

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales · Charity number 1162894

Details

Other names	DEUTSCHER CHOR LONDON
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-07-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	5 Home Park Oxted Surrey RH8 0JS
Phone	07740240074
Email	info@deutscherchorlondon.org.uk
Website	www.deutscherchorlondon.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART OF CHORAL MUSIC BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS.

Activities: The charity engages in musical activities and is a community choir. Currently the full choir consists of around forty singers from different nations who share a common interest in music.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Vatican City
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£17,775	£18,027	-	-
2023-12-31	£20,041	£26,609	-	-
2022-12-31	£38,213	£56,483	-	-
2021-12-31	£13,203	£12,602	-	-
2020-12-31	£19,675	£19,513	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Stephen Robert Alexander Jullien	Chair	2023-08-01
Dagmar Gudrun Gauweiler		2022-12-06
James Saunders		2024-12-19
Richard Loeser		2019-04-29

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 1162894

Accounts

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Charity Number: 1162894

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2024

Content and Purpose of Annual Report

This report summarises the work of the Board of Trustees of the German Choir of London (“the Choir”), including changes to the Board and key achievements. It serves to inform all associate members of the Choir of the work going on ‘behind the scenes’ to create transparency and a sense of ownership. The summary is based on the minutes kept of all Trustee meetings. Any associate member can request to view the meeting minutes (written in English) by emailing any Trustee at any time. Associate members are also permitted to attend the Board Meetings upon request. This is the 9th summary report since the registration of the Choir as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015.

Period covered

January – December 2024

Author

Stephen Jullien (Chair of Trustees)

Content

1. Main choir events in the reporting period
2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
3. Summary of the activities of the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members
5. Financial Summary
6. Acknowledgements
7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2025

1. Main choir events in the reporting period

- February: Singing in Thomaskirche, Leipzig
- March: Solo Ensembles at Somerset House
- April: Concert in London for Peace with works by Bach and a premiere of a Christopher Fox piece
- May: tour to Barcelona including singing at the Sagrada Familia international mass
- July: 'Food' concert at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate
- October: Day of Germany Unity
- November: Evensong in St. Pauls, Come & Sing, German Army performance
- December: British German Economic Chamber, International carols/ Saint Saens concert, Carols by candlelight service

2. The Board of Trustees in the reporting period

- Stephen Jullien- Chair
- Christian Anders - Location manager (resigned December 2024)
- Rebecca Dittrich - Co-chair
- Dagmar Gauweiler – Events
- Richard Loeser – Treasurer
- Elisabeth Minkner – Minutes secretary, deputy treasurer (resigned December 2024)
- James Saunders- Fundraising (appointed December 2024)

3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period

Trustee Meetings in 2024 (Online unless stated otherwise):

- 15th January
- 11th March
- 15th April
- 17th June
- 18th November

Marketing and Recruitment

- The chair oversaw external communications which focused largely on social media, reaching up to 4,000 people on selected posts. Four posts were boosted to aid recruitment
- Physical flyers were also distributed to promote both concerts and choir recruitment
- The website was updated, including a video explaining the audition process

Membership

- Following a freeze on membership fees since before the pandemic, the board voted to increase membership fees for 2025 by 20% to account for inflation over that period

4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members

Tuesday, 17 December 2024, 7pm, Christuskirche, Knightsbridge

Full General Meeting of Associate Members (AGM) was held on 17 December 2024 to conclude the year 2024. The AGM was attended by 25 Associate Members. The choir approved the work of the Trustees and the new member of the Board, elected section leaders for 2025, and discussed a number of ideas relating to rehearsals and the running of the choir. Minutes of this meeting are available.

The main agenda items were:

- Musical Summary (see above section 1)
- Marketing Summary (see above section 3)
- Financial Summary (see below section 5)
- Plans for 2025 (see below section 7)
- Questions and Feedback from Associate Members
- Section Leader Elections
 - The Following were elected:
 - *Soprano*: Christina Schuetz, Dagmar Gauweiler
 - *Alto*: Susanne Thiele, Elisabeth Minkner
 - *Tenor*: Felix Richter, Sigrun Wagner
 - *Bass*: Michael Erras, Ben Krueger
- Acknowledgments (see below section 6)
- Approval of Trustees and Updates (see above section 2)

5. Financial Summary for the year 2024

Please see separate accounts at the end of this report for details

- Receipts in the year were £17,775, of which £11,504 associate/membership fees, £4,113 ticket sales income and interest income of £242.
- Payments in the year were £18,026.50, of which £12,479.70 fees for the Musical Director, £2,630 instrumentalist and soloist hire fees, £500 venue hire fee and £1,260.01 other concert and marketing expenses.
- In 2024 there was an increase in the associate membership fee to £24 per month (£12 discount for students and singers without regular income).
- In 2024 payments exceeded receipts by £251.76. At the end of the prior year 2023 the choir had £11,775 of funds. At the end of 2024 the choir had funds of £11,523.54.
- During the year the choir had approximately 50 active fee paying members.
- Solo ensembles, section and voice coaching rehearsals will continue to be financed by the whole choir as these contribute to the quality of the choir as a whole.

6. Acknowledgements

Aside from the Trustees, several DCL members have significantly contributed to the development of the choir during 2024 as volunteers which we wish to acknowledge:

- Attendance book: **Margarete Falk**
- Ordering music and providing Midi files: **Uta Bergner-Sington**
- Social Media Team: **Margarete Falk, Selin Sevgi, Julia Jennings, Sasha Marius-Beeko and Charlotte McDonough**. Previous helpers until mid year: **Jenny Eckner, Lukas Beck and Charlotte de Mille**
- Website support: **Andrew Mackintosh**
- Legal advice: **Christina Schuetz and Philipp Gnatzy**
- Solo concert organisation: **Charlotte de Mille**
- Prepare come and sing day: **Uta Bergner-Sington**
- Lights for carol service: **Melanie Allmendiger**
- Auditing accounts: **Michael Erras**

7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2025

- Closer cooperation with the Christuskirche with Services on 16 March (Soloensembles), 20 April and 4 May
- **Concert at Southwark Cathedral on 9 May**
 - Europe Day
 - 3-4 choirs participating; DCL repertoire lasting 20-25 minutes
- **Spring concert (May):** small concert acapella of Romantic Music (Brahms, Herzogenberg, Rheinberger)
- **Summer project:** combine German choir with Winchester City Festival Choir; rehearsing same repertoire and performing together; 3 Evensongs spread over the summer in cathedrals between London & Winchester
- **Autumn (October):** Bonhoeffer & family focus; project will tell the story of Bonhoeffer's mother with musical basis of Stabat mater; no soloists with 1 actor and choir members acting; proposal to go to cathedrals in North England

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

(CHARITY NUMBER 1162894)

Accounts

For the year ended

31 December 2024

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Receipts and Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Member subscription	11,504	11,250
General donations	1,250	311
Interest income	242	230
Concert ticket sales	4,113	8,250
Other income	666	-
Total receipts	17,775	20,041
Payments		
Conductor's fees & rehearsals	12,480	14,147
Instrumentalists & soloists	2,630	9,213
Venue hire	500	2,028
Marketing, event & other expenses	2,417	1,221
Total payments	18,027	26,609
(Shortfall) of receipts over payments	(252)	(6,568)
Unrestricted funds:		
At 1 January	11,775	18,343
(Shortfall)/Surplus of receipts over payments	(252)	(6,568)
At 31 December	11,523	11,775

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	11,523		11,775	
Net current assets		<u>11,523</u>		<u>11,775</u>
Net assets		<u>11,523</u>		<u>11,775</u>
Unrestricted funds:				
Fund balance		<u>11,523</u>		<u>11,775</u>
Total funds		<u>11,523</u>		<u>11,775</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature:



Print name: RICHARD LOESER

Date: 30 October 2025

Signature:



Print name: JAMES SAUNDERS

Date: 30 October 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's report on the
accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024
Charity no (if any) 1162894

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Michael Erras

Date:

30th October 2025

Name:

Dr Michael Erras

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

n/a

Address:

78 Engadine Street
London SW18 5DA

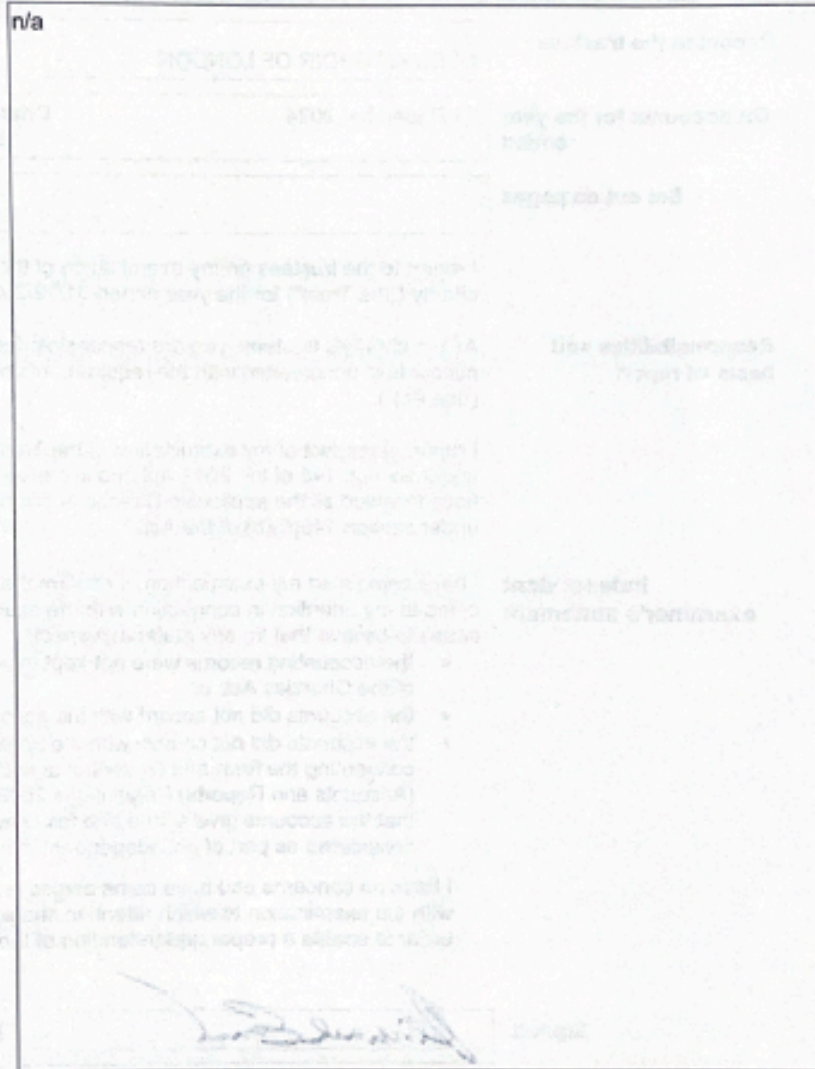
Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

n/a



GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 1162894

Accounts

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Charity Number: 1162894

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2023

Content and Purpose of Annual Report

This report summarises the work of the Board of Trustees of the German Choir of London (“the Choir”), including changes to the Board and key achievements. It serves to inform all associate members of the Choir of the work going on ‘behind the scenes’ to create transparency and a sense of ownership. The summary is based on the minutes kept of all Trustee meetings. Any associate member can request to view the meeting minutes (written in English) by emailing any Trustee at any time. Associate members are also permitted to attend the Board Meetings upon request. This is the 8th summary report since the registration of the Choir as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015.

Period covered

January – December 2023

Author

Elisabeth Minkner

Content

1. Main choir events in the reporting period
2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
3. Summary of the activities of the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members
5. Financial Summary
6. Acknowledgements
7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2024

1. Main choir events in the reporting period

18 March 2023 – Coronation Concert at St Pancras Church London

22 April 2023 – Coronation Concert at St Mathias Berlin

21 May 2023 – Service at Christuskirche Knightsbridge

28 May 2023 – Choral Evensong at St Albans

16 July 2023 – A Grand Night for Singing at Upstairs at the Gatehouse Highgate

18 September 2023 – Tag der deutschen Einheit at German Embassy London

25 September 2023 – Choral Evensong at St Pauls

18 November 2023 – Come and Sing Day at St Boniface German Catholic Church East London (Bach, Weihnachtsoratorium)

5 December 2023 – Deutsche Handelskammer Christmas Party

10 December 2023 – Bach Weihnachtsoratorium at St Lawrence Jewry London

12 December 2023 – AGM

2. The Board of Trustees in the reporting period

Christian Anders - location manager

Rebecca Dittrich – communication, new members

Dagmar Gauweiler – events

Rev Stephen Robert Alexander Jullien (appointed 1 August 2023) - marketing, concert programmes

Richard Loeser – treasurer

Elisabeth Minkner – annual report, minutes, newsletters, deputy treasurer

Susanne Thiele - (resigned August 2023)

3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period

Trustee Meetings in 2023 (Online unless stated otherwise):

9 January

4 April

22 May

26 June

10 August

27 September

23 November

Social Media activity focussed on news, upcoming concerts & events, social happenings (holidays, get togethers)

2023 posts:

#MeetTheChoir

#DCLSocial

#DCLSolo

#JoinAChoir

4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members

12 December 2023, 19.30 Christuskirche Knightsbridge

Full General Meeting of Associate Members (AGM) was held on 12 December 2023 to conclude the year 2023. The AGM was attended by 34 Associate Members. The choir approved the work of the Trustees and the new member of the Board, elected section leaders for 2024, and discussed a number of ideas relating to rehearsals and the running of the choir. Minutes of this meeting are available.

The main agenda items were:

- Update by Trustees (see above section 3)
- Update by the Musical Director (see above section 1 and below section 7)
- Election of section leaders (see below)
- Approval of Board of Trustees
- Questions by and discussion with choir members

Section leaders were elected as follows:

- Soprano: 1. Margarethe Falk 2. Nathalie Nötzold
- Alto: 1. Susanne Thiele, 2. Claudie Baum
- Tenor: 1. Felix Richter, 2. James Saunders
- Bass: 1. Michael Erras, 2. Ben Krueger

Approval of Board of Trustees by members and updates:

All trustees were approved and (re-)elected. See section 2 above for details.

5. Financial Summary for the year 2023

Please see separate accounts at the end of this report for details

- **Receipts** in the year were £20,041, of which £11,250 associate membership fees, £8,250 ticket sales income and interest income of £230.
- **Payments** in the year were £26,609, of which £13,667 fees for the Musical Director, £480 fees for other conductors, £9,213 instrumentalist and soloist hire fees, £2,028 venue hire fee and £1,221 other concert and marketing expenses.
- In 2023 there was **no increase in the associate membership fee**, which thus was held at £20 per month (£10 discount for students and singers without regular income).
- In 2023 payments exceeded receipts by £6,568. At the end of the prior year 2022 the choir had £18,343 of **funds**. At the end of 2023 the choir had **funds** of £11,775.
- During the year the choir had approximately 50 active fee paying members.
- Solo ensemble, section and voice coaching rehearsals will continue to be financed by the whole choir as these contribute to the quality of the choir as a whole.

6. Acknowledgements

Aside from the Trustees, several associate members have significantly contributed to the development of the choir during 2023 as volunteers which we wish to acknowledge:

- Margarete Falk: prepares the attendance register and reviews attendance/preparing kids
- Uta Bergner-Sington: responsible for ordering the music for the choir and providing midi files which help the members rehearsing at home
- Julia Jennings/Jenny Eckner/Charlotte McDonough/ Jeremias Reich/ Susanne Thiele/ Evy Tang/ Sasha Marius-Beeko/ Lukas Beck: social media posts
- Nathalie Nötzold/ Amadea Heitman: emailing education institutes for recruitment
- Christoph Gräfe: website and programme support
- Margarete Falk /Nathalie Nötzold: section leaders soprano
- Charlotte MacDonald / Renate Kemp: section leaders alto
- Richard Loeser: section leaders tenor
- Michael Erras/Ben Krueger: section leaders bass
- Michael Erras: Independent review of the accounts
- Uta, Dagmar, Elisabeth, Steve: prepare come and sing day

7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2024

Spring Concerts - Concert with the theme 'peace'

25 April - London

4 May - Barcelona: Basilica de la Sagrada Família

5 May – Barcelona : Basílica de los Santos Mártires Justo y Pastor

21 July – Summer Concert

1 October – Tag der Deutschen Einheit

6 October – Service Christuskirche

4 November – St Paul's Evensong

December – Christmas & International Carol concert, Carol Service

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
(CHARITY NUMBER 1162894)

Accounts
For the year ended
31 December 2023

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Receipts		
Member subscriptions	11,250	13,204
General donations	311	302
Grant income	0	14,000
Concert ticket sales	8,250	10,686
Interest income	230	21
Total receipts	20,041	38,213
Payments		
Conductors fees & rehearsals	14,147	17,380
Venue hire	2,028	8,130
Instrumentalists & soloists	9,213	24,901
Marketing, event & other expenses	1,221	5,112
Accountancy fees	0	960
Total payments	26,609	56,483
(Shortfall) of receipts over payments	(6,568)	(18,270)
Unrestricted fund:		
At 1 January	18,343	36,613
(Shortfall)/surplus of receipts over payments	(6,568)	(18,270)
At 31 December	11,775	18,343

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		11,775	18,343
Net current assets		<u>11,777</u>	<u>18,343</u>
Net assets		<u>11,775</u>	<u>18,343</u>
Unrestricted fund:			
Fund balance	2	<u>11,775</u>	<u>18,343</u>
Total funds		<u>11,775</u>	<u>18,343</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature: 

Print name: RICHARD LOESER

Date: 30 October 2024

Signature: 

Print name: ELISABETH MINKNER

Date: 30 October 2024

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The Accounts are drawn up on a cash basis.

2 Unrestricted fund

	2023
	£
At 1 January	18,343
Shortfall of receipts over payments	<u>(6,568)</u>
At 31 December	<u>11,775</u>

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 1162894

Accounts

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Charity Number: 1162894

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2022

Content and Purpose of Annual Report

This report summarises the work of the Board of Trustees of the German Choir of London (“the Choir”), including changes to the Board and key achievements. It serves to inform all associate members of the Choir of the work going on ‘behind the scenes’ to create transparency and a sense of ownership. The summary is based on the minutes kept of all Trustee meetings. Any associate member can request to view the meeting minutes (written in English) by emailing any Trustee at any time. Associate members are also permitted to attend the Board Meetings upon request. This is the 8th summary report since the registration of the Choir as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015.

Period covered

January – December 2022

Author

Elisabeth Minkner

Content

1. Main choir events in the reporting period
2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
3. Summary of the activities of the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
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1. Main choir events in the reporting period

St Matthew/Sophie Scholl Passion

17 March 2022 at Southwark Cathedral, London

19 March 2022 at Coventry Cathedral

These 2 concerts presented J.S. Bach’s St Matthew Passion interspersed with texts by and about Sophie Scholl, a key member of the German resistance, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of her birth. The choir was joined by an orchestra, soloists, actors and the Coventry Cathedral Choir, and the concert was sponsored by BayernLB and Schroeder Bank. This was the biggest and most innovative project the choir has undertaken in its 13 year history and received an overwhelmingly positive response from the audience, participants and on social media. Especially given the challenges posed by the still lingering Covid pandemic, it was bordering on a miracle and to no small extent due to the hard work of the board of trustees that both concerts went ahead as planned.

15 July 2022 – A Cappella Summer Concert at St. Mary-at-Hill

Concert of full choir and solo ensemble choral works by Bach, Rheinberger, Schubert and Mahler

2 September 2022 – Beethoven 9th Symphony at the Proms

Members of the Choir were part of Chineke! Voices to perform Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Choral) with the Chineke! Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall

23 October 2022 – Mass at German Catholic Church St. Boniface

28 October 2022 - The Lethal Requiem at St. Mary-at- Hill

Mozart Requiem (accompanied by Organ) and selection of Corona Commissions (Stephens, Cryne, McKevitt).

The concert theme 'Fear' was given expression by performing in near darkness and an actress narrating the story of the Mozart Requiem from the view point of Mozart's wife Constanze.

27 November 2022 – Advent service at Christuskirche Knightsbridge

Mendelssohn Christus and Vom Himmel Hoch

3 December 2022 – Carol Singing at German YMCA

13/15 December 2022 – Carol Singing at Tube Stations for Charity

Throughout the year:

Solo ensemble rehearsals for Summer concert

Voice coaching sessions (open to all members)

2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period

Melanie Allmendinger - Chair of the Board of Trustees (resigned 6 December 2022)

Richard Loeser – treasurer

Rebecca Dittrich – communication, new members

Christian Anders - events coordinator

Susanne Thiele - marketing, minutes, concert programmes, newsletters (paused Aug-Oct 2022)

Dagmar Gauweiler (appointed 6 December 2022)

Elisabeth Minkner (appointed 6 December 2022)

3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period

Trustee Meetings in 2022 (zoom unless stated otherwise):

23 January

11 March

9 June

6 July

3 August

10 September (in person)

14 October

30 November

The focus of the trustees in the first quarter of the year was meeting the unprecedented challenge of preparing for the Sophie Scholl passion concert planned for March 2022 whilst at the same time managing the response to the continuing Covid pandemic.

Following the very successful March concerts, the trustees focussed on planning the rest of the year's concerts.

To prepare for the planned resignation of the Chair from the board by the end of the year, the board recruited two new trustees who were officially appointed during the December AGM but already attended meetings and took on work throughout the year.

In September the trustees met in person including a workshop to set the priorities for the 2nd half of the year. Focus areas were how better to communicate with and involve members and section leaders to spread the workload of organising the choir activities.

Social media activities

2022 social media posts drew attention to upcoming concerts and new member recruitment by using various hashtags such as #MeetTheChoir; #schollpassion including 8 videos posts; questionnaire on favourite Christmas carol.

4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members

6 December 2022, 19.30 Christuskirche Knightsbridge

Full General Meeting of Associate Members (AGM) was held to conclude the year 2022 and attended by 34 Associate Members. The choir approved the work of the Trustees and new members of the Board, elected section leaders for 2023, and discussed a number of ideas relating to rehearsals and the running of the choir. Minutes of this meeting are available (in English).

The main agenda items were:

- Update by Trustees (see above section 3)
- Update by the Musical Director (see above section 1 and below section 7)
- Election of section leaders (see below)
- Approval of Board of Trustees
- Questions by and discussion with choir members

Section leaders were elected as follows:

- Soprano: 1. Margarethe Falk 2. Nathalie Nötzold
- Alto: 1. Charlotte MacDonald, 2. Renate Kemp
- Tenor: 1. Eckart Marchant, 2. Richard Boeckel (Acting Stimmführer Januar bis April 2023: Richard Loeser)
- Bass: 1. Michael Erras, 2. Ben Krueger

Approval of Board of Trustees by members and updates:

All trustees were approved and (re-)elected. See section 2 above for details.

5. Financial Summary

Please see separate document for details.

- **Receipts** this year were £38,213, of which £13,204 associate membership fees, £10,686 ticket sales income and a grant of £14,000 from the BayernLB (see below).
- **Payments** in 2022 year were £56,483, of which £15,470 fees for the Musical Director, £1,910 fees for other conductors, £24,901 instrumentalist and soloist hire fees, £8,130 venue hire fee and £5,112 other concert and marketing expenses.
- In 2022 there was **no increase in the associate membership fee**, which thus was held at £20 per month (£10 discount for students and singers without regular income).
- At the end of the prior year 2021 the choir had £36,613 of **savings** which included a donation of £15,000 by Schroeder Bank. This donation and the above mentioned grant of £14,000 from the BayernLB substantially funded the St. Matthew Passion/Sophie Scholl project in March 2022.
- At the end of 2022 the choir had **savings** of £18,343.
- During the year the choir had approximately 50 active fee paying members.
- Solo ensemble, section and voice coaching rehearsals will continue to be financed by the whole choir as these contribute to the quality of the choir as a whole.

6. Acknowledgements

Aside from the Trustees, several associate members have significantly contributed to the development of the choir during 2022 as volunteers which we wish to acknowledge:

- **Margarete Falk:** prepares the attendance register and reviews attendance
- **Uta Bergner-Sington:** responsible for ordering the music for the choir and providing midi files which help the members rehearsing at home
- **Julia Jennings/Jenny Eckner/Charlotte McDonough:** social media posts
- **Luke Nicholson:** help with creating new website
- **Nathalie Nötzold/Amadea Heitmann:** section leader soprano
- **Marianne Rencken/Elisabeth Minkner:** section leader alto
- **Eckart Marchand/Felix Richter:** section leader tenor
- **Paul Dichtl / Michael Erras:** section leader bass
- **Renate Kemp:** pianist for St. Matthew Passion rehearsals

7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2023

18 March 2023 – Coronation Concert at St Pancras Church London

22 April 2023 – Coronation Concert at St ... Berlin

21 May 2023 – Service at Christuskirche Knightsbridge (Mendelssohn Denn er hat seinen Engeln)

28 May 2023 – Choral Evensong at St Albans

16 July 2023 – A Grand Night for Singing at Upstairs at the Gatehouse Highgate

18 September 2023 – Tag der deutschen Einheit at German Embassy London

25 September 2023 – Choral Evensong at St Pauls

18 November 2023 – Come and Sing Day at St Boniface German Catholic Church East London

5 December 2023 – Deutsche Handelskammer Christmas Party

10 December 2023 – Bach Weihnachtsoratorium at St Lawrence Jewry London

12 December 2023 – AGM

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
(CHARITY NUMBER 1162894)

Accounts
For the year ended
31 December 2022

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Receipt and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Receipts		
Member subscriptions	13,204	7,711
General donations	302	5,390
Grant income	14,000	-
Concert ticket sales	10,686	98
Interest income	21	4
	<u>38,213</u>	<u>13,203</u>
Payments		
Conductors fees & rehearsals	17,380	8,781
Venue hire	8,130	360
Instrumentalists & soloists	24,901	200
Marketing, event & other expenses	5,112	2,361
Accountancy fees	960	900
	<u>56,483</u>	<u>12,602</u>
Expenses		
Total expenses	<u>56,483</u>	<u>12,602</u>
(Shortfall)/surplus of receipts over expenditure	<u>(18,270)</u>	<u>601</u>
Unrestricted fund:		
At 1 January	36,613	36,012
(Shortfall)/surplus of receipts over expenditure	(18,270)	601
At 31 December	<u>18,343</u>	<u>36,613</u>

*Deutscher Chor
London*

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		18,343	36,613
Net current assets		<u>18,343</u>	<u>36,613</u>
Net assets		<u>18,343</u>	<u>36,613</u>
Unrestricted fund:			
Fund balance	2	<u>18,343</u>	<u>36,613</u>
Total funds		<u>18,343</u>	<u>36,613</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature: 

Print name: RICHARD LOESER

Date: 30/10/2023

Signature: 

Print name: ELISABETH MINKNER

Date: 30/10/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1162894

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

29th October 2023

Name:

Dr Michael Erras

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

n/a

Address:

78 Engadine Street

London SW18 5DA

Empty rectangular box at the top of the page.

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Large empty rectangular box for disclosure details, containing the handwritten text "n/a" in blue ink.

Handwritten signature or initials in blue ink.

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 1162894

Accounts

Board of Trustees Annual Summary Report: 2021

Content and Purpose

This report summarises the work of the Board of Trustees of the German Choir of London ("the Choir"), including changes to the Board and key achievements. It serves to inform all associate members of the Choir of the work going on 'behind the scenes' to create transparency and a sense of ownership. The summary is based on the minutes kept of all Trustee meetings. Any associate member can request to view the meeting minutes (written in English) by emailing any Trustee at any time. Associate members are also permitted to attend the Board Meetings upon request. This is the 7th summary report since the registration of the Choir as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015.

Period covered

January – December 2021

Author

Melanie Allmendinger

Content

1. List of events in the reporting period
2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period
4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members
5. Financial Summary
6. Acknowledgements
7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2022

1. Events in the reporting period

Main choral events:

January-April:

- **Virtual Zoom Rehearsals**

This included:

- vocal warm-ups & vocal exercises
 - exercises for sight reading, singing techniques and rhythm
 - learning of new pieces followed by recording them individually at home (Schubert Mass in E flat Major). Those recordings were then combined for a full choir sound.
 - Talks by choir members about music history and musical theory about the Fuge, Schubert, Weelkes etc.
 - Virtual Pub Socials to meet after rehearsals
- In addition to the repertoire for the whole choir, **some pieces were offered for Soloensemble**, where each voice is being sung by only one singer. The pieces had to be learnt alone at home and then recorded. The individual recordings were mixed together by the Music Director and shared with the choir. The recorded pieces were Schubert's "Erlkönig" and three pieces by Thomas Weelkes: "Farewell, my joy", "My tears do not avail me" and "My Phillis bids me". Two of the Weelkes and the "Erlkönig" were also produced as a video and uploaded to YouTube.

- **Further video contributions to the project **Voices.Europe****
A project coordinated by the Goethe-Institut about the past, present, and future of Europe with music by composer Michael Langemann. Together with other international choirs the DCL recorded the music individually and some members also recorded some video material which was all edited together.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w56tGSmlWFs&t=111s>
- **9 April: DCL's first Virtual concert** with videos and audio recordings of excerpts of Schubert's Mass No 6 in E-flat major and some pieces by smaller ensembles from within the choir (such as "Erlkönig"), as well as several of our Corona Commissions, by Ben See, Luke Styles, Sarah Rimkus, Ian Stephens, Michael Cryne, Jenni Watson, Carol J Jones and Donna McKeivitt. The concert also included our Voices against Violence video, in which we take a stand against domestic violence, and our lockdown version of Rheinberger's "Abendlied", which was shortlisted for best virtual concert video by Making Music. Barbara Höfling led through the concert, which also included a live interview with composer Ben See.

The concert was a big success with approximately 270 people watching live online and a further 220 people watching the concert in the two weeks following the concert. 240 GBP were received as donations during the concert.

Some of the videos can be seen here:

Abendlied – Rheinberger:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mgRtTw8msU>

So many Uses for Solitude – Ben See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5IDp3zY3Rc>

Unruhige Träume - Ian Stephens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dq6aqwHorp8>

Fear – Donna McKeivitt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr1uWl1kunM>

Fear no more – Michael Cryne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T678dHXINY&t=3s>

Erlkönig - Schubert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpJI1TG8rn0>

- **Further Soloensemble extra project:** For a small extra fee members of the choir could learn and record a Soloensemble piece and get personal feedback from the Music Director. This project was also accessible for former members who no longer live in London, as it was happening online exclusively. The individual recordings were mixed together by the Music Director and shared with the choir. The Soloensembles recorded two works by Schubert: "Gretchen am Spinnrade" and "Der Zwerg", as well as Gershwin's "Summertime".

May:

- **Outdoor rehearsals in Hyde Park.** From May, when the weather allowed it, we rehearsed a few times outdoors in Hyde Park, so that we could all rehearse together,

despite Covid restrictions and social distancing. The choir rehearsed Mendelssohn's "Sechs Lieder, Im Freien zu singen"

- **Live rehearsals in person from 18 May** in different venue (Bishopsgate Institute in Liverpool Street) to accommodate social distancing. At first only in smaller groups of six people each, later on for the whole choir. We rehearsed works by Bruckner, Hassler and Rheinberger.

June:

- **We returned to Christuskirche in Knightsbridge for rehearsals.** We rehearsed in a bigger space upstairs in the actual church and continued to rehearse socially distanced and with masks. We started rehearsals for our tour to Rome in October (repertoire: Stanford, Gjeilo, Bruckner, Hassler and Rheinberger) and started with some Chorals of Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

July:

- Our **Treasurer and long standing choir member Thomas Hegel passed away** unexpectedly on July 6.
This had a big impact on all choir members, including many former members, who were all shocked by the news. We hosted a virtual call for the choir to give room to talk about Thomas' sudden death and to share memories about him.
- Given the high Covid cases we **continued to sing with masks** during rehearsals.

August/September:

- **Regular Tuesday rehearsals in the Christuskirche** with preparations for the trip to Rome
- Occasional **rehearsals outside in Hyde Park**, weather permitting
- **Zoom call** for all former members outside London who were joining us in Rome to rehearse the repertoire required

October:

- **Concert tour to Rome:** October 1-3. The choir participated in the mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican and sang a concert at Santa Maria dell' Anima. Big turn-out of current and former choir members who joined us in Rome.

The repertoire for Rome included:

- o Gjeilo - Ubi Caritas
- o Hassler – Sanctus & Benedictus
- o Rheinberger – Abendlied
- o Stanford – Beati Quorum
- o Bruckner – Tantum Ergo
- o Bach – two Chorals from St. Matthew Passion
- o Mendelssohn - Richte mich Gott
- o Mendelssohn – Herr nun lässest Du
- o Tomkins – When David heard
- o

The choir organised a dinner for everyone on the first night and a guided tour through the city for all members. The trip was definitely the highlight of the year 2021.

A video with photos of the trip was put together and shared on YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOqRbAgxEC8>

- **Memorial Service for Thomas Hegel** in the Christuskirche on 19 October
The service was hosted by the choir, for his family, friends and colleagues. The choir contributed musically (Purcell Funeral Sentences, Bach, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger) and choir members remembered Thomas with speeches and messages.

November:

- **The concert dates for the St. Matthew Passion were announced for March 2022** in London Southwark cathedral and Coventry Cathedral and the concept of the Sophie Scholl passion was presented to the choir. Rehearsals for the Passion intensified. This included sectional rehearsals led by individual choir members for their voice group to learn some of the more difficult pieces of the Passion.
- **Auditions for Soloists** of the St. Matthew Passion were held on 20 November and four great soloists were chosen for the project.
- **Covid questionnaire** was sent to choir members to check the current mood and safety concerns in terms of rehearsal venue. Based on the questionnaire the choir announced Covid guidelines valid until January 2023

December:

- **Recording of Advent season chorale “Es kommt ein Schiff geladen”** in an arrangement especially commissioned by the choir during the pandemic as part of the Corona Commissions. On 7 December the choir recorded the piece with a professional sound engineer and the Music Director created a video which was uploaded to YouTube and shared as an online musical Christmas card. The video was a retrospect of the year 2021 and showed the highlights of the choir. The video also asked for donations for the charity organisation “Shelter”.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_SwILILEsM
- **The AGM on 14 December** had to happen online via Zoom due to current government Covid restrictions

Trustee Meetings:

- 2 February 2021 (on zoom)
- 17 March 2021 (on zoom)
- 27 May 2021 (in person)
- 23 July 2021 (on zoom)
- 11 October 2021 (on zoom)

Annual choir member meeting

14 December 2021, on zoom due to current government guidelines
Full meeting (AGM) of the choir members to conclude the year 2021, during which the Trustees and the Musical Director gave an update, section leaders were elected being followed by questions and discussions from/with choir members.

2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period

January 2021- 27 May 2021: Board of Trustees and areas of responsibilities:

- **Melanie Allmendinger:**
Chair of the Board of Trustees, integrating new members, assisting the treasurer
- **Thomas Hegel:** Treasurer - finance and legal
- **Christian Anders:** events coordinator including trips abroad
- **Richard Loeser:** Marketing (website, posters etc), finding new members
- **Susanne Thiele:** Marketing (social media, posters etc), minutes, creating concert programmes, Christuskirche newsletter

On 27 May 2021 **Rebecca Dittrich** became an additional trustee with the responsibility to look after new members and issuing the weekly newsletter

On 6 July 2021 the Treasurer Thomas Hegel passed away.

From 6 July 2021 until the end of 2021 the Trustees were:

- **Melanie Allmendinger:**
Chair of the Board of Trustees, writing report for Charity commission, assisting the treasurer
- **Christian Anders:** events coordinator including finding concert locations and trips abroad
- **Richard Loeser:** Treasurer - finance and legal, ticket sales, new website etc.
- **Susanne Thiele:** Marketing (social media, posters etc), website, minutes, creating concert programmes, Christuskirche newsletter
- **Rebecca Dittrich:** new members, weekly newsletter

3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period

Marketing:

- The marketing team was very active on social media with many posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, advertising our (online) rehearsals and recordings and videos which the choir produced, with a big success online.
 - We added several new videos (amongst them the Corona Commission videos) to our YouTube platform which received many views and likes.
 - Our Rome trip video reached 218 views, and our Christmas card "Es kommt ein Schiff geladen" reached 262 views on YouTube.

- o On social media there were strategic posts distributed evenly over the week. The choir was using regular hashtags like #DCLnews, #DCLfriendship, #DCLfun
- o We continued our series on all social media channels to introduce individual Choir members who had recently joined the choir with a profile and photos. #MeetTheChoir. There were also videos asking choir members why they joined the choir and what the choir means to them.
- o We started the series "Throwback" and shared highlights of the choir from the past years like our gig at Piccadilly Circus, our Blessed are the Peacemakers Cathedral tour and our Las Canals trip
- o Social media series "bored of..." where we motivate new choir members to join us after lockdown, being bored of their sofa, tracksuits and computer games
- o There was a lot of activity in preparation of the virtual concert and during the concert with live comments and questions on YouTube.
- o We promoted the video of the Voices.Europe project in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut London
- o The social media team was very active during the trip to Rome, sharing many videos and photos under #DCLOnTour #DCLinRome #singinginrome and also had a series #kofferpacken showing what choir members were going to pack for Rome to create excitement ahead of the trip.
- o We started posts to advertise the St. Matthew Passion Scholl project with hashtags #stmatthewpassion #sophiescholl
- o The concept for the new website was developed and progressed towards the go-live event.

Covid measures:

- The trustees made sure that the everchanging Covid rules and guidelines and what those meant for the choir were communicated to the choir. The trustees and the music director had to be very flexible and creative to react to the unusual circumstances.
- Several planned projects during the period had to be cancelled, changed and reorganised.
- Once the choir was able to rehearse again in person, the trustees had to find new and bigger venues where the choir could rehearse socially distanced
- Strict Health & Safety measures were introduced by the trustees such as:
 - o Risk assessments were produced for each venue
 - o Covid questionnaire were filled out by all choristers ahead of every rehearsal
 - o Opening windows and doors of the rehearsal venue
 - o providing hand sanitizer and masks for choristers to use when entering the rehearsal venue
 - o Staggered entry and leaving the venue
 - o Keeping chairs socially distanced and keeping a seating chart to show who sat where during the rehearsal

- o Mask wearing in all rehearsals
- o Shorter rehearsals & more breaks

- The trustees worked hard to keep morale high during the difficult period of lockdown. The choir reacted well to the online rehearsals and the virtual concert. It brought the choir together and we managed not to lose any members, except people who left the UK for personal reasons.
Everyone was very appreciative when the choir could finally rehearse again in person.

4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting

The AGM (General Meeting of Associate Members) on 14 December 2021 had to take place on zoom, as in person meetings of a bigger group were not allowed at this time. 30 members attended.

The choir approved the work of the Trustees, elected section leaders for 2022, and discussed a number of ideas relating to rehearsals and the running of the choir. Minutes of this meeting are available (in English).

All points were discussed by the Board and the Musical Director and have been implemented as far as possible.

- The Trustees thanked choir members who volunteer their time to the choir
- Musical Director presented a review of all choral activities of 2021
- The Trustees gave a review about all Marketing and Social media activities in the past year
- The Treasurer reported about the financial health of the choir
- The Trustees informed the choir about the need for Mandatory tickets (=Pflichttickets) for the St. Matthew Passion to fill the church and to balance the books
- (re)elected section leaders
 - o **Sopranos - Nathalie Nötzold (Cover: Amadea Heitmann)**
 - o **Altos - Marianne Rencken (Cover: Elisabeth Minkner)**
 - o **Tenors* - Eckart Marchand (Cover: Felix Richter)**
 - o **Basses – Paul Dichtl (cover: Michael Erras)**

**election postponed to January due to not enough tenors present*
- Musical Director updated the choir on plans for 2022
- Approval of trustees board by members and updates:
All trustees (Melanie Allmendinger, Christian Anders, Susanne Thiele, Richard Loeser and Rebecca Dittrich) were approved and re-elected
- discussion points and feedback from members (see AGM minutes for reference)

5. Financial summary

Please see separate document for details.

- **Receipts** this year were approx. £13,200, of which £7,711 associate membership fees (at the end of 2021 we had 50 paying, registered choir members). In 2021 we did not receive any donations from sponsors.
- **Payments** this year were approx. £12,600, of which £8,800 for Musical Director remuneration, £360 rent for the rehearsal space in Liverpool Street and £2,360 for marketing including our new website.
- In 2021 there was **no increase to the associate membership fee**, which therefore was held at £20 per month (£10 discount for students and singers without regular income).
- At the end of 2021 we had £36,613 **savings**. We expect that some of these savings will be used to finance concerts next year. £15,000 were donated by the Schröder Bank in the past and will be used for the St. Matthew Passion/Sophie Scholl project in 2022. The Trustees also like to keep a sound level of savings as we never know how membership numbers develop over the years – especially with the impact from the pandemic and Brexit.
- Solo ensemble, section and technical rehearsals will continue to be financed by the whole choir as these contribute to the quality of the choir as a whole.

6. Acknowledgements

Aside from the Trustees, several associate members have significantly contributed to the development of the choir during 2021 as volunteers which we wish to acknowledge:

- **Margarete Falk:** prepares the attendance register and reviews attendance
- **Uta Bergner-Sington:** responsible for ordering the music for the choir and providing midi files which help the members rehearsing at home
- **Julia Jennings/Jenny Eckner/Charlotte McDonough:** social media posts
- **Johannes Steinweg:** help with creating new website
- **Nathalie Nötzold/Amadea Heitmann:** section leader soprano
- **Marianne Rencken/Magdalena Lippingwell:** section leader alto
- **Eckart Marchand/Felix Richter:** section leader tenor
- **David Schröder/Ben Krueger:** section leader bass
- **Simone Maassen-Krupke:** help with organising the trip to Rome
- **Renate Kemp:** pianist for St. Matthew Passion rehearsals

7. Concerts and events currently programmed for the future

- **17 March 2022 - St Matthew Passion in Southwark Cathedral**, London to honour the 100. Birthday of Sophie Scholl. Together with Coventry Cathedral Choir. Sponsored by BayernLB and Schroeder Bank.
- **19 March 2022 - St Matthew Passion in Coventry Cathedral**
- **15 July 2022 – A Cappella Summer Concert at St. Mary-at- Hill, with works by Bach and Rheinberger and Solo Ensembles by Schubert and Mahler**
- **23 October 2022 – Mass at German Catholic Church St. Boniface**
- **28 October 2022 - The Lethal Requiem at St. Mary-at- Hill, Mozart Requiem and selection of the Corona Commissions (Stephens, Cryne, McKevitt)**
- **27 November 2022 – Advent singing at Christuskirche**
- **3 December 2022 – Carol Singing at German YMCA**
- **13 and 15 December 2022 – Carol Singing at Tube Stations for Charity**
- **6 December 2022 – AGM and Christmas Party**

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
(REGISTERED WITH
CHARITY COMMISSION NO: 1162894)

Accounts

31 December 2021


GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Receipt and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2021

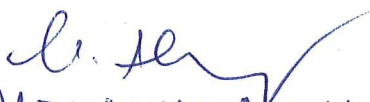
	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts		
Member subscriptions	7,711	11,899
General donations	5,390	5,398
Grant income	-	1,000
Concert ticket sales	98	160
CD/Music sales	-	1,181
Interest income	4	37
	<u>13,203</u>	<u>19,675</u>
Payments		
Conductor fees & rehearsals	8,781	6,590
Venue Hire	360	1,415
Travel, subsistence and accommodation	-	1,359
Instrumentalists	200	-
Solo singers	-	4,040
Marketing, events & other expenses	2,361	5,149
Accountancy fees	900	960
	<u>12,602</u>	<u>19,513</u>
Expenses		
Total expenses	<u>12,602</u>	<u>19,513</u>
Surplus of receipts over expenditure	<u>601</u>	<u>162</u>
Unrestricted Fund:		
At 1 January 2021	<u>36,012</u>	<u>35,850</u>
Surplus of receipts over expenditure	<u>601</u>	<u>162</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>36,613</u>	<u>36,012</u>

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		36,613	36,012
Net current assets		<u>36,613</u>	<u>36,012</u>
Net assets		<u>36,613</u>	<u>36,012</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUND:			
Fund Balance	2	36,613	36,012
Total funds		<u>36,613</u>	<u>36,012</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature: 
 Print Name: RICHARD LOETER
 Date 29/10/2022

Signature: 
 Print Name: MELANIE ALLMENDINGER
 Date 29/10/2022

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The Accounts are drawn up on a cash basis.

2 Unrestricted Fund:	2021
	£
At 1 January 2021	36,012
Excess of receipts over expenditure for the year	601
At 31 December 2021	<u>36,613</u>

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 1162894

Accounts

Board of Trustees Annual Summary Report: 2020

Content and Purpose

This report summarises the work of the Board of Trustees of the German Choir of London (“the Choir”), including changes to the Board, and key achievements. It serves to inform all associate members of the Choir of the work going on ‘behind the scenes’ to create transparency and a sense of ownership. The summary is based on the minutes kept at all Trustee meetings. Any associate member can request to view the meeting minutes (written in English) by emailing any Trustee at any time. Associate members are also permitted to attend the Board Meetings upon request. This is the 6th summary report since the registration of the Choir as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015.

Period covered

January – December 2020

Author

Melanie Allmendinger

Content

1. List of events in the reporting period
2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period
3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period
4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting of Associate Members
5. Financial Summary
6. Acknowledgements
7. Upcoming concerts and events currently planned for 2021

1. Events in the reporting period

Main choral events:

February-Mid March: Training sessions for Choir Members:

In addition to the regular Tuesday rehearsals, the Musical Director offered training sessions in between, on topics such as singing techniques, sight reading and rhythm. This training was offered to members free of charge and was well received.

March-May: Virtual Pub Meetings

From April:

Audio Recordings. The choir members recorded individually at home the following pieces, which were then cut and edited to a recording of the full choir.

Mendelssohn - Herr nun lässest du
Bach - Komm Jesu Komm
Stanford – Beati Quorum
Strauss – Die Nacht

Video Recording. The choir members recorded individually at home the audio track of Rheinberger’s Abendlied, which were then cut and edited to a recording of the full choir. In addition the choir members recorded videos of themselves of activities during lockdown, which was then mixed with the audio track. The video was part of the Making Music Virtual Concert Series and was shortlisted for best virtual concert video by Making Music!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mgRtTw8msU>

June-August:

Virtual Zoom Rehearsals

This included vocal warm-ups, vocal exercises, sight reading exercises and learning of new pieces followed by recording them individually at home.

The choir also invited several guest teachers for the vocal exercises

Corona Commissions:

The choir started a just giving page and crowdfunding campaign to support composers in this difficult period for freelancer musicians. A total of £5500 was raised and the choir commissioned ten composers to write a piece for the choir. The following pieces were commissioned and written for the DCL:

Unruhige Träume - Ian Stephens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dq6aqwHorp8>

Fear – Donna McKeivitt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr1uWl1kunM>

Concepts of Distress – Sarah Rimkus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCpf7M50wnk>

Fear no more – Michael Cryne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T678dHXINY&t=3s>

So many Uses for Solitude – Ben See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5lDp3zY3Rc>

One more breath - Carol J. Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLXh7vAqdnI&t=1s>

There is - Jenni Watson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m91g9C2KYuI>

Es fürchte die Götter das Menschengeschlecht - Luke Styles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkLvqBX6ceM&t=13s>

Maria durch ein Dornwald ging - Peter Leech

Es kommt ein Schiff geladen - Ben Rowarth

Most of these pieces were recorded virtually and some have been performed in a virtual concert by the choir in April 2021.

Voices against Violence

A project commissioned by Goethe Institut London and the German Embassy in London to highlight the strong increase of domestic violence during lockdown.

The choir virtually recorded especially composed music by Alexandra Hamilton-Ayres, which was then turned into a short film by director Aaron Trinder.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVi7vG3NyGI>

September/October:

Live rehearsals in person in different venue (Artwork Classrooms near London Bridge) to accommodate social distancing. At first only in smaller groups, later on for the whole choir.

November:

Return to **Virtual Zoom Rehearsals due to another lockdown**

Voices.Europe

A project coordinated by the Goethe-Institut about the past, present, and future of Europe with music by composer Michael Langemann. Together with other international choirs the DCL recorded the music individually and some members also recorded some video material which was all edited together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w56tGSmIWFs&t=111s>

Early December:

Live rehearsals in person in different venue (Artwork Classrooms near London Bridge) to accommodate social distancing

Christmas:

The choir published a virtual Christmas card with lots of festive pictures and photos of the choir with a recorded version of The Angel Gabriel

Events which were planned but had to be cancelled/postponed to a later date due to Covid:

- **2 May 2020 – concert Komm Jesu Komm** at St Pancras New Church, London together with choir from Hannover
- **4 May 2020 - Evensong in St Pauls Cathedral** London together with choir from Hannover
- **31 May – Spem in alium by Thomas Tallis at Tate Modern** together with ORA Singers
- **18 and 19 July 2020 – Choir tour to Rome/Vatican**, singing mass in St. Peter and a concert in the German church
- **End of October 2020 – Halloween concert**

Trustee Meetings:

- 10 February 2020 (in person)
- 28 April 2020 (on zoom)
- 26 May 2020 (on zoom)
- 16 August 2020 (on zoom)
- 5 October 2020 (on zoom)

Annual choir member meeting

14 January 2020, Christuskirche, London

full meeting (AGM) of the choir members to conclude the year 2019, during which the Trustees and the Musical Director gave an update, section leaders were elected being followed by questions and discussions from/with choir members

17 December 2020, on zoom

full meeting (AGM) of the choir members to conclude the year 2020, during which the Trustees and the Musical Director gave an update, section leaders were elected being followed by questions and discussions from/with choir members

2. Changes to the Board of Trustees in the reporting period

Current Board of Trustees and areas of responsibilities:

- **Melanie Allmendinger:**
Chair of the Board of Trustees, integrating new members, assisting the treasurer
- **Thomas Hegel:** Treasurer - finance and legal
- **Christian Anders:** events coordinator including trips abroad
- **Richard Loeser:** Marketing (website, posters etc), finding new members
- **Susanne Thiele:** Marketing (Instagram, posters etc), minutes, creating concert programmes

3. Summary of Trustee work in the reporting period

Marketing:

- The marketing team was very active on social media with many posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, advertising our online rehearsals and recordings and videos which the choir produced.
 - Our Rheinberger Abendlied video reached 2,3k views on Facebook
 - We also started a series on all social media channels to introduce the individual Chorus members with a profile and photos, which was a big success online.
 - We added several new videos to our Youtube platform which received many views and likes.
 - We published a fun quiz/questionnaire online “Which choral piece are you?”

- CE – Composers Edition published a big article about the Choir’s Corona Commission project and interview with our Musical Director Barbara:
<https://whatsnew.composersedition.com/german-choir-londons-barbara-hofling-on-corona-commissions-feat-ian-stephens-and-michael-cryne/>

- The new website with a new design and fresh layout is still work in progress, but getting closer to being finished and going live.

Covid measures:

- The trustees made sure that the everchanging Covid rules and guidelines and what those meant for the choir were communicated to the choir. The trustees and the music director had to be very flexible and creative to react to the unusual circumstances.

- Several planned concerts and projects during the period had to be cancelled, changed and reorganised.

- Once the choir was able to rehearse again in person, the trustees had to find new and bigger venues where the choir could rehearse socially distanced

- Strict Health & Safety measures were introduced by the trustees such as:
 - Risk assessments were produced for each venue
 - Covid questionnaire to be filled out by all choristers before every rehearsal
 - Opening windows and doors of the rehearsal venue
 - providing hand sanitizer for choristers to use when entering the rehearsal venue
 - Staggered entry and leaving the venue
 - Keeping chairs socially distanced and keeping a seating chart who sat where
 - Mask wearing in all rehearsals
 - Shorter rehearsals & more breaks

- The trustees worked hard to keep the moral high during the difficult period of lockdown. The choir reacted well to the online rehearsals and really came together socially in the virtual pub every week. Everyone was very appreciative when the choir could finally rehearse again in person.

4. Summary of the Annual General Meeting

The AGM (General Meeting of Associate Members) on 17 December 2020 had to take place on zoom, as no meetings of a bigger group in person were allowed at this time.

The choir approved the work of the Trustees, elected section leaders for 2021, and discussed a number of ideas relating to rehearsals and the running of the choir. Minutes of this meeting are available (in English). All points were discussed by the Board and the Musical Director and have been implemented as far as possible.

- thanked choir members who volunteer their time for the choir
- Trustees presented a review of all choral, marketing and other activities of 2020
- gave a report about the financial health of the choir

- (re)elected section leaders
 - **Sopranos - Nathalie Nötzold (Cover: Amadea Heitmann)**
 - **Altos - Marianne Rencken (Cover: Magdalena Lippingwell)**
 - **Tenors - Eckart Marchand (Cover: Felix Richter)**
 - **Basses - David Schröder (cover: Ben Krueger)**

- Barbara updated the choir on plans for 2021

- Approval of trustees board by members and updates:
All trustees (Melanie Allmendinger, Thomas Hegel, Christian Anders, Susanne Thiele and Richard Loeser) were approved and reelected

- discussion points and feedback from members
 - praise for past year (Barbara, Trustees, virtual rehearsals)
 - the wish to continue virtual rehearsals if real ones are not possible
 - the choir loved the virtual pub sessions, it raised the team spirit during lockdown
 - comment on the recordings from home: nice tool to work on own voice, good motivation
 - positive that alumni and singers in other countries were able to join the choir
 - question about the possibility of virtual rehearsals with piano, concern about delay raised
 - virtual rehearsals not useful for everybody, but the vocal coaching very helpful
 - suggestion to meet in small groups (6 ppl, outside?)
 - request for new pieces during virtual rehearsals
 - enquiry: live broadcast of rehearsals at London Bridge or recording of rehearsals

5. Financial summary

Please see separate document for details.

- **Income** this year was approx. £19.675, of which £11,899 associate membership fees (at the end of 2020 we had 47 paying, registered choir members) and £1000 Grant donations from a sponsor (Bayerische Landesbank)
- **Expenses** this year was approx. £19.513, of which £6.590 for Musical Director remuneration.
- In 2020 there was **no increase to the associate membership fees**, which therefore are still £20 per month (£10 discount for students and singers without regular income)
- We expect to have £21.000 **savings** roughly at the end of the year. We expect that some of these savings will be used to finance concerts next year. In addition £15.000 which were donated by the Schröder Bank in the past, will be used for the St. Matthew Passion/Sophie Scholl project. The Trustees also like to keep a sound level of savings as we never know how membership numbers develop over the year – especially with the current pandemic and Brexit.
- Solo ensemble rehearsals, section rehearsals and technical rehearsals will continue to be financed by the whole choir as these contribute to the quality of the choir as a whole. During the AGM meeting, members welcomed this/did not object to this.

6. Acknowledgements

Aside from the Trustees, several associate members have provided key inputs into the development of the choir during 2020 as volunteers which we wish to acknowledge:

- **Stephanie Kirschke:** prepares the attendance register and keeps oversight of attendance
- **Uta Bergner-Sington:** responsible for ordering the music for the choir and providing midi files which help the members rehearsing at home
- **Rebecca Dittrich:** writes the weekly choir internal newsletter
- **Sarah Marzi:** supporting with social media posts
- **Julia Jennings:** supporting with social media posts
- **Nathalie Nötzold:** section leader soprano
- **Marianne Rencken:** section leader alto
- **Eckart Marchand:** section leader tenor
- **David Schröder:** section leader bass

7. Concerts and events currently programmed for the future

- **9 April 2021 - virtual concert**
- **2/3 October 2021 - Choir tour to Rome/Vatican**, singing mass in St. Peter and a concert in the German church Santa Maria dell' Anima
- **17 March 2022 - St Matthew Passion in Southwark Cathedral**, London to honour the 100. Birthday of Sophie Scholl. Together with the children choir of MDR and Coventry Cathedral Choir. Sponsored by BayernLB and Schroeder Bank.
- **19 March 2022 - St Matthew Passion in Coventry Cathedral**

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
(REGISTERED WITH
CHARITY COMMISSION NO: 1162894)

Accounts

31 December 2020

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Receipt and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2020

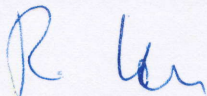
	2020	2019
	£	£
Receipts		
Member subscriptions	11,899	10,018
General donations	5,398	-
Grant income	1,000	18,500
Concert ticket sales	160	13,806
CD/Music sales	1,181	62
Interest income	37	54
Other income	-	836
	<u>19,675</u>	<u>43,276</u>
Payments		
Conductor fees & rehearsals	6,590	13,478
Venue Hire	1,415	4,043
Travel, subsistence and accommodation	1,359	13,749
Solo singers	4,040	1,450
Marketing, events & other expenses	5,149	2,750
Donations	-	359
Accountancy fees	960	900
	<u>19,513</u>	<u>36,729</u>
Expenses		
Total expenses	<u>19,513</u>	<u>36,729</u>
Surplus of receipts over expenditure	162	6,547
Unrestricted Fund:		
At 1 January 2020	<u>35,850</u>	<u>29,303</u>
Surplus of receipts over expenditure	<u>162</u>	<u>6,547</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>36,012</u>	<u>35,850</u>

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		36,012	35,850
Net current assets		<u>36,012</u>	<u>35,850</u>
Net assets		<u>36,012</u>	<u>35,850</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUND:			
Fund Balance	2	36,012	35,850
Total funds		<u>36,012</u>	<u>35,850</u>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature:



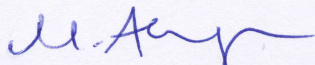
Print Name:

Richard Loeser

Date

30 October, 2021

Signature:



Print Name:

Melanie Allmendinger

Date

31. October 2021

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The Accounts are drawn up on a cash basis.

2 Unrestricted Fund:	2020
	£
At 1 January 2020	35,850
Excess of receipts over expenditure for the year	162
At 31 December 2020	<u>36,012</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

GERMAN CHOIR OF LONDON

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1162894

Set out on pages

1-3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity German Choir of London for the year ended 31 December 2018.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

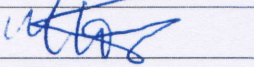
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) 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: 

Date: 05/07/2021

Name: Ilyas Pathan

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

CIMA

Address: Unit 7, 3-5 Little Somerset Street, London, England, E1 8AH

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None