

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

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**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

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RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period covered by this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Mr Edwin Borgars
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

St George's Church
St George's Rd, Kemptown
Brighton
England
BN2 1ED

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	The members voted to accept an updated constitution at the last AGM. For governance purposes and to ensure efficient oversight and communication, at least one committee member must be appointed as a trustee. The committee may appoint up to a maximum of 5 trustees from within their number. Further external trustees (external to committee, so may or may not be RC members) up to a maximum number permitted by the constitution may be appointed. These external appointments require a majority vote of both the existing trustees and the committee members.

Additional governance issues

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with copies of our Constitution and policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, the Chair of the Trustees is not on the operating Committee and the constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

Working together with other organisations has been and will continue to be an important part of how Rainbow Chorus operates. However covid restrictions and member concerns continued to affect and inform our activities for a majority of this financial year. Our various activities have included video performances to mark some important dates in the LGBTQ+ calendar and some in person performances in the last 4 months of the year, including working with Brighton Gay Mens Chorus, The Actually Gay Mens Chorus and Marco Nardi our sign language interpreter to produce our joint concert for World Aids Day to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids.

Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity.

The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices, the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European Association of LGBTQ+ choirs. We also belong to Community Works, a networking and support organisation.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation

and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+ and our outreach to the Deaf & sign language user community;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers dwindle;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

Update on risks identified as having an impact in our 2020-2021 report:

1. The Trustees noted the loss of some grant funding last year but are pleased to report that subsequently we were successful in obtaining a grant for RC+ from Brighton & Hove City Council Communities Fund.
2. The Covid pandemic was and has continued to affect our ability to rehearse and perform but Xmas 2021 saw the return of our concert, which was profitable and provided a much needed boost to our finances.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBTQ+ community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Disablism against LGBTQ+ Deaf people is a regular experience for those within this community. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. In the early part of this financial year Marco supported our videos with his expressive interpretation, so that we could continue to reach out to the Deaf community.

The level of discrimination and racism experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world continues and the ongoing war in Europe has only served to highlight this more.

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RC+: Thanks to Brighton & Hove City Council and an individual donation we have continued with RC+, our workshop choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability. Many members of the performing Rainbow Chorus continue to attend to improve their music skills.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

Choral festivals have been delayed or cancelled during the covid pandemic but we have now registered for Various Voices Bologna in 2023 and look forward to this and the next Hand-in-Hand event in Bristol in 2024. Legato, who organise the Various Voices festival, created an online 'Winter Medley' concert in December and Rainbow Chorus took part in this.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we retain the concert ticket concession price at two thirds of our full price tickets. This hopefully helps those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We also provide some free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible.

We perform at some community events without charge, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year we supported these events with our video or live performances :

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Pride
- Trans Day of Remembrance.
- World Aids Day

Additional details of objectives and activities

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5th section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Jane MacDonald with the support of Chris Cunningham.

The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who carry out a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities. Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD, accompanist and treasurer invoice us for their time but also contribute a number of hours pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Their support is always a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Achievements and performance

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2022. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

May:

17th - RC video including messages of support for IDAHOBIT, with the theme 'You are Loved'. Always a hugely important day when we show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

June:

With a lot of work behind the scenes and help from a local school, Rainbow Chorus was able to return to in-person rehearsals outside.

July:

Rainbow Chorus was proud to produce a performance video in support of Trans Pride, with the theme 'We See You'. We also included messages of support and thoughts from our members with their views on why Trans Pride is so important.

September:

10th - The Federation of Gay Games held its annual conference in Brighton and we were delighted to be invited to the awards ceremony, where RC+ received an award for our 'outstanding contribution to trans and non-binary culture participation'.

November:

21st - Trans Day of Remembrance. An emotional event for many in our community. Our first live performance for 20 months.

December:

1st - Our joint concert for World Aids Day in support of a local HIV and Aids charity

2nd - Christmas at St George's Church - Rainbow Chorus and RC+ sang at this event organised by the church where we rehearse & hold our concerts.

11th - Rainbows Return, our first main concert for 2 years

26th - Legato Winter Medley - an online concert featuring performances from many European LGBTQ+ choirs, including Rainbow Chorus

March:

Rainbow Chorus records Rise Up to create a video of support for and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, including messages from our members.

In addition to the above we ran 12 **RC+ Workshop Choir** sessions either in person or online.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves.

We have previously stated we consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses and during this financial year our reserves were needed at various points. When adjusted to include payments made just after our year end (£1460) the year end reserve balance was £17182 (including £5082 bursary fund).

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

This has again been a difficult year in many ways:

- Total income was 6.2% lower than our budgeted figure
- Removing the one off insurance payout (£6553), year-on-year income was approximately 6.5% lower. Unsurprisingly with continuing restrictions on our activities, reduced concert income & donations were the major reason for this decrease.

Thanks to difficult decisions taken by the trustees and our operating committee, reduced expenditure compensated for the reduced income:

- Total Expenditure was 11% lower than our budgeted figure.
- Removing the one off legal costs (£7489) from the previous year's expenditure, year-on-year expenditure was approximately 12.8% lower.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

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**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

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Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	19233	-	19233	20098
Gift Aid	3412	-	3412	4768
Grant Income	-	5000	5000	4896
Concert Income	3590	-	3590	1300
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	605	-	605	3337
Sundry income & refunds	6687	-	6687	5
Uniforms	-	440	440	-
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	785	-	785	1067
Special Projects (Tours)	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	1	26	27	61
Previous year reclassification of income	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	34313	5466	39779	35532
Asset and investment sales etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	34313	5466	39779	35532
Payments				
Music Director & Accompanist's fees	16332	4384	20716	29765
Other musician & professional fees	4695	-	4695	10505
Regular rehearsal costs	1003	353	1356	198
Performance costs	716	-	716	-
Marketing & publicity	65	-	65	-
Subscriptions & website fees	1188	229	1417	1893
Postage & stationery	215	-	215	468
Travel	-	-	-	75
Music purchases	1168	-	1168	906
Insurance	103	34	137	132
Storage	2923	-	2923	2741
Uniforms	-	440	440	-
Special projects	-	546	546	-
Community events	-	-	-	-
Props, equipment & costumes	693	-	693	499
Accountancy	990	-	990	1110
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	328	-	328	947
Bank charges	217	-	217	264
<i>Sub total</i>	30636	5986	36622	49503
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	30636	5986	36622	49503
Net of receipts/ (payments)	3677	-520	3157	-13971

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Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-546	546		
Cash funds last year end	10,429	5,056	15,485	29,456
Cash funds this year end	13,560	5,082	18,642	15,485

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**Statement of Assets and
 Liabilities For the Year Ended 31
 March 2022**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	13,560	5,082	18,642
	13,560	5,082	18,642

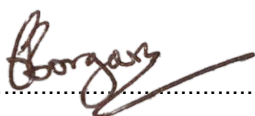
Liabilities

Creditors	1460	-	1460
	1460	-	1460

Name of Trustee:

...Edwin Borgars.....

Signature:



Date of approval:

.... 26-Jan-2023.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £1460 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2022. If these invoices had been paid prior to 31 March 2022, these would have been included in the payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a decrease in the net surplus and a reduction in cash funds held.

Last year's report advised of invoices to be paid by RC of £998, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2021. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2021.

Exceptional income of £6,553 was received in the financial year to 31 March 2022 (an insurance claim detailed in last year's report).

In the year to 31 March 2022, these accounts show a modest increase in our reserves and a more balanced level of income vs expenditure compared to the previous year.

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Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
44 Orange Row
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1UQ

Date.....26-JAN-2023