



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st November 2023

To 31st October 2024

Charity name: HARMONY INSPIRES OXFORD 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. Our weekly Welcome Wednesday provides an open opportunity to come and join us singing unaccompanied 4-part harmony.</p> <p>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 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.

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>During the year 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: This year the chorus performed in several locations in and around Oxford and Abingdon. Of note were two performances for the NHS, one in central Oxford and one in a local hospital. Both performances brought the craft and joy of barbershop 4-part harmony singing to local public sector workers not only providing entertainment but simultaneously showing our appreciation for our NHS workers. The Chorus also performed at the <i>Marcham Big Weekend</i>, the village where we rehearse in the community hall and at <i>Witney in Pink</i>, a community-based fundraiser for the Abingdon-based charity Against Breast Cancer's vital research. In addition, the Chorus held a joint fundraising concert for church in Abingdon and were privileged to be performing alongside two other local choirs at this event.</p> <p>Competitions: In October 2024, Harmony Inspires competed against 26 other choruses in the national LABBS Convention in Bournemouth, in which 2 songs were judged in the categories of singing, music and performance. This year the chorus were very happy to be recognised and awarded The Millennium Award for the Most Improved Chorus of 2024.</p> <p>During the event, members were able to learn more of the barbershop craft by watching other choruses and quartets and through attending fringe educational activities.</p> <p>Competing against other choruses is a very effective way of focussing on improving our singing skills and feedback from judges helps us focus and hone our skills in specific areas that require refinement.</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 2024 amounted to £10,260, an increase of £1,466 over the previous financial year.
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> <p>a) A drop in membership, causing a significant drop in subscription income</p> <p>b) An unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds 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>Donations are also received through Easyfundraising and the chorus receives donations for some performances.</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 and 15 th February 2024)
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	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. The charity is also a member of Making Music. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	HARMONY INSPIRES OXFORD 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	Constance Wallcraft	Chair	From 23 Jan 2023	
2	Deborah Brooks	Vice Chair	6 Dec 2023 to 30 Jul 2024	
3	Fiona McLeod	Secretary		
4	Michele Steele	Chorus Manager		
5	Vanessa Chatterton	Membership Secretary		
6	Caroline Simmonds	Treasurer		
7	Rachel Buglass	Public Relations Officer	To 8 Jul 2024	
8	Alison Berry	Trustee	From 8 Jul 2024	

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	CONSTANCE WALLCRAFT	CAROLINE SIMMONDS
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	4 DEC 2024	

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-23		31-Oct-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Total funds (Unrestricted)	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts		
Subscriptions - members	11,620	10,395
Gift Aid reclaimed on member subscriptions 2020-2021	1,564	1,142
LABBS grants	100	100
Easy Fundraising	324	375
Raffle tickets & refreshment sales	901	794
Performances	580	525
Interest	69	-
Refunds and compensation	-	-
Donations	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,158	13,332
A2 Asset and investment sales		
	-	-
	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total receipts	15,158	13,332
A3 Payments		
Capitation fee to LABBS	2,619	2,328
Rehearsal room rental	2,725	2,743
Performance costs	151	88
Convention costs	782	510
Music fees and learning material	212	659
Coaching for members: fees and expenses	3,167	3,116
Website, Zoom fees, HI app	338	273
Gifts and Donations	44	134
Voicebox adverts	25	-
Purchase of costumes, badges and pitch pipes	2,184	1,692
First aid kit and accident book	20	-
Trustee award	21	-
Purchase of protective riser gloves	-	111
Recruitment costs	-	28
MD expenses	1,278	1,591
Events	126	108
Hardship fund	-	180
Sub total	13,692	13,761
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)		
	-	-
	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total payments	13,692	13,761
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,466	- 429
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,794	9,223
Cash funds this year end	10,260	8,794

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

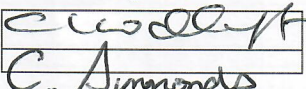
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	TSB Treasurer's Account	5,147
	TSB Savings	5,069
	Cash and Cheques to be paid into bank	43
	Less unrepresented cheques	
	Total cash funds	10,260
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-
		-
		-

Categories	Details	Cost	Current value
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	6 sets Wenger Choral risers	10,159	-
	1 set Wenger Choral risers	1,796	223
	2 Wenger riser trollies	2,682	1,609
	1 set Wenger Choral risers	2,172	1,520
	CO2 monitor (Dep. 5 years)	189	76
	Note: Riser depreciation over 10 years		-

Categories	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
B5 Liabilities			-	Paid
			-	Paid
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 C. Simmonds	C. WALLCRAFT C. SIMMONDS	4/12/24