

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir Annual Report for 2020

As for most organisations in Ministry and Music, indeed most of the world, 2020 was an extremely challenging year. From mid-March onwards until the end of the year and beyond, almost all of our usual music-making was cancelled, postponed or put on hold as our members struggled with the varying degrees of lockdown and illness that the covid-19 pandemic brought in its wake. And yet in some ways 2020 was probably our best year yet.

The year began for Soul Sanctuary at the end of January with the filming of *The Night Watchmen's Nativity*, our telling of St Luke's Nativity through the eyes of his "shepherds" using the media of spoken word, sung scripture and gospel music – all originally written by SSGC members except the four songs which were our arrangements of gospel and soul standards. As the year brought its events – the pandemic and the heroic role played by those with lower-income service jobs, BLM – our film became more and more pertinent, so that Sky TV bought it for Sky Arts and broadcast it in December. We are planning two additional Christmas pieces, *Mary's Nativity* and *The Three Kings*, to add to *Night Watchmen's Nativity* to form a Christmas Trilogy.

Our last live events as a choir before lockdown were a full rehearsal for our first *Soul At St James (S@SJ)*, our planned monthly outdoor event witnessing to core values of love, peace and community aimed at those outside the Church, and a recording for BBC Radio 2's *At The Foot Of The Cross*, broadcast on Good Friday.

As Lockdown started to bite in March, in common with all other choirs and orchestras we started to perform and record separately at home using whatever technology we all had (often just phones, tablets and laptops). For Easter we released our first home recording on YouTube on Easter Sunday, a cover of *The Prayer*, with a zoom-style video. For Pentecost, we followed with a cover of Israel Houghton's *Rise Within Us*, also released on YouTube, with an original animation.

With the brutal killing of George Floyd at the end of May and the subsequent BLM protests, we decided as a choir that we wanted to do our first *S@SJ* online with the theme of *Standing Up To Racism*, again using the media of spoken word and song, but also including poetry, conversation and montage. What emerged was a one-hour YouTube film of which we are proud and which (alas) is likely to have a long shelf life.

In September we were contacted by Mica Paris, Britain's premier soul singer, asking us to be the choir on her forthcoming maiden gospel album, *Gospel*. A benefit concert in which we had backed Mica in November 2019 had gone very well; her invitation to the album was a tremendous accolade for us. Alas pandemic restrictions prevented her from hiring the whole choir, which she had wanted to do. As well as recording the album itself, there were several promotion appearances, including on BBC TV's *Songs Of Praise* at Christmas.

We were also honoured to take part in the House of Parliament's Online Carol Service alongside our friends from St Martin in the Fields.

So in spite of 2020's very real challenges for our members, we enter 2021 with optimism, looking forward to taking several projects ahead – *S@SJ*, *Mary's Nativity*, cooperation with St Martin in the Fields - once we are able to sing together again without restriction. Most of our focus will be on *S@SJ*, which will require an

unprecedented level of commitment from us if it is to fulfil its potential as a major London destination event.

Our finances remain stable, owing to donations from one of our board members, which are made to ensure that there are always cash reserves of at least £2000 in SSGC's bank account (SSGC still wishes to broaden its funding base so as no longer to be reliant on this one donor on a 2/3 year view). Our expenditure in 2020 was not far below that of 2019 (£24k vs £28k) primarily owing to the production expenses of *Night Watchmen* (£12k). 2021's numbers will be helped by a payment from Sky TV via our production company of several thousand pounds; this is not reflected in 2020's balance sheet because we do not know what our net proceeds will be.

Miko Giedroyc, Board Member and General Manager
Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir
February 1st, 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

No (if any)

1176630

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
January 1st 2020

To

Period end date
December 31st 2020

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					
Donations by 1485 Charitable Trust	10,000	-	-	10,000	25,000
Performance & Recording Fees	3,375	-	-	3,375	13,067
CD Sales	64	-	-	64	364
Other	700	-	-	700	125
	-	-	-	-	-
Donation by MGDG & DAUJ	-	-	-	-	15,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,139	-	-	14,139	53,556
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,139	-	-	14,139	53,556
A3 Payments					
"Night Watchmen's Nativity" Prodn Exp	12,025	-	-	12,025	-
All Other Performers' Fees	6,962	-	-	6,962	21,142
PR/Comms/Social Media	3,564	-	-	3,564	5,102
Other Bought-In Services	1,424	-	-	1,424	2,002
Other	-	-	-	-	5
	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to MGDG & DAUJ	-	-	-	-	15,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	23,975	-	-	23,975	43,251
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	23,975	-	-	23,975	43,251
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 9,836	-	-	- 9,836	10,305
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,268	-	-	13,268	2,963
Cash funds this year end	3,432	-	-	3,432	13,268

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				
	Barclays Bank Current Account	3,432	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,432	-	-
CCXX R1 accounts (SS)		OK	OK	OK
(agree balances with receipts and payments ¹ account(s))				

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

Michal G D Giedroyc

Date of approval

February 1st 2020