

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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

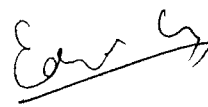
We declare in our capacity as trustees that the Trustees have approved this report and that we have been authorised to sign.

Signature 

Full Name JAMES MCGRENERA

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