy of reserve maintenance, with a target of £7,000 to be held as a rapidly available credit balance in the principal choir bank account. This reserve exists to provide financial stability and mitigate against any unexpected expenses, and is developed through the setting of clear budgetary targets at the beginning of the year and meeting regularly to review performance.

Future Plans

For the 2020/21 season the Board of Trustees plans to continue to build on the achievements of the choir's first four years by:

- Organising, promoting and performing self-promoted concerts
- Securing more professional engagements
- Creating further performance opportunities throughout the year to promote, support and develop the choir and its charitable objectives
- Fundraising for the choir from national grant-making charities and arts organisations.
- Forming new relationships, and developing existing ones, with sponsors, benefactors, charities, composers, professional musicians, arts promoters and LGBT+ organisations.

The Fourth Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020 - continued

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Registration Number: 1156769

Trustees: Chair – Kathleen Holman
Trustee – James McGreenera
Trustee – Dr Edward Long
Trustee – Jill Pelt
Trustee – Laura Cioffi
Trustee – James Guy

Principal Contact Address: Flat 5
19 Percy Circus
London
W4X 9EE

Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

Bankers: HSBC
Lion House
25 Islington High Street
Islington
London
N1 9LJ

Independent Examiner: Mrs D J Lockwood FCA FCCA ATT(Fellow)
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8AA

Declaration

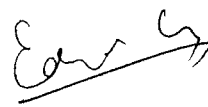
We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 

Full Name JAMES MCGREENERA

Position TRUSTEE

Date 20/5/2021

Signature 

Full Name EDWARD LONG

Position TRUSTEE

Date 20/5/2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

the Fourth Choir ('the CIO')

For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 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 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....D. J. Lockwood.....
Mrs D J Lockwood FCCA FCA ATT(Fellow)
Chartered Accountant

Dated ...25.5.2021.....

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Cliffe Hill House
22-26 Nottingham Road
Stapleford
Nottingham NG9 8AA

**The Fourth Choir
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 August 2020**

<u>Notes</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>				
HSBC Bank	11,375		15,501	
Cash in Hand	398		1,209	
PayPal	1,353		1,080	
		13,126		17,790
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Bank Interest	-		-	
Activities for Generating Funds:				
Service Sales	8,000		4,980	
Special Events	351		3,776	
Product Sales	558		18	
Charitable Activities:				
Concert Sales	9,521		11,739	
Voluntary Receipts:				
Donations and Gift Aid	18,939		19,926	
Transfer of Fund Balance	5	-	-	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		37,369		40,439
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
Fundraising Costs:				
Advertising and Marketing Costs	158		126	
		(158)		(126)
Cost of Charitable Activities:				
Equipment Hire and Purchase	149		987	
Performers	11,850		7,125	
Venue Hire	5,173		10,212	
Commissions and Scores	2,653		5,374	
Subscriptions	972		1,084	
Product Costs	1,325		1,995	
Grants Payable	-		-	
Donations	5	-	-	
Travel Costs	94		570	
		(22,216)		(27,347)
Support Costs:				
Professional Fees	14,558		15,956	
Insurance	132		132	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	748		1,231	
Bank Charges	186		311	
		(15,624)		(17,630)
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>		(37,998)		(45,103)
Excess Receipts Over Expenditure		(629)		(4,664)
Closing balances:				
HSBC Bank Balance	9,149		11,375	
Cash in Hand	1,253		398	
Paypal	2,095		1,353	
		12,497		13,126

Signature J. McGrevera TRUSTEE
Chair
Name J. MCGREVERA Date: 20/5/2021

Signature Edward Long TRUSTEE
Treasurer
Name EDWARD LONG Date: 20/5/2021

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds 2019/20</u>	<u>Total Funds (All Unrestricted) 2018/19</u>
Cash Funds -	HSBC Bank Balance	£ 9,149	9,149	11,375
-	Cash in Hand	1,253	1,253	398
-	Paypal	2,095	2,095	1,353
Amounts – Receivable (debtors)		£ 15	15	386
Amounts -	Payable (Creditors)	£ -	-	1,916
-	Payable (Accrued charges)	690	690	600

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS102) Issued 1st January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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

The accounts are presented in Sterling £.

- a) Income
This is accounted for on a receivable purpose in the period which it is received.
- b) Payments
These are accounted for as paid.

2. Accountancy Charges

Independent Examination following accounts preparation £690.

3. Taxation

The Charitable Trust is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

4. All monies currently held are unrestricted in their application.

The Fourth Choir

Statement of Assets and liabilities at the end of the year – continued

5. No donations were made in the year.

6. Emoluments of Trustees

No emoluments were received by the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

There were no other emoluments or expenses paid to any charity Trustees or person connected with such a Trustee directly or indirectly from the funds of the charity.

7. Reimbursement of Trustees Expenses paid in the period in the normal course of the work of the charity.

Kathleen Holman	-	£158	For programme printing, catering supplies and publicity material.
John Holtorp	-	NIL	
James McGrenera	-	NIL	
Edward Long	-	NIL	

8. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the Charitable Incorporated Organisation did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

9. Trustee Donations

The charity received a total of £810 donations from trustees in the year (2019: £480).

10. Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions