



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st November 2022

To 31st October 2023

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	<p>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</p> <p>2) To further such charitable purposes (charitable under English law) as the Trustees, from time to time, think fit.</p>
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 "Come and 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 women, who 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	<p>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.</p>

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>The Club holds weekly rehearsals at which members receive coaching and instruction from the Musical Director.</p> <p>The chorus also received instruction from several external vocal coaches. The aim, as always, is to improve singing technique and the preparation of songs for performance to a wider audience.</p> <p>Performances: We brought Christmas music to the ETSY Christmas market in Oxford and gave a Christmas Concert at St. Michaels and All Angels in Abingdon, raising funds for the church. We were delighted to sing at the wedding of a local couple in Marcham and joined with other choirs in shows in Oxford and Wantage, thus bringing our barbershop style to a wider audience.</p> <p>Competitions: Competing against other choruses is a very effective way of focussing on improvement.</p> <p>We sang at the Oxford Music Festival in Jan 2023, receiving Distinction in both the classes that we entered.</p> <p>In October, we competed against 24 other choruses in the national LABBS Convention in Harrogate, in which 2 songs were judged in the categories of singing, music and performance. The feedback from the judges helps us focus on areas for improvement in the next year. We were very happy that the work we have done this year was rewarded by a significant improvement in our score. During the event, members were able to learn more of the barbershop craft by watching other choruses and quartets.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Club Funds as at 31 October 2023 amounted to £8,794, a decrease of £428 over the previous financial year. Member subscriptions were increased to £20 per month from 1 Jan 2023 to cover higher fixed costs for hall rental and MD expenses.
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 £5,000.</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)

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	21 Robinson Road, Oxford, OX1 5LE

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	Fiona McLeod	Secretary		
4	Michele Steele	Chorus Manager		
5	Vanessa Chatterton	Membership Secretary		
6	Caroline Simmonds	Treasurer		
7	Rachel Buglass	Public Relations Officer		
8	Constance Wallcraft		From 23 Jan 2023	

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Claire Cookson</i>	<i>C. Simmonds</i>
Full name(s)	ELIZABETH CLAIRE COOKSON	CAROLINE SIMMONDS
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	6 DECEMBER 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-22		31-Oct-23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Total funds (Unrestricted)	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts		
Subscriptions - members	10,395	7,935
Gift Aid reclaimed on member subscriptions 2020-2021	1,142	1,139
LABBS grants	100	200
Easy Fundraising	375	343
Raffle tickets & refreshment sales	794	-
Performances	525	-
Refunds and compensation	-	38
Donations	-	30
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,332	9,685
A2 Asset and investment sales		
	-	-
	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total receipts	13,332	9,685
A3 Payments		
Capitation fee to LABBS	2,328	1,890
Rehearsal room rental	2,743	2,111
Performance costs	88	21
Convention costs	510	661
Music fees and learning material	659	591
Coaching for members: fees and expenses	3,116	2,746
Website, Zoom fees	273	272
Gifts and Donations	134	309
Purchase of costumes, badges and pitch pipes	1,892	4,425
Purchase of protective riser gloves	111	-
Recruitment costs	28	-
MD expenses	1,591	1,376
Events	108	39
Hardship fund	180	-
Sub total	13,761	14,440
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)		
1 set Wenger risers, CO2 monitor	-	2,361
	-	-
Sub total	-	2,361
Total payments	13,761	16,800
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 429	- 7,115
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,223	16,338
Cash funds this year end	8,794	9,223

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £																												
B1 Cash funds	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TSB Treasurer's Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash and Cheques to be paid into bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less unrepresented cheques</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total cash funds</td> </tr> </table> <p>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</p>	TSB Treasurer's Account	Cash and Cheques to be paid into bank	Less unrepresented cheques	Total cash funds	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>8,794</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8,794</td> </tr> </table>	8,794			8,794																				
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B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Details</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 sets Wenger Choral risers</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 set Wenger Choral risers</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Wenger riser trollies</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 set Wenger Choral risers</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CO2 monitor</td> <td>(Dep. 5 years)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Note: Riser depreciation over 10 years</td> </tr> </table>	Details		6 sets Wenger Choral risers		1 set Wenger Choral risers		2 Wenger riser trollies		1 set Wenger Choral risers		CO2 monitor	(Dep. 5 years)	Note: Riser depreciation over 10 years		<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Cost</th> <th>Current value</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10,159</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,796</td> <td>403</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,682</td> <td>1,877</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,172</td> <td>1,737</td> </tr> <tr> <td>189</td> <td>113</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Cost	Current value	10,159	-	1,796	403	2,682	1,877	2,172	1,737	189	113	-	-
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Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 	 	 