

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
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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 McKevitt

<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=m91g9C2KYul>

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=w56tGSmlWFs&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

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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

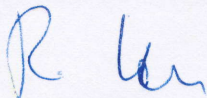
	2020 £	2019 £
Receipts		
Member subscriptions	11,899	10,018
General donations	5,398	-
Grant income	1,000	18,500
Concert ticket sales	160	13,806
CD/Music sales	1,181	62
Interest income	37	54
Other income	-	836
	<u>19,675</u>	<u>43,276</u>
Payments		
Conductor fees & rehearsals	6,590	13,478
Venue Hire	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		36,012	35,850
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 Altmendinger

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

Section B**Disclosure**

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