

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	January	2020		31	March	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Cambridge Youth Opera
Other names charity is known by	CYO
Registered charity number (if any)	1166771
Charity's principal address	47 Eachard Road
	Cambridge
	CB3 0HZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ian Nimmo-Smith	Chairman		
2	Ursula Lenel	Treasurer		
3	Nathalie Edge-Partington	Secretary		
4	Dawn Giesler			
5	Amy Klohr		Appointed 8 Sep 2020	
6	Caitlin Goreing			

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Caroline Coetzee

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Foundation CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of children and young people aged between 12 and 25 in Cambridge and the surrounding area in the operatic arts by giving them the opportunity to experience all the elements that go into staging an opera; to help young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, to develop their capabilities and grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Main activities:

CYO broadens the creative horizons of young people through opera. We open up the arts to children and young people through this medium and, in the process, normalise opera as an artform. We work with young people to create age-appropriate productions to the highest possible standard. We are an open access, community organisation. Access to our chorus and production activities is open to everybody, irrespective of background or experience. Solo singing roles are allocated through open auditions.

CYO does not charge for participation. Participation is thus open to all and provides an appropriate level of coaching and tutoring not otherwise available to young people.

Our core activity involves:

1. the mounting of fully staged opera productions with children and young people.
2. engaging young people in creative activities including composition, libretto writing and design
3. working with primary schools to provide CPD for teachers and to introduce younger children to the foundations of opera

For all our productions we engage children and young people in singing, stage performance, theatre production including set and costume design and making and stage management, and instrumental music performance. CYO provides the participants with vocal, musical and artistic coaching as needed for the productions. In so doing, CYO achieves two aims. We provide all participants with an outstanding artistic learning experience, building their confidence and broadening their access to the arts. At the same time, we provide early stage artist development for those participants who may go on to a career in the arts.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Participants in CYO productions receive professional-level coaching, paid for out of the charity funds. Many volunteers also give their time to support the professionals and bring the productions to fruition. These volunteers provide mainly administrative and fundraising support, including assisting the organization with eg crowdfunding and benefit concerts, as well as publicity and admin support.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

CYO's main activities for the period beginning January 2020 were to have been the production and performances of our version of *Hansel and Gretel*, adapted from the Humperdinck by our Artistic Director, Caroline Coetzee and Musical Director Alastair Chilvers. Following the planned performances, in March 2020, we aimed to embark on two strategic projects, one for teenagers, the other working with primary schools.

The production of *Hansel and Gretel* was nearing completion when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to stop all activities in mid-March 2020. This was a substantial project, engaging around 170 children and young people from our members and partners. The latter included:

- a group of dancers from Cambridge Youth Dance Company
- a backstage team working in partnership with Bottisham Village College
- a chorus of younger children from Bottisham Primary School, Fen Ditton Primary School, the year 7 choir from Chesterton Community College and the OLEM junior choir
- children from Mayfield and Girton Glebe primary schools, who worked with Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination to produce a large scale artwork to display during the event in the Foyer of our performance venue, the Storey's Field Centre

The ongoing situation throughout 2020/21 has made it impossible to revive the show. In October 2020, we reconvened some members of the cast to record key musical points and to hold a photo shoot, to form a record of what would have been a landmark production.

After closing the production, we immediately began to look at how best to continue with activities which reflected our ethos and enabled us to continue to develop, during a period when live rehearsal and performance were impossible. We applied for and, in May 2020, were awarded Arts Council England Emergency Funding which enabled to offer a series of Digital Opera Making Workshops for 11 - 19 year olds between May and August 2020, as well as workshops for primary schools based on a new song by Russell Hepplewhite with words by Michael Rosen. The Digital Opera Making Workshops offered the opportunity for participants to learn about all elements of opera, while working in small groups with mentors to produce their own work, based on any aspect of opera that interested them. The work was picked up on by the English National Opera and ACE and featured in a national Google Arts/ACE exhibition of youth arts under COVID. <https://cambridgeyouthopera.com/digital-opera-making-workshops/>

The workshops offered significant development for CYO: for the first time, we offered a project where the focus was on creative, rather than production activities. Following their completion, we use the hiatus forced on us by the continuing pandemic to take stock and work on developing our strategy with respect to working with young people and also with primary schools. This has resulted in two projects:

1. The Little Black Cat which will see CYO work with young people to create an original opera. This will be performed in partnership with the Norwich Puppet Theatre. The first phase which sees the composition of the opera, is fully funded by the Cambridgeshire Music Hub and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. It runs from October to December 2021.
2. Stories in Song is CYO's long awaited programme for primary schools. It

follows a two pronged approach. CYO will offer CPD for primary school teachers to develop a culture of singing and to provide development activities for more experienced teachers. This will run alongside workshops introducing primary school pupils to the fundamentals of opera. CYO is working with the Cambridgeshire Music Hub to co-commission the project. We have completed a needs analysis and planned the project

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

CYO aims to keep reserves of a minimum of between £1,000 and £2,000 to protect against unforeseen rises in costs and expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F


Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Ursula Level	
Full name(s)	URSULA LEVEL	DAWN GIESLER
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	TRUSTEE
Date	1st December 2021	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Cambridge Youth Opera

1166771

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Jan-20

To



Period end date
31-Mar-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	14,397	-	-	14,397	-
Audience donations	2,018	-	-	2,018	-
Online fundraising	723	-	-	723	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,138	-	-	17,138	12,775
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,138	-	-	17,138	12,775
A3 Payments					
Coaching, Musicians	21,980	-	-	21,980	-
Performance costs	454	-	-	454	-
General (insurance etc)	244	-	-	244	-
Refunds	292	-	-	292	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	22,970	-	-	22,970	4,351
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	22,970	-	-	22,970	4,351
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,832	-	-	- 5,832	8,424
A5 Transfers between funds					
	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,179	-	-	11,179	2,755
Cash funds this year end	5,347	-	-	5,347	11,179

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,347	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	 	Ursula Lenel DAWN GIESLER	3rd Oct 2021 1.12.2021