

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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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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

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Chair's Report

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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.

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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

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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

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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.

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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