

**OPUS 48**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**Charity number 1179938**

**OPUS 48**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**TRUSTEES:**

AGM 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dr Eleri Adams	re-elected
Mrs Joanna Crown	
Dr Richard Green	re-elected
Mrs Elizabeth Greenlaw	
Ms Alison Haill	
Dr Andreas Leidenroth	newly elected
Dr Angus McLellan	
Mr Michael Schofield	
Mr Philip Snelling	
Mr Ivor Spackman	stood down
Mr Brian Tibbels	newly elected

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS:**

57 Plater Drive  
Oxford  
OX2 6QU

**CHARITY NUMBER:**

1179938

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

Felicity McCallum ICAEW Chartered Accountant

# **OPUS 48**

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **FOR THE YEAR 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in 2019. The legal and administrative information set out below forms part of this report.

#### **OUR OBJECTIVES, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objectives of the charity are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and the science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including the presentation of public concerts and recitals. Our core values in developing the choir include providing high quality, ambitious and adventurous music making for singers and orchestra, fostering a spirit of enjoyment, and taking classical music to all. The charity relies principally on membership subscriptions, income from ticket sales and the support of 'friends' to cover operating costs.

In pursuing our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees take account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. The programme of events is designed to appeal to a broad range of musical tastes, encouraging everyone to take part and attend our activities and performances. We aim to present a range of choral concerts for the enjoyment of the community, provide occasional workshops open to all to join in and give a platform for amateur and professional singers and orchestral players to grow. We undertake a concert at Christmas to raise money for a local charity. In pricing subscriptions and events, we give particular attention to creating affordable opportunities for young musicians under 30. In 2020 -2021 our activities have been much constrained due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Opus 48 was registered as a charity (CIO) on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The charity is governed by the policies made from time to time by the trustees, delivered through a delegated committee. The committee is structured to support a collaborative approach, with teams taking responsibility for tasks and a team leader reporting back at committee meetings. Procedures for the appointment, retirement and removal of trustees are set out in the Constitution. None of the trustees have received remuneration or other financial benefit from their work.

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To meet the requirements of the Charity Commission, three trustees resigned at the AGM in July 2021. Those wishing to stand offered themselves for re-election and both were re-elected by the membership. One trustee stood down and two new trustees were elected.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Opus 48 is a medium sized chorus for Oxfordshire and beyond. We strive to promote the delivery of high-quality choral works whilst managing the constraints that ensure financial security. The supreme challenge for 2020 -21 was the safe pursuit of progress in the context of Covid-19 and as a minimum, the protection of the status quo to enable a bright future.

Attempting to plan for the 2020-2021 season during the summer months, the choir committee was faced with an ever-changing 'covid' landscape in which it proved impossible to crystallise a definitive way ahead. Our driving ambition was to recommence some form of in-person rehearsing whilst ensuring the safety of the choir members through detailed risk assessments and strict rehearsal protocols. The chosen work, the Pärt Magnificat, lent itself to small group rehearsals and potentially an exciting multimedia project. With venue secured, group timetables in place and cleansing kits prepared, hopes were cruelly dashed as covid numbers rose through the autumn and the government implemented a further lockdown.

Undeterred by events, the committee resumed Zoom planning meetings. A return to regular on-line rehearsals was ruled out for fear of virtual fatigue. Attention switched to planning, should guidance allow, for a one off outside carol singing event in an Oxford park in December, preceded by two on-line rehearsals. On the day the weather was fine and the event thoroughly enjoyed, by both choir members and passing pedestrians. Being able to sing together again raised morale and demonstrated that, after nine months of no collective singing, the choir community spirit remained.

Sadly, as 2021 dawned, a further lockdown was implemented. The prospect of live rehearsals went into retreat, in all likelihood for the whole term. Virtual meetups presented the only avenue to keep the choir together, working with members to improve the quality of future public performances. A programme including 'Star Performer' sessions was launched. This consisted of showcasing the individual performance of highly regarded professional singers, and observing volunteer choir members in an on-line masterclass with the choir conductor.

As the spring term ended, hopes and expectations were raised that mid May 2021 would at last enable a masked choir to rehearse together in small groups and deliver a summer concert. The planned repertoire focused on Handel 'The Ways of Zion do Mourn', being the first part of 'Israel in Egypt', which the choir had been within days of performing in Spring 2020! Two joyous pieces, Parry 'I was Glad' and Vaughan Williams 'Serenade to Music'

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completed the programme. Strict rehearsal protocols, compliant with venue and choir requirements, were set out once more in a comprehensive risk assessment. Alas, another twist in the tale cast plans into the abyss; meetings were limited to six people.

Determined to find some way in which the choir could again rehearse together, the committee engaged with a school close to Oxford willing to hire out its large outside covered sports area, no walls but with roof. Individual members brought a chair to place on their designated spot, or stood throughout. The regulations permitted multiple groups of 30 to meet outside, suitably spaced. Rehearsals began in the barn with views of open country, at least on those rare days on which it was actually warm and not raining.

As the planned concert day in July came ever nearer, optimism increased that an event would be able to go ahead in the University Church, subject to mitigations. Principal amongst these was the requirement that all singers wear masks in rehearsal and performance, and restriction of the audience numbers to allow for appropriate spacing. Nevertheless, the choir was singing together again in a concert! In the words of the choir director, finally in live performance, participants and audience experienced a 'powerful, uplifting and emotional evening'.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have a risk management strategy which ensures that major risks are raised and reviewed regularly at committee meetings. Significant time and effort have been spent this year in ensuring the Covid-19 risk assessment is relevant and up to date.

Financial uncertainty continued throughout the year, though Opus 48 commenced the year with a solid cash reserve. Because of Covid uncertainty it was not practical to prepare a conventional budget for the year and the trustees reviewed financial performance and planned ahead on a term-by-term basis.

One particular risk was that, because of loss of income from conventional paid activity, Opus 48 might lose the services of its inspirational conductor. Trustees determined that to maintain his services and because of a duty of care his remuneration should, so far as the cash position allowed, be maintained as close as possible to a normal level. In fact, the substantial amount of planning, background work, rehearsals (on-line as well as in-person) and performances within the year substantially justified his remuneration.

A second particular risk was maintaining an income stream when there was little participative member activity of a conventional nature and very little income from performances. A formal request for member subscription payments was not made until the third term, when relatively normal rehearsals recommenced. Even then, an opt-out or reduced rate was given for those choosing not to sing. In the second term, members had

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been encouraged to make a non-Gift Aid donation in lieu of subscription to help sustain the financial position; a good proportion of members did this.

**RESERVES**

The trustees have an established policy which incorporates a target level of reserves of £10,000 in normal operating conditions. The disruption from the Covid pandemic means that operations have continued to be far from normal and the level of financial uncertainty has remained greater than normal. In particular it has been (and will continue to be) important for trustees to ensure, firstly, the continued viability of the choir if collective singing is not possible and secondly, when normal singing resumes, that uncertainties (possible shortfalls) in both membership subscription income and box office revenue do not create cashflow difficulties. Levels of reserves above £10,000 are therefore required.


As a result of careful balancing of income and expenditure, the trustees have maintained a stable reserves position through an uncertain year. The year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 saw cash reserves change only slightly from £18,431 at the end of the previous season to £18,526. Similarly, net assets increased marginally from £19,558 to £19,617.

The trustees have considered a range of trajectories out of the Covid pandemic back to normal operation. Even with pessimistic subscription and box office revenue assumptions, the reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 are sufficient to ensure ongoing liquidity, although trustees recognised a small chance that they could fall below the £10,000 target by the end of the first year of resumed normal activity (assumed to be 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022).

**DECLARATIONS**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature 

Full name Joanna Crown

Position Trustee

Date 24 JUNE 2022

**OPUS 48**

Registered Charity number 1179938

**ACCOUNTS - 1st SEPTEMBER 2020 TO 31st AUGUST 2021****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

				<i>Previous accounting period</i>	
				<i>1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 31st August 2020</i>	
		receipts	payments	receipts	payments
<b>General income</b>	loans		-1104		
	member subscriptions	5215	-165	16660	-562
	Friends scheme	520	-18	3639	-820
	gifts and sponsorship	2565	-14	1669	-11
	fundraising	241		67	
	gift aid	1159	-49	4203	-149
		<b>9700</b>	<b>-1350</b>	<b>26238</b>	<b>-1542</b>
<b>General running costs</b>	Conductor - fees (rehearsal, audition, etc)		-5550		-5385
	accompanist - rehearsal fees		-450		-1800
	venue hire - rehearsals and auditions		15		-1528
	printing and publicity		-101		-365
	professional support and insurance		-613		-613
	IT		-48		-177
	purchase of assets	618	-618		-618
	other			73	-5
		<b>618</b>	<b>-7365</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-10491</b>
<b>Event income</b>	ticket sales/attendance fees	310		5555	-279
	programme sales			117	
	event sponsorship				
		<b>310</b>		<b>5672</b>	<b>-279</b>
<b>Event costs</b>	conductor		-500		-2700
	soloists				-600
	orchestra/accompanists		-300		-530
	instrument hire				
	PRS fees				-69
	venue hire		-550		-2879
	music score hire/purchase		-468	444	-778
	printing and publicity				-839
	charity donation				-250
	travel				
	other			61	-5
			<b>-1818</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>-8651</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>10628</b>	<b>-10533</b>	<b>32488</b>	<b>-20962</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>95</b>		<b>11526</b>	
<b>Funds at start of period</b>		<b>18431</b>		<b>6906</b>	
<b>CASH FUNDS AT 31st AUGUST 2021</b>		<b>18526</b>		<b>18431</b>	

**Note**

1 All funds are unrestricted.

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**ACCOUNTS - 1st SEPTEMBER 2020 TO 31st AUGUST 2021****ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st AUGUST 2021**

			Previous accounting period - 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 31st August 2020	
			Assets	Liabilities
<b>Cash funds</b>	Lloyds current account		18526	18431
			<b>18526</b>	<b>18431</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>	income not received by 31.8.21	gift aid	53	membership subscriptions 100
				event income 20
				refund of rehearsal venue fees 90
			<b>53</b>	<b>210</b>
	expenditure in advance for 2021-22	concert venue hire credit (from March 2020)	1566	concert venue hire credit (from March 2020) 1566
			<b>1566</b>	<b>1566</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>	concert music folders	no longer considered a fixed asset	0	618
			<b>0</b>	<b>618</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	loans		0	-1104
			<b>0</b>	<b>-1104</b>
	general running costs not paid by 31.8.21	rehearsal space costs	-180	publicity costs -29
		publicity costs	-173	
			<b>-353</b>	<b>-29</b>
	event costs not paid by 31.8.21	PRS fees (maximum liability)	-175	PRS fees (maximum liability) -135
			<b>-175</b>	<b>-135</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>20145</b>	<b>20826</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>19617</b>	<b>19558</b>

**Notes**

1 All funds are unrestricted.

2 No guarantees have been given by Opus 48

3 No debt has been secured by an express charge on an Opus 48 asset



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

OPUS 48

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 AUGUST 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1179938

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2021.

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.

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

Signed:

Date:

04/06/22

Name:

FELICITY CLARE MCCALLUM

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ACA (ICAEW)

Address:

313 WOODSTOCK ROAD  
OXFORD OX2 7NY.

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.