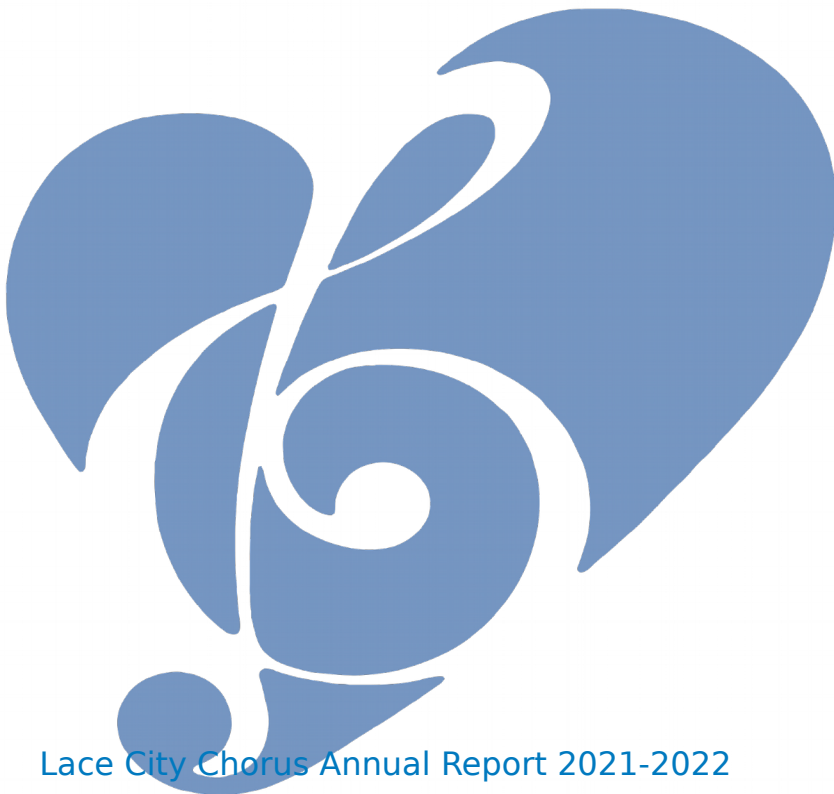


ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Charity number 1162618



Contents

About Lace City Chorus	3
Our charitable aims	3
Board of Trustees (Management Team)	4
Structure, Governance and Management	5
Membership of the CIO	5
Eligibility	5
Admission Procedure	5
Duty of Members	5
Membership Fees	5
Member decisions	5
Trustees	6
Priorities for 2021/2022	6
Meeting our charitable aims	7
Weekly rehearsals	7
Coaching and education	7
Shows, performances and special events	8
Financial position 2021/22	8
Summary	8
Income	8
Expenditure	8
Reserves	8
Future finance considerations	8

About Lace City Chorus

The only barbershop chorus for women in Nottinghamshire was founded in 1992 by a group of teachers and students at Arnold Hill Comprehensive School. After two years of lunchtime rehearsals at the school, there was a need to take it all rather more seriously and the Lace City Chorus was born.

The chorus now has 70 members from all over the East Midlands ranging in age from 14 to 78. Women of all ages, backgrounds and all musical abilities join together to sing, have fun and make lifelong friendships. Our members are from a variety of backgrounds and hold jobs such as sales manager, accountant, nurse, doctor, solicitor, chemist, social worker, student, executive director, and teacher - as well as being wives, partners, mothers, grandmothers and aunts.

These days the chorus is highly regarded as one of the premier barbershop choruses in Europe, having won the regional championships (UK, Ireland and the Netherlands) a total of six times. These successes have led to the chorus competing at the [Sweet Adelines](#) International Convention (the world championships of Barbershop) in Detroit in 2005, Calgary in 2007, Nashville in 2009, Houston in 2009, Las Vegas in 2015 and St Louis in 2018. At the International contests in 2015 and 2018 we were ranked 16th in the world.

Our charitable aims

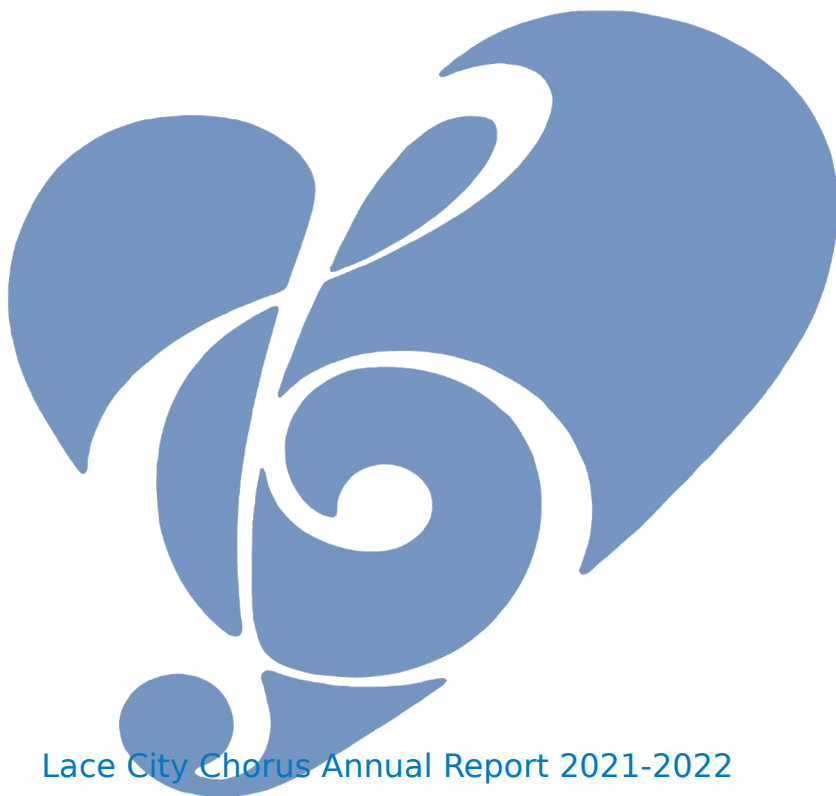
Lace City Chorus is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charities Commission as Registered Number 1162618. The Chorus is also a member of the Sweet Adelines International organisation with complementing governance arrangements.

Objectives

The objectives of the CIO are:

- 1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of barbershop music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- 2) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants

and donations.



Board of Trustees (Management Team)

Table 1: Board of Trustees / Management team for the period April 2021 to March 2022:

Name	Position
Deborah Pollard	Team Coordinator / Chair of Trustees
Tasha King	Chorus secretary / Trustee
Eleanor Blackeby	Musical Director / Trustee
Liz Clunie	Treasurer / Trustee
Carole Bowman	Trustee
Heather Ankers	Trustee
Hilary Rotheram	Trustee
Maureen Walker	Trustee
Sue Wheeldon	Trustee

Directing Team

Table 2: Chorus Directing Team for the period April 2021 to March 2022:

Name	Position
Eleanor Blackeby	Interim Musical Director
Helen Abbott	Assistant Director / Choreographer

Following a period as Interim Director, Ellie Blackeby was appointed to the position of permanent Musical Director in May 2021.

Ellie has been with the chorus since her early teens and has gained international renown as a member of the 2007 Rising Star quartet champions 'Luminous'.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by its chorus constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus. The Constitution lays out the governance and decision-making powers the structures that sit beneath the Board of Trustees have. The Sub Teams are expected to report regularly to the Board of Trustees making recommendations for approval at Board meetings.

The Chorus is a member of an International Barbershop organisation called Sweet Adelines International. This membership requires the Chorus to be compliant with their respective governance rules and regulations largely translated for choruses into a document called the 'Standing Rules'. When the CIO was established the leadership team ensured alignment between the two documents (Charity Constitution and Standing Rules).

Membership of the CIO

Eligibility

Membership of the CIO is open to women aged 14 and upwards interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated her agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members.

Admission Procedure

The admission procedure is laid out in both the Chorus Constitution and the Chorus Standing Rules which contain the detail of the music and performance level that needs to be attained before admission is recommended to the Trustees.

Duty of Members

The duty of members is also laid out in both the charities governing documents (Constitution and Standing Rules). This is usually described in the Sweet Adeline International by laws as being in 'good standing'.

Membership Fees

The monthly fees are set by the Trustees and voted on by the CIO.

Member decisions

Most decisions are made by a simple majority vote including the appointment of Trustees.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees is constituted by up to a maximum of 9 trustees. During the period of this report the Board was made up of 9 Trustees. Half of the Trustees stand down each year on rota by those longest standing on the board subject to re-election or substitution. Trustees are voted for at the chorus Annual General Meeting (AGM). The arrangements for the AGM and elections are detailed in the Constitution.

Priorities for 2021/2022

Our priorities were impacted by the Covid19 pandemic, which meant that the chorus was unable to meet in person for the first part of the year. The chorus used 'Zoom' to run weekly rehearsals and participate in educational events virtually until returning to in-person rehearsals in the Autumn. Our priorities, continued to be:

1. To strive for excellence in everything we do, whether in rehearsals, performances, competitions, show planning, rehearsals, music learning and section work.
2. To recruit excellent new members through singing courses and open evenings and to further develop a high-quality Public Relations function which makes full use of social media platforms.
3. To develop our skills by training our members in a variety of different ways (individual and collective vocal lessons, developing visual and performance skills including emcee work, blending rehearsals, and by developing and expanding the song evaluation process) and enlisting the help of high-quality coaches.
4. To enhance our members' own skills by encouraging attendance at regional educational workshops.
5. To build our reputation and increased our target audience.
6. To strengthen our finances.



Meeting our charitable aims

Weekly rehearsals

Normally, our weekly rehearsals are held at the Colonel Frank Seeley school, Calverton, Nottinghamshire every Wednesday from 19:15 to 21:30. Rehearsals feature:

- Physical and vocal warmups and mental check-in to prepare members for a productive rehearsal.
- Song learning, although members are expected to use the learning media provided to learn the songs at home before rehearsals. During rehearsals the aim is to bring all the voices together into a well-blended unit.
- Skills building (vocal, mindset and visual) during the development of songs for performance and competition facilitated by a team of in-house coaches and the director.
- Section rehearsals facilitated by section leaders during which section unity is developed. Section rehearsals are also part of the process for learning new songs.
- Teaching and practicing of visual plans for selected repertoire and competition songs.
- Preparation (vocal, visual and mental) for performance and competition depending on where we are in the annual cycle.
- Vocal and visual evaluations in the lead up to competition.

Coaching and education

We bring in a variety of coaches every year to help us develop our skills and understanding of our music. Two coaching weekends were held during the year with established coach, Nicky Salt on 6/7 Nov 2021 and 19/20 March 2022.

Many of our members also benefitted from personal vocal instruction from member Alyson Chaney, who is a member of the Sweet Adelines International Faculty, as well as from members of the music team.

Shows, performances and special events

Following our successful virtual performance of 'Can't buy me love' in support of local charity 'Wish upon a Star', the chorus were delighted that our first public performance since the pandemic was for this worthwhile charity. This took place in December 2021, at their Christmas Fair, and featured a selection of Christmas favourites.

Financial position 2021/22

Summary

A surplus of just under £2000 was generated during this financial year. Income was up by £2,200 on the previous year and payments also increased by £2,000. The impact of the pandemic continued to impact on both for the first part of the year. Members' subscriptions were increased back to pre-covid levels from January 2022 as normal rehearsals resumed.

Income

Total income was just over £17,000. £14,700 of this was from subscriptions and visitors' fees and a further £1,500 from Gift Aid. Some other income (£342) came from fundraising efforts. There was a repayment of £400 into the Angel Fund, which had been previously loaned to members to help fund convention expenses.

Expenditure

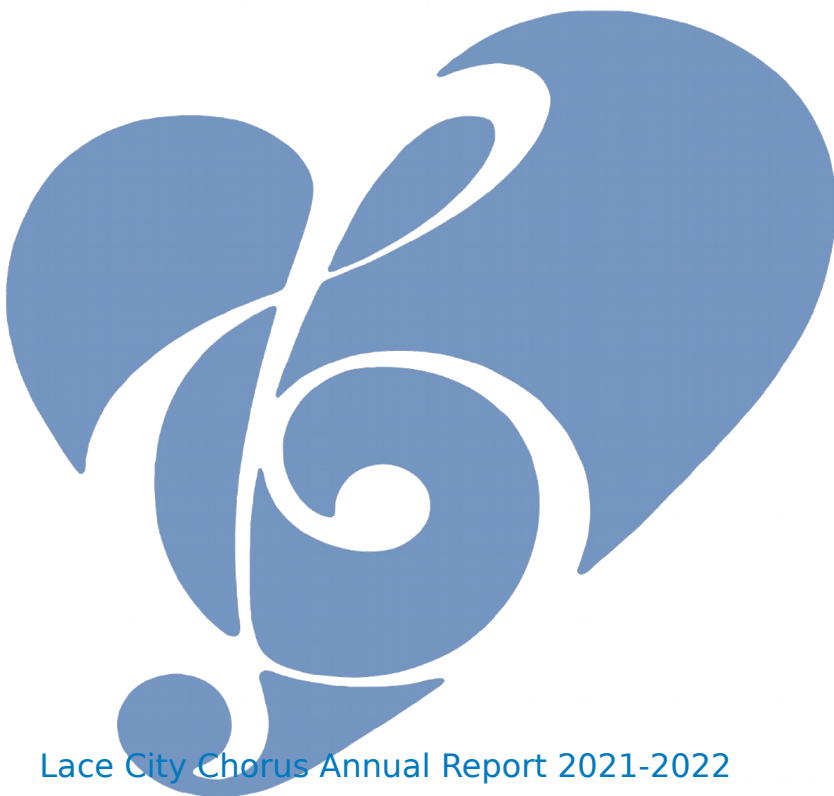
Expenses were £15k. Other than member subscriptions to our international organisation and regional dues (£6,340) our biggest expense related to compensation for our Musical Director (£3,300). We also spent £1,700 for rehearsal venue hire and riser set up and £1,700 on coaching. We spent £215 on new music and £660 to secure accommodation for upcoming competition in May 2022.

Reserves

The chorus has reserves of £19,427 at the end of the 2021-22 financial year. This will provide a good foundation for expenses which will be incurred now 'normal' activities have resumed, such as attending convention and planned Christmas performances in 2022.

Future finance considerations

Appropriate use of the chorus reserves will be considered, such as, the purchase of new costumes, maintenance/repair our choral risers and to support attendance at convention.





Receipts and payments account

For the period from	04/01/2021	To
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
Members' Dues	13794		-
Donations	9		-
Grants			-
Happy Birthday recordings			-
Singing Course	0		-
Easyfundraising	161		-
Other Fundraising	56		-
Show Revenue			-
Performances			-
Funeral Singouts			
Riser Hiring Out			-
Visitors Fees	1084		-
Bonus Ball	125		-
Interest	4		
Water Sales			-
Sundry Income			-
Social Events			-
Angel Fund	400		-
Convention Hotel			-
Annual Dinner			-
Deposits			-
Sundry			-
SAI			-
Sundry Creditors			-
Gift Aid	1516		-
			-
			-
			-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,149	-	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).			
Costume Sales		-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,149	-	-
A3 Payments			
Show Costs			-
Publicity	150		-
UK Convention	52		-
Costume			-

International Convention			-
PRS Fees			-
Website	390		-
Sundry Items	78		-
Gifts	141		-
Rehearsal Venue	1329		-
Risers Pay Men	380		-
Riser Transport			-
Director Compensation	3300		-
Director Expenses			-
Training & Education	1703		-
Music Purchase	215		-
Telephone/Internet	144		-
Printing, Stationery & Postage	31		-
Making Music fees	52		-
Social Events			-
Annual Dinner			-
Accountancy & Audit Fees			-
Committee Meetings			-
Charter	45		
Regional Dues	1340		
SAI subscriptions	5021		-
Accruals			-
Convention Hotel	665		-
Prepaid			-
			-
Sub total	15,036	-	-

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)			
Costume	157	-	-
Equipment	37	-	-
Sub total	194	-	-

Total payments	15,230	-	-
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Net of receipts/(payments)	1,919	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	17,589		-
Cash funds this year end	19,508	-	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Nat West	19,427
	Petty Cash	81
		-
	Total cash funds	19,508
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
	Office equipment	
	Costumes	
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates

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

Signature

Print N

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ounts

03/31/2022

CC16a

Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

13,794	10,097
9	6
-	-
-	-
-	285
161	289
56	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
1,084	350
125	-
4	9
-	-
-	-
-	-
400	460
-	-
-	28
-	-
-	-
-	-
1,516	3,331
-	-
-	-
-	-
17,149	14,855

-	-
-	-
-	-

17,149	14,855
--------	--------

-	-
150	636
52	-
-	-

-	-
-	150
390	380
78	68
141	157
1,329	-
380	-
-	-
3,300	2,800
-	-
1,703	200
215	1,063
144	240
31	8
52	48
-	28
-	-
-	-
-	-
45	105
1,340	1,820
5,021	4,487
-	780
665	-
-	-
-	-
15,036	12,970

157	-
37	-
194	-

15,230	12,970
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1,919	1,885
-	-
17,589	15,704
19,508	17,589

the period

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
	-
	-
-	-
-	-
OK	OK

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	793
-	3,826
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
-	
-	

-	
-	
-	

lame	Date of approval