



**HAMPSTEAD CHORUS**

**Report and Accounts**

**Year ended 31 August 2025**

**Charity number 1174146**

# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### Reference and administrative information

#### Trustees

The following Trustees have served throughout the year except as noted:

Roger Pilgrim - Chair

Max Elliman – Treasurer

Mary Stokes- Secretary (retired and re-elected on 28 February 2024)

Andrea Morris (Resigned 12 February 2025)

Judy Booth

#### Address

c/o Music Department, University College Senior School

Frogna

Hampstead

London

NW3 6XH

#### Charity Number

1174146

#### Bankers

Barclays Bank

Hampstead High Street

London

NW3 1QB

#### Website

[www.hampsteadchorus.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadchorus.org.uk)

#### Email

[info@hampsteadchorus.org.uk](mailto:info@hampsteadchorus.org.uk)

# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts of Hampstead Chorus (the “Chorus”) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

### Structure, governance and management

The Hampstead Chorus, a community choir that is open to all singers irrespective of ability, was formed to celebrate the centenary of University College School in 2008 and remains closely affiliated to the school. It is constituted as an unincorporated association and on 4 August 2017 registered as a charity with the Charities Commission in England & Wales. The Chorus is managed and administered by a committee of the following officers, who are members of the Chorus and the trustees of the charity:

Chair	Roger Pilgrim
Treasurer	Max Elliman
Secretary	Mary Stokes
Committee Members	Andrea Morris (Resigned 12 February 2025) Judy Booth

Our constitution requires a minimum of three trustees, with no maximum number. One third of the Trustees must retire by rotation at each annual general meeting. Max Elliman retired at the annual general meeting held on 12 February 2025 and was re-elected as a trustee at that meeting. Judy Booth will retire at the annual general meeting to be held to consider these accounts and being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

New Trustees will be appointed by the existing Trustees as needed to complement the skills available to the Chorus. New appointees are provided with information on their responsibilities as Trustees and are briefed on the areas of activity of the Chorus.

Trustee meetings are held to discuss strategy, policy and the administration of the Chorus. Day-to-day administration, such as bookkeeping, finance and general administration is handled by the Trustees. All the Trustees give their time and are not paid. None of the Trustees has claimed any expenses nor are there any related party transactions requiring disclosure.

Artistic direction is provided by our inspiring Musical Director, Simon Walton, ably assisted by accompanist and rehearsal coach, Edward Kemp-Luck.

The Chorus is also indebted to the dedicated volunteers who have helped run the choir, without whom it could not function, and to the support of University College School.

### Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The objects of the Chorus are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals. The Chorus pursues its objectives by the holding of concerts and, in the process, providing Chorus members with instruction in the performance of choral music.

The Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the Charities Commission on public benefit. The Trustees have regard to this guidance in deciding what activities should be undertaken and consider that the activities of the Chorus have demonstrably been carried out for the public benefit.



# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### Achievements and Performance

The Chorus has rehearsed and performed a diverse range of choral music during the year 2024/5, with the usual full-scale concerts being held at the end of the Autumn and Spring Terms in the Great Hall at University College School; and a smaller concert put on at the end of the Summer Term in the Music Lecture Theatre at the School.

In the Autumn Term the choir sang Gabriel Fauré's masterpiece Requiem as well as his ever-popular Cantique de Jean Racine, followed on by Cecilia MacDowall's Ave Maria Stella and Vaughn Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Simon Walton conducted the Centenary Orchestra and Edward Kemp-Luck on organ.

In the Spring Term the choir performed Johannes Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem. This is a demanding work in which the chorus has an important role of communicating with the audience. We had 80 subscribers and 63 singers, the most that we have had since Covid.

In the Summer Term the choir set sail with nautically themed pieces by English composers, including Elgar's song cycle of the sea "Sea Pictures", and sea related songs by Herbert Sumson and John Ireland. Our Musical Director, Simon Walton, also performed four solo songs by Rebecca Clarke, Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Benjamin Britten and Aaron Copeland, accompanied on the piano by Edward Kemp-Luck. The concert was followed by a buffet supper on a sunny summer's day.

Overall, it was another musically successful year for the Chorus, due to the inspiration and hard work of Simon Walton, assisted by Ed Kemp-Luck. The number of singers has been steadily increasing, and we have been attracting new members. We expect this to continue in 2026.

The financial results on a cash basis are set out below on pages 7-10 in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities, prepared based on receipts and payments account, and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities. It shows a surplus of £10,020 for the year (2024: deficit £951). It is the intention of the Trustees that, to operate on a sustainable basis, the Chorus should, so far as possible, generate a small surplus of receipts over payments. Overall, the accounts show that revenues in 2025 have increased by £10,971 from the previous year (not accounting for the Away Day in 2024). This was due to a significant increase in the number of subscribers in 2024/25 over the previous year plus the combined efforts of the Chorus to sell additional tickets for the concert performances. Concert and administrative expenses have increased by £742 from the previous year, though this figure is exaggerated by a partial early payment of venue rental for the Autumn term 2023, leading to the exclusion of those costs in 2024 accounts (as the accounts are prepared on a cash basis). While concert costs are largely determined by choice of repertoire the Committee strives to cover the direct costs of performance through ticket sales. At the final Committee meeting of 2025 it was decided to slightly increase the price of subscription to cover higher anticipated costs for both rehearsals and concerts.

The reported surplus of £10,021 for 2024/25 resulted in reserves of the Chorus increasing to £32,577 (2024: £22,557). In view of the Chorus' healthy reserves, the Trustees, in consultation with the Chorus, have considered to lower concert ticket prices for concerts performed in 2026.

### Reserves policy

In running the Chorus as an unincorporated association, the Trustees have decided that, to ensure it remains as a going concern and so there can be confidence when planning future events, sufficient reserves should be on hand to at least cover the gross direct costs of concerts (costs of musicians, soloists, venue etc.) for one year. The Trustees periodically review the adequacy of reserves in the light of our plans and other relevant issues. Though singer numbers have steadily recovered since the years affected by Covid, concert



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costs have also increased. For the year 2025, the gross annual direct cost of our concert programme was £9,525. Our reserves are therefore well above the level to cover the gross direct cost of concerts for one year, though we consider a higher level of reserves is justified given the financial uncertainties that the Chorus faced in recent years. The Trustees are, nonetheless, cognisant of the need to keep this under regular review.

### Risk management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Chorus is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established to manage those risks. The Trustees regard the major risks faced by the Chorus as being financial and these are mitigated by careful financial planning and maintaining adequate levels of reserves and insurance.

### Future Plans

A challenging and popular repertoire of music has been selected for the 2025/2026 year, with concerts planned at the end of each term.

### Independent Examination

For the year ended 31 August 2025, the Chorus is required by the Charities' Commission to have an independent examination as the annual income of the Chorus exceeded £25,000. Laurence Bard has carried out the examination, and his report is on page 6.

### Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law.

Approved by the Trustees on 2nd February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Pilgrim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Pilgrim - Chair



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

HAMPSTEAD CHORUS

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 AUGUST 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1174146

Set out on pages

7 to 10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*Laurence Bard*

Date:

30/1/2026

Name:

LAURENCE BARD

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body



# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (based on receipts and payments)

Year ended 31 August

#### Rehearsals and general activities

##### Rehearsal receipts

Subscriptions and other receipts

2025

2024

17,683

10,637

##### Rehearsal payments

Conductor and accompanist fees

9,265

8,970

Catering costs

165

92

Venue rental

1,392

835

Other rehearsal and general payments

1,303

1,047

12,125

10,944

#### Net cash movements from rehearsals

5,558

(307)

#### Receipts of donations and Gift Aid

Individual donations

876

1,965

Gift Aid receipts

3,731

2,218

4,607

4,183

#### Concerts

##### Concert receipts

Ticket sales

9,380

5,543

Programme advertising & corporate sponsorship

-

-

Other concert receipts

-

-

9,380

5,543

##### Concert payments

Soloists' fees

950

1,600

Conductor fees

900

900

Orchestra fees and related payments

5,332

5,051

Catering costs

507

467

Venue rental

1,368

720

Other concert payments

468

429

9,525

9,167

#### Net cash movements from concerts

(145)

(3,624)

#### Total cash movements from regular activities

10,020

252

Receipts for the Away Day (2024)

450

Net Payments for the Away Day (2024)

(1,403)

Receipts before 31 August 2024 relating to Autumn term 2024

200

#### Transferred to reserves

10,020

(951)

# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (based on receipts and payments)

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	income fund	income fund
	£	£
Fund brought forward on 1 September	22,557	23,708
Rehearsal receipts	17,683	10,637
Rehearsal and general payments	(12,125)	(10,944)
Receipts of donations and Gift Aid	4,607	4,183
Concert receipts	9,380	5,543
Concert payments	(9,525)	(9,167)
Net Payments for Away Day (2024)		(1,403)
Fund carried forward on 31 August	32,577	22,557



Hampstead Chorus  
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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

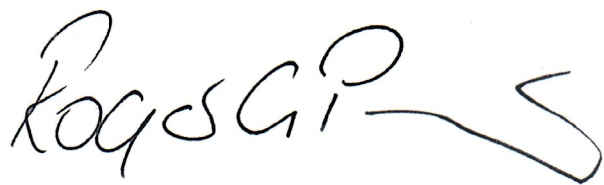
	Note	31 August 2025	31 August 2024
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		32,577	22,757
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>32,577</b>	<b>22,757</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>32,577</b>	<b>22,757</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>32,577</b>	<b>22,557</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>32,577</b>	<b>22,557</b>
<b>The funds of the Chorus:</b>			
Unrestricted funds		32,577	22,557
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>32,577</b>	<b>22,557</b>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to smaller charities in the Charities Act 2011.

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 2nd February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Roger Pilgrim - Chair

# Hampstead Chorus

## Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025

### 1. Accounting policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The Trustees have elected to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities pursuant to section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. This means the accounts of the Chorus have been prepared on a cash basis (not the accruals basis). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### b) Fund structure and activities

The Chorus has only one fund, an unrestricted income fund. The Trustees may, at their discretion, allocate any part of the fund to the purposes of the Chorus.

#### c) Fixed asset investments

The Chorus very occasionally makes expenditure on items which may have some enduring value (e.g. concert staging). Such items are expensed in the year in which they are incurred.

### 2. Related Party transactions and Trustees' remuneration

The Trustees received no emoluments and reclaimed no expenses during the period.

No related party transactions requiring disclosure occurred during the period.