

S A N S A R A

Sansara Choir

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity No. 1179978

Report and Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st August 2020 - 31st July 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name

Sansara Choir CIO

Other name the charity uses

SANSARA

Registered charity number

1179978

Charity's principal address

40 High Point, London SE9 3NZ

Trustees

Mr David Hurley (Chair)

Mrs Sarah Hard

Miss Sarah Rennix

Mr Henry Southern

Mr Charles Graham

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 July 2021

This year was another deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a diminished performance schedule; but the charity has effectively used its time to develop new projects, as well as create other forms of artistic output in line with the charity's objectives in the absence of performance opportunities.

Due to prudent financial management throughout the previous two years, the charity has been able to maintain its reserves while continuing to provide financial support to the Artistic Director. In addition, through fundraising, the choir recorded and released its third album - which provided much-needed work for our professional singers, as well as supporting original compositions from the choir's Associate Composer Marco Galvani. This was received well, and the recording's mix of electronic and choral music opened the choir's work to new audiences, particularly on digital platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.

Project development continued in the period, supporting our new 'Giving Voice' strategy, that will be central to our fundraising efforts in 2022 and beyond. This will yield results in the future, as performances become easier and as we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The financial stability and continued creative output of the charity during this difficult period would not have been possible without the continued generosity of our donors, who continued to support the choir during a period with little physical performance output. We hope that the digital projects and recordings that were delivered in the period showed the flexibility and creativity of the charity, in still delivering its charitable objectives during difficult times for the performing arts.

In this reporting period there were no changes to the board of Trustees, but Mrs Sarah Hard resigned at the end of July 2021, with the Chair, Mr David Hurley, standing down in the 2021 - 2022 financial year. At the time of writing, the recruitment of new Trustees is ongoing.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives as set out in our constitution:

To promote the art of choral music for the public benefit by:

- (a)** the organisation and/or presentation of concerts of high educational and artistic merit, the production of recordings;
- (b)** the commissioning and performance of new music and/or the presentation of musical works of particular historical and cultural significance, research and presentation of musical editions;
- (c)** the organisation and presentation of concerts, workshops and collaborations with community musical groups, schools and other places of education;
- (d)** by such other means as the Board of Trustees shall from time to time determine.

Activities in the period August 2020 - July 2021:

Professional Engagements:

19.06.2021 - Concert at Wiltshire Music Centre

Recordings

28.05.2021 - Invisible Cities released on streaming platforms

Project Development

Rite to Grieve

White Rose

Les Voix Humaines

Digital Projects

re:create

a golden string

Collaborations with The Self-Isolation Choir and Orchestra for the Earth

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In-person activities were significantly curtailed during this period, and so the choir took the opportunity to develop a distinctive creative vision and strategy. 'Giving Voice' is a forward-thinking strategy designed with long-term sustainability in mind, as the organisation continues to develop and grow.

The choir's third album was released at the end of May 2021. The recording of choral electronic and choral music by the group's Associate Composer Marco Galvani received critical acclaim, with several tracks featuring in major playlists on Spotify and Apple Music.

During this period, the choir developed a ground-breaking COVID-19 response project called *Rite to Grieve*, with the aim of combining choral music and peer-to-peer bereavement support to give voice to grief, following a time when it had been difficult to do so. This project received funding from the Oak and Paul Hamlyn Foundations.

Work on the multi-faceted *White Rose* recording project continued, with further funding from the Paul Hamlyn and Genesis Foundations to support the recording of a new album and podcast series in partnership with Oxford University's White Rose Project.

The Trustees confirm that they have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit (PB3) and that they report that public benefit has been delivered in line with the charity objects, despite the challenges of the reporting year due to lockdown and the loss of performance opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite the lack of in-person performance activity, the charity is able to report an improved financial position at the close of its financial year.

Following growth in donations income in 2019-20, 2020-21 saw significant growth in grant income, as reported in accounts section **A1**. Grants of total £23,500 were received for the *White Rose* project from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Genesis Foundation and from the University of Oxford. Grants of £15,000 were received for the *Rite to Grieve* project from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Oak Foundation. A grant of £2,000 was received for the Galvani recording from the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, with grants of £500 received from the Golsoncott Foundation (Les Voix Humaines) and Arts Council England (the final instalment of Emergency Grant support from 2020-21). We are particularly grateful for an unrestricted grant of £4,000 from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, for the choir's core costs. Donations income decreased slightly, after a significant push in 2019-20, but remains at a healthy level.

Earned income (concert fees, ticket sales and CD sales) declined as a result of successive COVID-19 lockdowns and public performance restrictions. The charity was able to raise some funds by partnering with the Self-Isolation Choir for virtual performances of Mahler's

Eighth Symphony and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, which form the bulk of our earned income for 2020-21, alongside several private engagements.

Expenditure (**A3**) remained largely consistent with the 2019-20 financial year. Fees for administrative work (principally the Artistic Director's retainer) remained stable, and the Galvani recording, collaboration with Self-Isolation Choir, Wiltshire Music concert and several private engagements enabled us to provide over £20,000 of work to young professional singers, despite the constrained circumstances.

The charity has no asset sales (**A2**) or asset purchases (**A4**) to report.

A transfer of £4,040 was made into restricted funds from the choir's unrestricted reserve (**A5**), in order to cover the full costs of the Galvani recording. Accordingly, total restricted funds equalled £43,775 at year end, of total cash holdings of £52,632 (**B1**). There has been a decline in the charity's unrestricted reserves, with expenditure on core costs outstripping fundraising, and an ambition for the choir is to increase its unrestricted reserve in 2021-22, for more sustainable support of these core costs.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic ensured that expenditure remained at a lower level when compared to our last 'full' performing year (2018-19), however the charity's financial year income in 2020-21 was the highest in our history. This is chiefly due to success in grant-winning, despite the loss of most of the charity's earned income. A healthy sum of restricted funding is therefore on hand, to deliver the projects for which we have won grant funding in 2021-22.

The Trustees have reviewed the financial performance of the charity and are confident that the charity continues to have financial stability despite COVID-19 restrictions. The Trustees intend to undertake and implement a detailed fundraising review during 2022.

Accounting Policies and Management

Receipts and payments are the operational responsibility of the Finance Manager, who has delegated responsibility for expenditures of less than £500. Larger expenditures are subject to the approval of the Trustees.

The charity has a reserves holding policy to cover six months of core costs. The Trustees have reviewed this policy and confirm that the charity has maintained this policy during the period. The Trustees intend to review this policy following a detailed fundraising review in 2022, in light of the charity's new Giving Voice strategy.

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds are restricted where they have been raised for a clearly communicated purpose or project, or have been designated as such by the donor.

Unrestricted funds may come from sales of tickets or CDs, payment for concerts or workshops (by promoters or through ticket sales) or through unrestricted donations such as the Friends of Sansara scheme.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity may be exposed and are satisfied those systems and procedures are in place to mitigate any exposure to these risks. The Trustees have reviewed and updated the risk register to include the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered on **18th September 2018**. It is governed by its Charitable Constitution.

Trustees

The Trustees meet at least quarterly, to discuss matters affecting the charity, review the financial position of the charity, and review the charity's activities and performance against its objectives. New Trustees may be put forward by current Trustees or members of the executive and are considered according to relevant experience, qualifications, or specialist knowledge.

The Trustees intend to embark upon a trustee recruitment campaign in 2022 to manage any skills gaps, and reinforce the resilience of the board.

Management

The organisation is operationally managed by an executive team consisting of an Artistic Director (Tom Herring), Finance Manager (Jack Butterworth), and Learning & Participation Manager (Fiona Fraser).

Remuneration

The Trustees have approved remuneration for administration time for the Artistic Director. The Finance Manager and Learning & Participation Manager serve as volunteers.

Sansara Choir	1179978	
Receipts and payments accounts		
For the period from	01/08/2020	To 31/07/2021

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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	7,833	3,570	-	11,403	19,599
Gift Aid	939	1,000	-	1,939	4,145
Grant income	4,000	41,500	-	45,500	4,500
Income from services rendered - concert fees	7,785	-	-	7,785	15,329
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	200
Sale of CDs	500	-	-	500	2,644
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	-
Ticket sales	50	-	-	50	7,630
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	21,107	46,070	-	67,177	54,047
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
nil	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,107	46,070	-	67,177	54,047
A3 Payments					
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Commission of music	-	600	-	600	-
Costs of sales e.g. box office	155	-	-	155	1,249
Digital and computing	673	-	-	673	835
Fees for administrative work	9,400	1,068	-	10,468	8,370
Filming, photography and publicity	-	700	-	700	68
Hire of scores, microphones etc.	26	-	-	26	-
Payments to singers - expenses	306	-	-	306	1,221
Payments to singers - fees	13,155	6,880	-	20,035	18,936
Printing, postage and stationery	91	-	-	91	952
Purchase of CDs	-	1,750	-	1,750	1,950
Travel and accommodation	18	-	-	18	132
VAT on purchases	146	443	-	589	736
Venue hire	198	1,595	-	1,793	1,724
Sub total	24,168	13,036	-	37,203	36,173
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
nil	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,168	13,036	-	37,203	36,173
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,061	33,035	-	29,973	17,874
A5 Transfers between funds	- 4,040	4,040	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,958	6,700	-	22,658	-
Cash funds this year end	8,857	43,775	-	52,632	17,874

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash funds	8,857	43,775	-
	Total cash funds	8,857	43,775	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	nil	-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	nil	n/a	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Musical scores	Unrestricted	-	500
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	nil	n/a	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	CS Graham	Charles Somerset Graham	02/04/2022	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sansara Choir (1179978)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sansara Choir (the Trust) for the year ended 31 July 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 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.

Andrew Radice *14th Apr, 2022*

Andrew Radice

Chartered Accountant

Guelder Cottage, Hanging Langford, Salisbury, SP3 4NW