

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

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

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	(6,568)
At 31 December	<u>11,775</u>