



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st November 2021

To 31st October 2022

Charity name: HARMONY INSPIRES OXFORD LADIES BARBERSHOP CLUB

Charity registration number: 1157497

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	1) To advance education of members and the public in the barbershop style of 4-part harmony singing, through rehearsals, education courses, competition and shows 2) To further such charitable purposes (charitable under English law) as the Trustees, from time to time, think fit.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>In pursuing our aims for the public benefit, the chorus believes it impacts on people's lives in several ways. We involve people in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity, providing members with the opportunity to develop friendships, vocal technique and musical repertoire. Open "Learn to Sing" courses also give this opportunity to non-members. For audiences, we present exciting, innovative and high quality performances providing a pleasant and entertaining cultural experience, but also educating them by extending their musical knowledge, especially in the genre of Barbershop 4-part close harmony singing.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on membership of Harmony InSpires - anyone can become an Associate member, although Full Membership is restricted to those who sing with a female voice and have passed a vocal assessment. In addition to the public educational benefits to participants and audience members mentioned above, the Trustees are conscious that its activities must be affordable. The Trustees have the discretion to reduce membership subscription payments and financial support is offered in cases of hardship to those wishing to join the chorus in competitions.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Club Funds as at 31 October 2022 amounted to £9,223, a decrease of £7,115 over the previous financial year. Reserves accumulated during the Covid pandemic because of being unable to meet in person were used to invest in a new set of risers, new performance costumes and additional chorus coaching. As costs are expected to increase over the course of the coming financial year it is proposed to increase members subscriptions from 1 January 2023.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>The trustees consider that Harmony InSpires requires a reserve fund to enable the club to operate if there should be an unexpected drop in income or increase in expenditure. The main risks are considered to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A drop in membership, causing a significant drop in subscription income b) An unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds <p>The trustees propose to maintain the reserves at a level, which would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cover payment of outstanding hall hire bills and allow time to develop new sources of income or to cut back on expenditure • cover possible troughs in cash flow <p>As the club is funded largely by the members, the trustees also consider that there should be an upper limit to the reserves held.</p> <p>Current upper and lower limits are £20,000 and £2,000.</p>

Additional information (optional)

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	<p>The charity's principal source of funds were:</p> <p>Member subscriptions (less LABBS subscriptions) including gift aid.</p> <p>The majority of income is applied to the costs of running the club. The primary expenses are hire of rehearsal rooms, cost of music (arrangers fees, copyright, teach tracks), travel costs for our Musical Director, software licence fees, fees for guest instructors and costumes and other props for performances.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document	Constitution date 11 th June 2014 (updated 8 th December 2021)
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Elected by members or appointed by Trustees

Additional information (optional)

Contribution made by volunteers	The club is run entirely by volunteers. without whose valuable contributions, the Club would not function. We are, in particular, indebted to our Musical Director who provided her services for free, not only running rehearsals, but spending many hours on preparation.
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Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p>After 2 years, during which our activities were severely curtailed by Covid-19 restrictions, this year the Club has focussed on "a return to normality" and rebuilding singing skills. Precautions such as the wearing of masks and standing apart in a well-ventilated room were gradually removed, with the support of our members. We have returned to singing on risers, but continue to monitor the situation, with member well-being our foremost consideration.</p> <p>Members received coaching and instruction from the Musical Director and spent 3 weekends with an external vocal coach. The aim, as always, is to improve singing technique and the preparation of songs for performance to a wider audience.</p> <p>Performances: Performance opportunities have been fewer than before the pandemic, but we were delighted to sing at the wedding of one of our chorus members.</p> <p>Competitions: Competing against other choruses is a very effective way of focussing on improvement. We had entered the Oxford Music Festival in Jan 2022, but it was cancelled due to the spread of Omicron. However, we were able to sing at the Wantage Music Festival in June and the year culminated in our successful performance in October at the first LABBS Convention held since 2019.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	<p>Harmony InSpires is a member of the national Ladies Association of Barbershop Singers (LABBS) which provides advice and guidance, educational opportunities for club members and directors and hosts competitions which lead to the promotion and improvement of singing in the Barbershop style.</p> <p>The charity is also a member of Making Music.</p> <p>All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p>
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	HARMONY INSPIRES LADIES BARBERSHOP CLUB
Other name the charity uses	HARMONY INSPIRES
Registered charity number	1157497
Charity's principal address	2 Elmfield Gardens, Speen Lane, Newbury RG14 1WA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Elizabeth Cookson	Chair		
2	Julie Thakker	Vice Chair		
3	Lesley Maitland	Secretary	To 1 Feb 2022	
4	Michele Steele	Secretary	From 11 Apr 2022	
5	Joanna Murray	Chorus Manager		
7	Rebecca Todd	Membership Secretary		
8	Rachel Buglass	Public Relations Officer		

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Clare Cookson</i>	<i>C. Simmons</i>
Full name(s)	ELIZABETH CLAIRE COOKSON	CAROLINE REBECCA SIMMONDS
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	Treasurer
Date	18 Jan 2023	

Charity Name	No (if any)
Harmony InSpires	1157497

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Nov-21		31-Oct-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Total funds (Unrestricted)	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts		
Subscriptions - members	7,935	7,245
Gift Aid reclaimed on member subscriptions 2020-2021	1,139	986
Performances	-	-
LABBS grants	200	235
Easy Fundraising	343	282
Member sales (Teas/monthly bazaar)	-	-
Refunds and compensation	38	-
Donations	30	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,685	8,747
A2 Asset and investment sales		
	-	-
	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total receipts	9,685	8,747
A3 Payments		
Capitation fee to LABBS	1,890	1,368
Rehearsal room rental	2,111	572
Performance costs	21	38
Convention costs	661	-
Music fees and learning material	591	532
Coaching for members: fees and expenses	2,746	1,013
Stamps, stationery, website, Zoom fees	272	435
Gifts and Donations	309	118
Purchase of costumes, badges and ptch pipes	4,425	716
Love to Sing course	-	141
MD expenses	1,376	394
Events	39	173
Hardship fund	-	-
Sub total	14,440	5,499
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)		
1 set Wenger risers, CO2 monitor	2,361	-
	-	-
Sub total	2,361	-
Total payments	16,800	5,499
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,115	3,248
A5 Transfers between funds		
	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,338	13,090
Cash funds this year end	9,223	16,338

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	TSB Treasurer's Account	9,223
	Cash and Cheques to be paid into bank	
	Less unrepresented cheques	
	Total cash funds	9,223
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	

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Unrestricted funds

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
	-
	-
	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Cost	Current value
6 sets Wenger Choral risers	10,159	1,016
1 set Wenger Choral risers	1,796	583
2 Wenger riser trollies	2,682	2,146
1 set Wenger Choral risers	2,172	1,954
CO2 monitor (Dep. 5 years)	189	151
Note: Riser depreciation over 10 years	-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
		-	Paid
		-	Paid
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Claire Cookson</i>	ELIZABETH CLAUDE COOKSON	18/1/23

Caroline Simmons

CAROLINE REBECCA SIMMONS

18/1/23