

# POLYMNIA

England & Wales · Charity number 1181422

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-01-04

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 43 Monellan Crescent  
Caldecotte  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 8NA

**Phone** 07764 502620

**Email** [info@polymnia.org.uk](mailto:info@polymnia.org.uk)

**Website** <https://www.polymnia.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO 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.

**Activities:** Polymnia is a chamber choir of ~23 members who rehearse and perform concerts of choral music, of a wide range of genres from early music to the 21st century, to a high standard for the benefit of audiences mainly in and around Milton Keynes. Much of the music is performed a cappella but occasionally professional musicians are engaged to accompany the choir.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£23,661	£23,204	-	-
2024-01-31	£18,031	£17,610	-	-
2023-01-31	£6,321	£7,530	-	-
2022-01-31	£2,736	£4,810	-	-
2021-01-31	£2,736	£4,810	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Paul North</b>	Chair	2019-01-04
BRIAN JOSEPH COULSTOCK		2019-01-04
Christine Crispus Jones		2019-01-04
Dr Georgina Mary Johnson		2019-01-04
John Peregrine Williams		2021-10-25
Katherine Mary Atalay		2021-10-25
Sophia Mary Farrell-Reed		2024-03-15

**POLYMNIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181422

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# Accounts

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# Polymnia

CIO 1181422

Trustees' Report

1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025

## **Trustees' Report**

The Trustees present the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the period from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charity's constitution and applicable law.

## **Administration details**

The principal address of the charity is currently 43 Monellan Crescent, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, MK7 8NA.

## **The Trustees**

Paul North (Chair)

Gina Johnson

Sophia Farrell-Reed (Treasurer)

Brian Coulstock

Chris Crispus Jones

Kate Atalay

Perry Williams

## **The management committee**

The Trustees together with Jessica Norton (Musical Director).

## **Accounts Examiner**

David Johnson

## **Structure, governance, and management**

Polymnia was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 4 January 2019 and is governed by a constitution adopted on 20 January 2019. Trustees are elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees must retire from office.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of Polymnia 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.

## **Activities**

Polymnia is a mixed chamber choir, rehearsing and performing mostly in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area. The choir enjoys considerable critical acclaim and typically performs several concerts a year. The choir of about 22 singers performs a wide-ranging repertoire. The requirements for prospective new members are good sight-reading skills, sufficient

confidence to hold a line with only a small number of singers, and the opportunity to work on the music at home. There is an informal audition for all new members, and voice reviews may be conducted from time to time for the whole choir. Periodic rehearsals take place on occasional Friday evenings, usually at the Bow Brickhill Community Hall.

The success of Polymnia is underpinned by a committed membership with a range of musical expertise, a professional Musical Director and the support of family and friends. The choir is accordingly able to undertake exciting and ambitious choral programmes.

### **Membership**

At the beginning of the year the membership of the choir was 23 singers and at the end of the year it was 23 singers.

### **Musical Director**

Jessica Norton was appointed Musical Director in October 2021 and remains in post.

### **Achievements and Performances**

For our first performance of the year we had the pleasure and privilege of singing at Jessica Norton's wedding on 6 April in Huntingdon, including a piece of her own composition. Congratulations to her and her husband Callum.

Our first concert of the year, "Nature Awakens" was performed at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford on 13 April. Taking the "Sunrise Mass" by Gjeilo as the foundation, Jessica programmed another varied spread of music from Thomas Morley's madrigals to Sting's "Fields of Gold". We were accompanied on the piano by Alex Aitken.

Following our successful visit in 2016, we returned to Mantua in Italy for a short tour from 31 May to 2 June. To help maintain a balanced choir we drafted in 6 singers from other choirs, and were delighted to be joined again by Anna Le Hair. We had hoped to perform in the same festival as previously, but for bureaucratic reasons this was not possible. Our professional tour operators organised 2 concerts, one in the cathedral in Asola (where we were hosted by a local choir) and one in the church of the beautiful walled town of Sabbioneta. We performed the same programme for each concert, mostly sacred music from a range of eras; composers included Tallis, Taverner, Paulus, and Gjeilo.

"Love's Journeys" was the title of our summer concert on 6 July, again in St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford. This time we were accompanied by Craig Greene. Again, Jessica found a wide range of musical styles to bring under this umbrella title, starting with the Ave Maria by Josquin de Prez and finishing with Carly Simon's Let the River Run in which Jess played the bongos! In between, amongst others, there were pieces from Monteverdi, Stroepe and Gjeilo as well as a Bulgarian folk song for the Sopranos/Altos and the traditional Welsh Calon Lan for the Tenors/Basses.

Choir weddings are like buses it seems! On 7 September we joined the choir of St Peter and St Paul's Olney for another wedding, this time for our soprano Francesca Vernon. Congratulations to Fran and her husband Hugh.

We returned to St Barnabas, Linslade on 9 November, for one of our most ambitious concerts to date, Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem". Craig Greene accompanied us on the piano doing an amazing job of replacing an orchestra, or 4 hands on a piano which is the other usual arrangement. In keeping with the Remembrance theme we started with Elgar's "With proud thanksgiving", his setting of the poem "For the fallen". After a rest while Jess and Craig performed some Mahler, we sang the Requiem with choir members Kylie Turney, Richard Ball and Malcolm Chalmers singing the solo parts.

On 30 November a small group of us went carol singing in John Lewis in the Milton Keynes store. We were well looked after by a staff member and collected donations for the Unity MK homeless shelter. This was certainly the best option we have had for this activity, so we hope to return to John Lewis again.

For our Christmas concert, "Angelsong", on 1 December, Jessica programmed something a little different, with reflective music for Advent in a candlelit St George's, Wolverton. This comprised a variety of pieces for the whole choir, part-choir, solos, duets, quartets - the choreography was challenging! The concert ran in a single movement with Jonathan Kingston playing some wonderful improvisations on the piano that accompanied each new formation of performers in the key and style of the next piece.

During the year we launched a new website; the choir is very grateful to Perry Williams for all his hard work on this.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance in deciding on the activities which the choir undertakes. Activities for the public benefit have been demonstrated by:

- the provision of detailed programme notes for each concert and / or an explanation of the works during the concert by the conductor
- discounted subscriptions for students and those needing financial help
- tickets at reduced prices or free for children and students
- providing training opportunities for local musicians
- maintenance of a website

### **Financial review**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the choir. Finances are discussed at all meetings. This enables the Trustees to ascertain the financial position of the choir and to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The choir finances itself by membership contributions, payable on an annual basis and agreed at an annual general meeting, and concert proceeds from sales of tickets and programmes. Other sources of income usually include:

- gift aid from donations and from members' contributions

- sales of online recordings
- revenue from weddings

The choir's direct income funds the full cost of running the choir and contributes towards covering the net cost of concerts in the event of a loss.

Income for the period from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025 totalled £23,661. Expenditure amounted to £23,204. Profit for the year was £457. On 31 January 2025, Polymnia had a cash balance of £3,469 held in the MetroBank Polymnia account and £80 in petty cash.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are held to help fund major concerts and to acquire and maintain assets.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks. They keep abreast of legislation which may affect charities through the Charities Commission website and through the 'Making Music' organisation to which the choir is affiliated. They ensure that the choir complies with copyright and performing rights law. The choir's insurance is arranged through 'Making Music'.

### **Policies**

The choir has policies regarding Safeguarding and Data Protection. Policies are reviewed annually and current policies may be viewed on the choir's website [www.polymnia.org.uk](http://www.polymnia.org.uk).

### **Future Plans**

Since the choir's inception it has typically presented concerts in April, July and November, along with a Christmas offering in most years. These dates roughly correspond to "end of term".

It has been a constant challenge to find dates that don't clash with concerts by other local musical groups (who typically perform in the same end of term pattern) and have availability in our preferred venues.

Starting in the autumn of 2025 the choir will move to a new schedule, with our main three concerts taking place a week before half term. For the autumn this will be 18 October, followed by 7 February and 16 May in 2026. It is hoped that this change will help to fill a fallow period for live music mid-term. Where possible concerts will start at 4pm, which has proved very popular with the choir's audience.

To avoid a long gap until the next concert after April, Jessica Norton has programmed a June concert of our favourites from previous repertoire.

The 2025 schedule includes:

5 April: The Lark Ascending at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford with Fenella Humphreys (violin) and 3 other string players from Perpetuo.

14 June: Polymnia Gold, *A cappella* concert of favourites at St George's, Wolverton

18 October: Autumn concert at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford, with Craig Greene

7 December: Christmas concert in St George's Wolverton, with Jonathan Kingston

**Approved by the Trustees on 27 March 2025**

## POLYMNIA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 2024/25 Financial Year

Charity number: 1181422

## Statement of Financial Activities

Notes	2024 / 25	2023 / 24 £	
	<b>Income</b>		
2	Donations and legacies	6,449	4,698
3	Charitable activities	4,718	8,006
4	Other trading activities	0	15
5	Other receipts	12,494	5,312
	23,661	18,031	
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
6	Raising funds	90	0
7	Charitable activities	10,712	13,147
8	Other	12,402	4,462
	23,204	17,610	
	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>421</b>
	General fund b/fwd	2,266	1,845
	<b>General fund c/fwd</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>2,266</b>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

## POLYMNIA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 2024/25 Financial Year

Charity number: 1181422

## BALANCE SHEET

	as at 31 January 2024	as at 31 January 2024 £
Notes		
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
	Bank	3,469
	Cash in hand	2,053
9	Debtors and prepayments	80
	<u>316</u>	<u>288</u>
	<u>3,865</u>	<u>2,421</u>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
10	Creditors and Accruals	1,142
	<u>1,142</u>	<u>155</u>
	<b><u>2,723</u></b>	<b><u>2,266</u></b>
	Represented by:	
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
	General Fund	<u>2,723</u>
	<u>2,723</u>	<u>2,266</u>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

**Paul North - Chair**

Date: 27 March 2025

**Sophia Farrell-Reed**

Date: 27 March 2025

For and on behalf of the Board

## POLYMNIA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 2024/25 Financial Year

Charity number: 1181422

## Notes to the Accounts

## 1 Accounting Policy

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (FRS 102, second edition)

	2024 / 25	2023 / 24
<b>INCOME</b>		£
<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>		
Member subscriptions	3,705	3,658
Other donations and legacies	1,489	838
Gift aid recovered	1,255	202
	<u>6,449</u>	<u>4,698</u>
<b>3 Charitable activities</b>		
Ticket and Programme Sales	4,718	8,006
	<u>4,718</u>	<u>8,006</u>
<b>4 Other trading activities</b>		
Rehearsal refreshments	0	15
	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>
<b>5 Other receipts</b>		
Members purchases:music	852	1,037
Members purchases: tour facilities - Edinburgh	0	1,275
Members purchases: tour facilities - Mantua	11,535	3,000
Members Purchases: Other Social Activities	107	
	<u>12,494</u>	<u>5,312</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>6 Raising funds</b>		
Publicity	90	0
	<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>7 Charitable activities</b>		
Rehearsal and concert expenses		
Fees	7,440	8,881
Venue hire	2,126	2,976
Programmes and other	466	700
Alina concert loss sharing payment	0	40
Administration costs }	230	
Corporate subscriptions }	450	550
	<u>10,712</u>	<u>13,147</u>
<b>8 Other</b>		
Purchases on behalf of members: tour facilities	11,513	3,000
Purchases on behalf of members: music & clothing	802	1,462
Purchases on behalf of members: Other	87	
	<u>12,402</u>	<u>4,462</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>9 Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Rehearsal venue	238	288
Subscriptions due	15	
Music purchase due	63	
	<u>316</u>	<u>288</u>
<b>10 Creditors and Accruals</b>		
PRS fees due	115	115
Balance of loss on Xmas to Alina	0	40
Accruals	1,027	
	<u>1,142</u>	<u>155</u>

**POLYMNIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181422

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# Accounts

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# Polymnia

CIO 1181422

Trustees' Report

1 February 2023 – 31 January 2024

## **Trustees' Report**

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## **Administration details**

The principal address of the charity is currently 9 Ivy Lane, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0DJ

## **The Trustees**

Paul North (Chair)

Gina Johnson

Brian Coulstock

Chris Crispus Jones

Kate Atalay

Perry Williams

## **The management committee**

The Trustees together with Jessica Norton (Musical Director), Laurence Holden (Treasurer) and Louise Norwood.

## **Accounts Examiner**

David Johnson

## **Structure, governance, and management**

Polymnia was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 4 January 2019 and is governed by a constitution adopted on 20 January 2019. Trustees are elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees must retire from office.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of Polymnia 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.

## **Activities**

Polymnia is a mixed chamber choir, rehearsing and performing mostly in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area. The choir enjoys considerable critical acclaim and typically performs several concerts a year. The choir of about 22 singers performs a wide-ranging repertoire. The requirements for prospective new members are good sight-reading skills, sufficient confidence to hold a line with only a small number of singers and the opportunity to work

on the music at home. There is an informal audition for all new members, and voice reviews may be conducted from time to time for the whole choir. Periodic rehearsals take place on occasional Friday evenings, usually at the Bow Brickhill Community Hall.

The success of Polymnia is underpinned by a committed membership with a range of musical expertise, a professional Musical Director and the support of family and friends. The choir is accordingly able to undertake exciting and ambitious choral programmes.

### **Membership**

At the beginning of the year the membership of the choir was 21 singers and at the end of the year it was 23 singers.

### **Musical Director**

Jessica Norton was appointed Musical Director in October 2021 and remains in post.

### **Achievements and Performances**

We began the year with a choral workshop on 26 February at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford. The event, directed by Jessica Norton, with George Ireland accompanying on piano, was open to singers of any ability. The 55 singers who attended enjoyed a really fun, interesting and useful day and were treated to a short concert by Polymnia at the end.

Our first concert of the year, "Choral Kaleidoscope" was performed at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford on 1 April 2023. Jessica programmed a real spread of musical styles and periods including music from Ešenvalds, Handel, Rachmaninov and Tavener. A particular highlight was the full suite of Lauridsen's Nocturnes beautifully accompanied by Craig Greene. For this concert, we trialled a start time of 4pm which went down well, giving us our biggest audience since the pandemic. In a rather emotional encore we performed Whitacre's Seal lullaby in tribute to John Byron, our founding musical director whose sudden death at the beginning of the year had come as a huge shock.

On the eve of the Coronation weekend, Friday, 5 May, we joined the Alina Orchestra for their celebration concert in St Peter's, Newport Pagnell, conducted by Hilar Davan Wetton. The programme included Handel's Zadok the priest (of course) along with Mozart's Agnus dei from the Coronation Mass. We also sang Wood's O most merciful unaccompanied. Being seated in front of the orchestra was helpful for the overall balance and we received many compliments from the audience during refreshments after the performance.

Once again we participated in the MK Choirs Festival in Campbell Park on 17 June. With low numbers of the choir available we agreed that this should be regarded as a scratch, fun performance. Our set was 5 pieces including Tallis, O sacrum convivium and Sibelius, Be still my soul. We also contributed to the "mass" performance of Song 8, composed as part of the celebrations of 250 years of Amazing Grace.

"Homecomings" was the title of our summer concert on 8 July, again in St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford, with the sub-title of "not all those who wander are lost". Jessica's programme included Bruckner, Locus iste; Gjeilo, Ubi caritas; Rheinberger's sublime Abendlied; Copeland, Boatmen's dance and Bill Withers, Lovely day. We finished with the

rather wonderful story-telling of Chilcott, Aesop's fables. Jonathan Kingston once again accompanied us. Jessica described our performance as having 'focussed energy'.

For the fourth time, the choir travelled to Edinburgh to perform in the Festival Fringe. Once again we chose the elliptical church of St Andrew's and St George's West. We performed the same repertoire each time, mostly of the music from the July concert and a few "old favourites" to decent sized, appreciative audiences. We also indulged in a spot of busking outside the church to encourage passers by!

With our autumn concert scheduled for 11 November Jessica programmed a concert including the Duruflé Requiem and entitled Repose. With additional items by Sumsion, Tavener, Gibbons and others, along with the Elgar Lux aeterna (Nimrod) made for a reflective evening in St Barnabas Linslade. Paul Carr joined us to play the organ which seemed to need most of its stops for the very specific directions in the Duruflé.

Our final concert of the year was a joint production "Classical Christmas" with the strings of the Alina Orchestra, again at St Barnabas, on 2 December. Jessica and Hilary Davan Wetton divided the directing in a programme mixing orchestral, a cappella and joint items, including the Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas carols and our traditional rendition of the Carter arrangement of The twelve days of Christmas

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance in deciding on the activities the choir undertakes. Activities for the public benefit have been demonstrated by:

- the provision of detailed programme notes for each concert and / or an explanation of the works during the concert by the conductor
- discounted subscriptions for students and those needing financial help
- tickets at reduced prices or free for children and students
- providing training opportunities for local musicians
- maintenance of a website

### **Financial review**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the choir. Finances are discussed at all meetings. This enables the Trustees to ascertain the financial position of the choir and to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The choir finances itself by membership contributions, payable on an annual basis and agreed at an annual general meeting, and concert proceeds from sales of tickets and programmes. Other sources of income usually include:

- gift aid from donations and from members' contributions
- sales of online recordings
- revenue from weddings

The choir's direct income funds the full cost of running the choir and contributes towards covering the net cost of concerts in the event of a loss.

Income for the period from 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024 totalled £18,031. Expenditure amounted to £17,610. Profit for the year was £421. On 31 January 2024, Polymnia had a cash balance of £2,053 held in the MetroBank Polymnia account and £80 in petty cash.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are held to help fund major concerts and to acquire and maintain assets.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks. They keep abreast of legislation which may affect charities through the Charities Commission website and through the 'Making Music' organisation to which the choir is affiliated. They ensure that the choir complies with copyright and performing rights law. The choir's insurance is arranged through 'Making Music'.

### **Policies**

The choir has policies regarding Safeguarding and Data Protection. Policies are reviewed annually and current policies may be viewed on the choir's website [www.polymnia.org.uk](http://www.polymnia.org.uk).

### **Future Plans**

The 2024 schedule includes:

13 April: Nature Awakens, St Mary and St Giles in Stony Stratford with Alex Aitken. A concert featuring the Gjeilo Sunrise mass along with a selection of the most wonderful music by Morley, Sting, Pearsall, Stroope and others.

1-2 June: A return tour to Mantua, Italy for 2 concerts.

6 July: Love's Journeys, Summer concert at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford with Craig Greene

9 November: Autumn concert at St Barnabas, Linslade

1 December: Christmas concert at St George's, Wolverton

**Approved by the Trustees on 23 February 2024**

**BALANCE SHEET**

Notes	as at 31 January 2024 £	as at 31 January 2023 £
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
	Bank	2,053
	Cash in hand	80
9	Debtors and prepayments	288
		<u>2,421</u>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
10	Creditors and Accruals	155
		<u>395</u>
	<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>2,266</u></b>
	Represented by:	
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
	General Fund	<u>2,266</u>
		<u>1,845</u>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

**Paul North - Chair**

Date: 15 March 2024

**Laurence Holden - Interim Treasurer**

Date: 15 March 2024

For and on behalf of the Board

## Statement of Financial Activities

Notes	2023 / 24 £	2022 / 23 £	
	<b>Income</b>		
2	Donations and legacies	4,698	2,751
3	Charitable activities	8,006	3,022
4	Other trading activities	15	15
5	Other receipts	5,312	533
	18,031	6,321	
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
6	Raising funds	0	186
7	Charitable activities	13,147	6,861
8	Other	4,462	483
	17,610	7,530	
	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>-1,209</b>
	General fund b/fwd	1,845	3,054
	<b>General fund c/fwd</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>1,845</b>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

## Notes to the Accounts

## 1 Accounting Policy

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (FRS 102, second edition)

	2023 / 24	2022 / 23	2021 / 22
	£	£	
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>			
Member subscriptions	3,658	2,344	2,168
Other member payments			
Other donations and legacies	838	407	153
Gift aid recovered	202		
	<u>4,698</u>	<u>2,751</u>	<u>2,321</u>
<b>3 Charitable activities</b>			
Ticket sales }	7,924	3,022	1,067
Programme sales }	82		62
	<u>8,006</u>	<u>3,022</u>	<u>1,129</u>
<b>4 Other trading activities</b>			
Rehearsal refreshments	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>
<b>5 Other receipts</b>			
Members purchases:music	1,037	474	328
Members purchases: tour facilities - Edinburgh	1,275		
Members purchases: tour facilities - Mantua	<u>3,000</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>5,312</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>332</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>6 Raising funds</b>			
Publicity		<u>186</u>	<u>40</u>
<b>7 Charitable activities</b>			
Rehearsal and concert expenses			
Fees	8,881	5,189	2,723
Venue hire	2,976	1,038	965
Programmes and other	700	422	100
Alina concert loss sharing payment	40		345
Administration costs }			35
Corporate subscriptions }	<u>550</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>414</u>
	<u>13,147</u>	<u>6,860</u>	<u>4,582</u>
<b>8 Other</b>			
Purchases on behalf of members: tour facilities	3,000		
Purchases on behalf of members: music & clothing	<u>1,462</u>		
	<u>4,462</u>		
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
<b>9 Debtors and Prepayments</b>			
Edinburgh Fringe		418	
Rehearsal venue	288	223	
Subscriptions due			108
Music purchase due			269
Vocal Freedom Workshop fliers		<u>41</u>	
	<u>288</u>	<u>682</u>	<u>377</u>
<b>10 Creditors and Accruals</b>			
Donation in advance		180	
Music purchased in advance		215	
PRS fees due	115		
Balance of loss on Xmas to Alina	<u>40</u>		<u>250</u>
	<u>155</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>250</u>

**POLYMNIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181422

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# Accounts

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# Polymnia

CIO 1181422

Trustees' Report

1 February 2022 – 31 January 2023

## **Trustees' Report**

The Trustees present the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the period from 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charity's constitution and applicable law.

## **Administration details**

The principal address of the charity is currently 9 Ivy Lane, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0DJ

## **The Trustees**

Paul North (Chair)

Gina Johnson

Brian Coulstock

Chris Crispus Jones

Kate Atalay

Perry Williams (acting Treasurer)

## **The management committee**

The Trustees together with Jessica Norton (Musical Director), Laurence Holden (incoming Treasurer) and Louise Norwood.

## **Accounts Examiner**

David Johnson

## **Structure, governance, and management**

Polymnia was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 4 January 2019 and is governed by a constitution adopted on 20 January 2019. Trustees are elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees must retire from office.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of Polymnia 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.

## **Activities**

Polymnia is a mixed chamber choir, rehearsing and performing mostly in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area. The choir enjoys considerable critical acclaim and typically performs several concerts a year. The choir of about 21 singers performs a wide-ranging repertoire. The requirements for prospective new members are good sight-reading skills, sufficient confidence to hold a line with only a small number of singers and the opportunity to work

on the music at home. There is an informal audition for all new members, and voice reviews may be conducted from time to time for the whole choir. Periodic rehearsals take place on occasional Friday evenings, usually at the Bow Brickhill Community Hall.

The success of Polymnia is underpinned by a committed membership with a range of musical expertise, a professional Musical Director and the support of family and friends. The choir is accordingly able to undertake exciting and ambitious choral programmes.

### **Membership**

At the beginning of the year the membership of the choir was 20 singers and at the end of the year it was 21 singers.

### **Musical Director**

Jessica Norton was appointed Musical Director in October 2021 and remains in post.

### **Achievements and Performances**

Jessica created a programme for her first concert "Beginnings" featuring Aaron Copland's most substantial choral work *In The Beginning* for mixed chorus and Mezzo Soprano solo. The programme followed the story of the Creation through a variety of styles and musical periods, from Bach and Gesualdo through to Jonathan Dove and Dolly Parton around the theme of the creation with the Copeland as the main piece. Chloe Latchmore was engaged as the Mezzo soloist, with Jonathan Kingston playing organ and piano.

Rehearsals were problematic with one being cancelled due to a big storm and Jess missing another following her own Covid infection.

However, with many fingers crossed we performed the concert at St Mary and St Giles on 3 April and it was well received by the small audience (a theme for the year, as like many other choirs and orchestras we found it difficult to sell many tickets in the post covid times)

We were delighted to be invited by MK Chorale to join their big concert "Crowning Glory" at the MK Theatre on Sunday 5 June, in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We sang some of the magnificent music heard by the Queen as she was crowned and Polymnia took the part of the semi-chorus in Walton's *Coronation Te Deum*.

Our own concert on 9 July at St March And St Giles, Stony Stratford was also programmed by Jessica in recognition of the Jubilee and entitled "Rejoice". The first half consisted of the fabulous Handel *Coronation Anthems* together with Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* and the National Anthem.

The second half was of a lighter tone including music reported to have been among The Queen's favourites. These included the hymn *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*, Richard Rodgers' *You'll Never Walk Alone* and Irving Berlin's (very tricky) *Cheek to Cheek*. Jonathan Kingston once again accompanied us wonderfully and delighted the audience with a couple of organ solos.

29 October saw us return to St Barnabas Linslade for "Cloud Capp'd Towers", our concert inspired by Vaughan Williams' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The music included songs such as *Linden*

*Lea* and his *Mass in G minor* alongside music from composers he inspired or drew inspiration from, such as Holst, Tallis and Parry.

Again rehearsals and the concert itself were badly affected by illness and in particular the *Mass* in the second half was not our best work although generally, again, the small audience were very appreciative.

A detailed review of the concert by the committee after canvassing the views of the singers produced some good suggestions to help the choir regain its confidence, which unsurprisingly had suffered through the pandemic. Future concerts will focus on some more familiar repertoire alongside any challenging new works, and we will engage an accompanist to help in some rehearsals.

Our final concert of the year was our postponed joint “A Choral Christmas” concert with Craig McLeish’s TGI Choir at St Georges, Wolverton. Each choir sang some pieces of their own as well as some joint pieces, with Jessica and Craig sharing the conducting.

We sang the brilliant Carter arrangement of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* along with other favourites including *Bethlehem Down* and the rousing *Hodie* by Sweelinck. Once again Jonathan Kingston did the honours at the organ (which had a few moments of its own!)

This was our biggest audience of the year, who also enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. The principle of a shared concert seems like a good option as it can improve audience size and reduce the amount performed by each group, and we hope to find other partnerships in the future.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance in deciding on the activities the choir undertakes. Activities for the public benefit have been demonstrated by:

- the provision of detailed programme notes for each concert and / or an explanation of the works during the concert by the conductor
- discounted subscriptions for students and those needing financial help
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### **Financial review**

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- gift aid from donations and from members' contributions

- sales of online recordings
- revenue from weddings

The choir's direct income funds the full cost of running the choir and contributes towards covering the net cost of concerts in the event of a loss.

Income for the period from 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023 totalled £6,321. Expenditure amounted to £7,530. Loss for the year was £1,209. On 31 January 2023, Polymnia had a cash balance of £1,478 held in the MetroBank Polymnia account and £80 in petty cash.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are held to help fund major concerts and to acquire and maintain assets.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks. They keep abreast of legislation which may affect charities through the Charities Commission website and through the 'Making Music' organisation to which the choir is affiliated. They ensure that the choir complies with copyright and performing rights law. The choir's insurance is arranged through 'Making Music'.

### **Policies**

The choir has policies regarding Safeguarding and Data Protection. Policies are reviewed annually and current policies may be viewed on the choir's website [www.polymnia.org.uk](http://www.polymnia.org.uk).

### **Future Plans**

At the time of writing, the situation with the Covid 19 epidemic has significantly eased and we are planning activities with a high degree of confidence. The 2023 schedule includes:

26 February: Choral Workshop, St Mary and St Giles in Stony Stratford. An opportunity for singers of all abilities to benefit from Jessica Norton's vocal training with a short performance by Polymnia at the end.

1 April: Choral Kaleidoscope, St Mary and St Giles in Stony Stratford. A concert featuring a selection of the most wonderful music by Barber, Lauridsen, Whitacre, Goodall, Gjeilo, Rachmaninov, Handel etc,

8 July: Summer concert at St Mary and St Giles, Stony Stratford

7-9 August: Three performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

11 November: Autumn concert at St Barnabas, Linslade

2 December: Christmas concert at St Barnabas, Linslade

**Approved by the Trustees on 10 February 2023**

**BALANCE SHEET**

Notes	as at 31 January 2023 £	as at 31 January 2022 £
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
	Bank	1,478
	Cash in hand	80
9	Debtors and prepayments	682
		<u>2,240</u>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
10	Creditors and Accruals	395
		<u>250</u>
	<b>Net Assets</b>	
		<u><u>1,845</u></u>
		<u><u>3,054</u></u>
	Represented by:	
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
	General Fund	
		<u><u>1,845</u></u>
		<u><u>3,054</u></u>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

**Paul North - Chair**

Date: 10 February 2023

**Laurence Holden - Interim Treasurer**

Date: 10 February 2023

For and on behalf of the Board

## Statement of Financial Activities

Notes	2022 / 23 £	2021 / 22 £
<b>Income</b>		
2 Donations and legacies	2,751	2,321
3 Charitable activities	3,022	1,129
4 Other trading activities	15	12
5 Other receipts	533	332
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,321	3,794
<b>Expenditure</b>		
6 Raising funds	186	40
7 Charitable activities	6,861	4,582
8 Other	483	285
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,530	4,907
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>-1,209</b>	<b>-1,113</b>
General fund b/fwd	3,054	4,168
<b>General fund c/fwd</b>	<b><u>1,845</u></b>	<b><u>3,054</u></b>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

## Notes to the Accounts

## 1 Accounting Policy

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (FRS 102, second edition)

	2022 / 23	2021 / 22
	£	
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>		
Member subscriptions	2,344	2,168
Other member payments		
Other donations and legacies	407	153
Grants		
	<u>2,751</u>	<u>2,321</u>
<b>3 Charitable activities</b>		
Ticket sales }	3,022	1,067
Programme sales }		62
	<u>3,022</u>	<u>1,129</u>
<b>4 Other trading activities</b>		
Rehearsal refreshments	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>
<b>5 Other receipts</b>		
Members purchases	474	328
Other	59	4
	<u>533</u>	<u>332</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>6 Raising funds</b>		
Publicity	<u>186</u>	<u>40</u>
<b>7 Charitable activities</b>		
Rehearsal and concert expenses		
Fees	5,189	2,723
Venue hire	1,038	965
Programmes	422	100
Vocal Training Fees		345
Administration costs }		35
Corporate subscriptions }	211	414
	<u>6,861</u>	<u>4,582</u>
<b>8 Other</b>		
Purchases on behalf of members	<u>483</u>	<u>285</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>9 Debtors and Prepayments</b>		
Edinburgh 2023	418	
Rehearsal venue	223	
Subscriptions due		108
Music purchase due		269
Vocal Freedom Workshop fliers	41	
	<u>682</u>	<u>377</u>
<b>10 Creditors and Accruals</b>		
Donation in advance	180	
Music purchased in advance	215	
Room hire		250
	<u>395</u>	<u>250</u>

**POLYMNIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181422

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# Accounts

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# Polymnia

**CIO 1181422**

**Trustees' Report**

**1 February 2020 – 31 January 2021**

## **Trustees' Report**

The Trustees present the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the period from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charity's constitution and applicable law.

## **Administration details**

The principal address of the charity is currently 9 Ivy Lane, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0DJ

## **The Trustees**

Paul North (Chair)

Gina Johnson

Brian Coulstock

Chris Crispus Jones

## **The management committee**

The Trustees together with Suzzie Vango (Musical Director), Kate Atalay and Louise Norwood

## **Accounts Examiner**

David Johnson

## **Structure, governance, and management**

Polymnia was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 4 January 2019 and is governed by a constitution adopted on 20 January 2019. Trustees are elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees must retire from office.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of Polymnia 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.

## **Activities**

Polymnia is a mixed chamber choir, rehearsing and performing mostly in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area. The choir enjoys considerable critical acclaim and typically performs several concerts a year. The choir of about 21 singers performs a wide-ranging repertoire. The requirements for prospective new members are good sight-reading skills, sufficient confidence to hold a line with only a small number of singers and the opportunity to work on the music at home. There is an informal audition for all new members, and voice reviews may be conducted from time to time for the whole choir. Periodic rehearsals take place on

occasional Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons, usually at the premises of MKSNAP in Walnut Tree.

The success of Polymnia is underpinned by a committed membership with a range of musical expertise, a professional Musical Director and the support of family and friends. The choir is accordingly able to undertake exciting and ambitious choral programmes.

### **Membership**

At the beginning of the year the membership of the choir was 20 singers and at the end of the year it was 21 singers.

### **Musical Director**

Suzzie Vango was appointed as Musical Director in January 2020.

### **Achievements and Performances**

Suzzie's inaugural concert as the choir's MD was planned for April 2021 with the title of Sunset Departure Lounge. The choir rehearsed with Suzzie until the Covid-19 lockdown suspended all such activities and led to the cancellation of the concert.

During the remainder of the year, Polymnia offered its members regular vocal coaching sessions with Suzzie, together with some social activities, all via the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

A few socially distanced rehearsals were possible during the autumn that allowed the choir to make some recordings for use in a virtual concert. Unfortunately, the change in regulations sadly brought these to a swift halt.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees would normally have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance in deciding on the activities the choir undertakes. Activities for the public benefit would usually be demonstrated by:

- the provision of detailed programme notes for each concert and / or an explanation of the works during the concert by the conductor
- discounted subscriptions and waiving of tour charges for students and those needing financial help
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- maintenance of a website

### **Financial review**

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Income for the period from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021 totalled £2,735.74. Expenditure amounted to £4,810.36. Profit (loss) for the year was (£2074.62). On 31 January 2021, Polymnia had a cash balance of £3,999.02 held in the MetroBank Polymnia account and £93.50 in petty cash.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are held to help fund major concerts and to acquire and maintain assets.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks. They keep abreast of legislation which may affect charities through the Charities Commission website and through the 'Making Music' organisation to which the choir is affiliated. They ensure that the choir complies with copyright and performing rights law. The choir's insurance is arranged through 'Making Music'.

### **Policies**

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### **Future Plans**

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We will continue to offer fortnightly vocal coaching sessions via Zoom with Suzzie or a suitable alternative if needed.

We have a concert already rehearsed called 'Sunset Departure Lounge' and plans for a singing workshop to which we will invite local singers. We hope to be able to schedule these as soon as it is safe to do so and allowed by current Government Guidance.

**Approved by the Trustees on 8 March 2021**

# Polymnia

## Balance Sheet at 31 January 2021

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at the bank	3,999	
Cash in hand	94	
Debtors	110	
		4,203
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	<u>40</u>	
		<u>40</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>4,163</u></u>
Represented by:		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
General Fund		<u><u>4,163</u></u>

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts

**Paul North ~ Chair**

**Perry Williams ~ Acting Treasurer**

Date: 8/3/22

Date: 8/3/22

For and on behalf of the Board

# Polymnia

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>	
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and legacies	<b>2</b>	2,340	
Charitable activities	<b>3</b>	169	
Other trading activities	<b>4</b>	26	
Other receipts	<b>5</b>	205	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>2,740</u>	2,740
<b>Opening debtors</b>	<b>6</b>	114	
<b>Closing debtors</b>	<b>7</b>	110	
<b>Total income</b>			2,736
<b>Payments</b>			
Raising funds	<b>8</b>	105	
Charitable activities	<b>9</b>	5,131	
Other	<b>10</b>	333	
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>5,568</u>	5,568
<b>Opening creditors</b>	<b>11</b>	798	
<b>Closing creditors</b>	<b>12</b>	40	
<b>Total expenditure</b>			4,810
General Fund balance brought forward			6,237
Plus total income			
Less total expenditure			
General Fund balance carried forward			4,163

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# Polymnia

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2021

### 1 Accounting Policy

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### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Member subscriptions	2,340	
Other member payments		
Other donations and legacies		
Grants		2,340

### 3 Income from charitable activities

Ticket sales	169	
Programme sales		
Sale of services		169

### 4 Income from other trading activities

Royalties	26	
Other trading income		26

### 5 Other receipts

Member purchases	205	
Other receipts		205

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<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2,740</b>
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### 6 Opening debtors

Music purchase unpaid	114	114
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### 7 Closing debtors

Subscription unpaid	108	
Music purchase unpaid	2	
	<u>110</u>	110

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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,736</b>
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# Polymnia

## 8 Expenditure on raising funds

Publicity	<u>105</u>	105
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## 9 Expenditure on charitable activities

Rehearsal and concert expenses		
Fees	2,326	
Venue hire	1,150	
Programmes	73	
Other		
Vocal training expenses		
Fees	1,155	
Venue hire		
Other		
Administration costs		
Corporate subscriptions	294	
Other	<u>133</u>	
		5,131

## 10 Other payments

Purchases on behalf of members	124	
Refunds	209	
Other payments	<u>          </u>	333

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<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>5,568</b>
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## 11 Opening creditors

Publicity	105	
Venue hire	620	
Programmes	<u>73</u>	798

## 12 Closing creditors

Member deposits for event	<u>40</u>	40
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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>4,810</b>
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**POLYMNIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181422

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# Accounts

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# Polymnia

**CIO 1181422**

**Trustees' Report**

**1 February 2020 – 31 January 2021**

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**Approved by the Trustees on 8 March 2021**

# Polymnia

## Balance Sheet at 31 January 2021

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at the bank	3,999	
Cash in hand	94	
Debtors	110	
		4,203
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	<u>40</u>	
		40
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>4,163</u>

Represented by:

**Unrestricted funds**  
General Fund

4,163

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts



**Paul North ~ Chair**

Date: 22 March 2021



**Perry Williams ~ Acting Treasurer**

Date: 22 March 2021

For and on behalf of the Board

# Polymnia

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2021

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<b>Payments</b>			
Raising funds	<b>8</b>	105	
Charitable activities	<b>9</b>	5,131	
Other	<b>10</b>	333	
<b>Total payments</b>		<hr/>	5,568
<b>Opening creditors</b>	<b>11</b>	798	
<b>Closing creditors</b>	<b>12</b>	40	
<b>Total expenditure</b>			4,810
General Fund balance brought forward			6,237
Plus total income			
Less total expenditure			
General Fund balance carried forward			4,163

The notes on the attached pages form part of these accounts



**Notes to the Accounts  
for the Year Ended 31 January 2021**

**1 Accounting Policy**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (FRS 102, second edition)

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Member subscriptions	2,340	
Other member payments		
Other donations and legacies		
Grants	<u>          </u>	2,340

**3 Income from charitable activities**

Ticket sales	169	
Programme sales		
Sale of services	<u>          </u>	169

**4 Income from other trading activities**

Royalties	26	
Other trading income	<u>          </u>	26

**5 Other receipts**

Member purchases	205	
Other receipts	<u>          </u>	205

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<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2,740</b>
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**6 Opening debtors**

Music purchase unpaid	<u>114</u>	114
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**7 Closing debtors**

Subscription unpaid	108	
Music purchase unpaid	<u>2</u>	
	<u>          </u>	110

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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,736</b>
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# Polymnia

## 8 Expenditure on raising funds

Publicity	<u>105</u>	105
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## 9 Expenditure on charitable activities

Rehearsal and concert expenses		
Fees	2,326	
Venue hire	1,150	
Programmes	73	
Other		
Vocal training expenses		
Fees	1,155	
Venue hire		
Other		
Administration costs		
Corporate subscriptions	294	
Other	<u>133</u>	
		5,131

## 10 Other payments

Purchases on behalf of members	124	
Refunds	209	
Other payments	<u>          </u>	
		333

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<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>5,568</b>
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## 11 Opening creditors

Publicity	105	
Venue hire	620	
Programmes	<u>73</u>	
		798

## 12 Closing creditors

Member deposits for event	<u>40</u>	
		40

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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4,810</b>
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