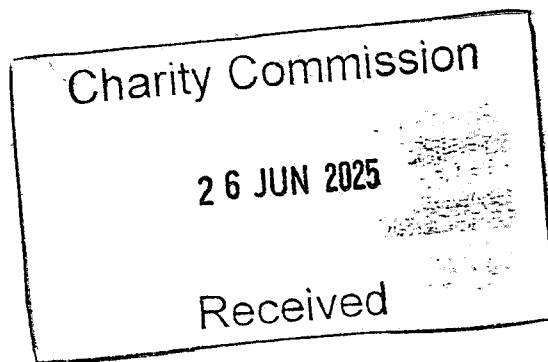


The Fourth Choir

**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

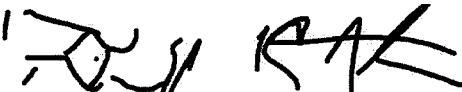
Website: www.thefourthchoir.com

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').

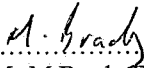
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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