

## CHAIR'S REPORT AGM 2023

2022-23 was an eventful and successful year financially, musically and administratively.

The Choir held a workshop in August 2022, discussing how we should move towards the Choir's centenary in 2032. There were three main subjects:

- Ambitions, standards and repertoire
- Finances
- Recruitment and engagement of Choir and committee members

50 people attended the workshop itself and there were 27 individual written responses. There was a lot of consensus, including the importance of maintaining our high standards, continuing with auditions and perhaps making them more challenging, singing a more varied repertoire, and continuing to work with professional orchestras and soloists.

Advertising for a new permanent Music Director began in October. In the interim, we let three consecutive temporary contracts which ran alongside the recruitment process. The recruitment was handled by a panel of 5, overseen by and reporting back to the full Trustee Committee. The panel interviewed 6 candidates in December and selected 3 to go forward to the auditions in January. Having reviewed all the evidence from the recruitment process, the panel recommended their preferred candidate to the Committee for final decision, and Benedict Collins Rice was appointed in February 2023.

We had a successful concert programme in the year, beginning with Handel's *Messiah* in November 2022 at The Apex, which was a sell-out, hugely acclaimed by the audience. Our Christmas concert at Lavenham followed in December, where we collected over £1000 on the door for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. In March 2023 we had another sell-out concert at The Apex with Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, including a children's choir from Ickworth Park School. Our final concert in the year was at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, led by our new Music Director, where we performed Mozart's *Coronation Mass* alongside Haydn's *Nelson Mass*.

The other main piece of work in the year was the recruitment of new Trustees, as 5 were due to step down at the AGM. Two new Trustees were co-opted onto the Committee in May 2023 and 5 others were appointed at the 2023 AGM.

**Bury Bach Choir**  
**AGM Treasurer's Report**  
**25 October 2023**

Firstly, I apologise for the late circulation of the accounts for 2022/23. These were only very recently received from the examiner, a delay probably explained by the imminent merger of David Robertson with Knights Lowe. Once again, I extend my thanks to Stephen Cook of David Robertson for examining our annual accounts.

2022/23 was a good financial year for the choir. Strong receipts of £71453 were the result of considerably increased corporate patronage, in excess of £8000 largely thanks to the efforts of Mike Heywood, and two sell out concerts in the Apex. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £4593. Unfortunately, A-Plan, our major sponsor last year is not continuing this year due to internal changes and rebranding. However, we remain hopeful that they might return as patrons in the future. We have, in effect, saved most of their £5000 donation for onward funding.

We have certainly seen the effect of increased inflation on many of our costs, particularly those associated with staging concerts. However, we have set a broadly balanced budget for 2023/24, working closely with our new Musical Director. The actual budget outturn does depend strongly on ticket sales and hopefully our programme and your efforts will ensure these remain strong.

Our cash position remains good with over £36000 in the bank and on deposit at the end of the year.

Richard Fletcher

# **BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY**

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

## **ACCOUNTS**

**Accounts for the year ended**  
**31 July 2023**

**David Robertson & Co**  
84 Whiting Street  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP33 1NZ

**BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

**YEAR ENDED 31 July 2023**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 July 2023 set out on pages 2 to 4.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :-

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements :-
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Stephen Cook*

Stephen Cook MA FCA  
DAVID ROBERTON & CO  
Chartered Accountants

84 Whiting Street  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 1NZ

23 October 2023

# **BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY**

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

## **Accounts for the year ended**

**31 July 2023**

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts and Payments Account</b>				
<b>Income Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Sources</b>				
<b>Singing Members</b>				
Subscriptions	18,134		17,333	
Fundraising efforts	<u>661</u>		<u>997</u>	
		18,795		18,330
<b>Concerts</b>				
Ticket sales direct to choir, at the door & other outlets	9,345		7,599	
Ticket sales at the box office	22,217		14,921	
Sponsorship	0		2,500	
Supplying copies of music to singers	2,270		2,123	
Sale of programmes at concerts	996		913	
Advertisements in concert programmes	0		0	
Other concert income	<u>425</u>		<u>525</u>	
		35,253		28,581
<b>Patronage</b>				
Corporate patrons	8,370		1,490	
Personal patrons	2,180		2,263	
Tax refunds on covenants	3,700		924	
Miscellaneous patronage	500		0	
Grants from Local Authorities	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		14,750		4,677
<b>Trading Activities</b>				
Social events	0		578	
Miscellaneous trading	<u>129</u>		<u>70</u>	
		129		648
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Bank Interest	731		61	
Jubilee income	<u>1,795</u>		<u>1,771</u>	
		2,526		1,832
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u><u>71,453</u></u>		<u><u>54,068</u></u>

# **BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY**

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

## **Accounts for the year ended** **31 July 2023**

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>				
<b>Rehearsing</b>				
Conductors' fees	7,670		4,965	
Accompanists' fees	2,875		2,273	
Venues	<u>3,434</u>		<u>3,222</u>	
		13,979		10,460
<b>Concerts</b>				
Conductors' fees	2,865		3,400	
Soloists' fees	6,750		6,030	
Orchestra's fees	15,155		10,975	
Hire of instruments and orchestral scores	2,945		1,891	
Venues	6,034		4,500	
Staging and Lighting	4,777		3,821	
Handbills, Posters and Banner	1,122		2,019	
Performing Rights fees	396		355	
Box Office commission	3,734		2,301	
Supplying copies of music to singers	3,121		3,020	
Concert programmes	868		1,101	
Charitable donation from concert	2,257		2,083	
Miscellaneous concert expenses	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		50,024		41,496
<b>Other Expenditure</b>				
<b>Trading</b>				
General Publicity	0		1,510	
Social events	0		1,433	
Purchase or repair of fixed assets	<u>528</u>		<u>201</u>	
		528		3,144
<b>Administration and Management</b>				
Conductors /officers expenses and meetings	754		1,755	
Making Music Subscription and insurance	885		870	
Bank charges	62		106	
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>628</u>		<u>639</u>	
		2,329		3,370
<b>Awayday Expenditure</b>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>66,860</u>		<u>58,470</u>

# **BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY**

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

## **Accounts for the year ended**

**31 July 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net receipts for the period	4,593	-4,402
Cash and Bank balances at 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	31,809	36,211
Cash and Bank balances at 31st July 2023	36,402	31,809

## **Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st July 2023**

### **Monetary Assets**

#### **Cash and Bank Balances**

	£	£	£	£
Current Account – Barclays Bank	403		4,749	
Business Premium Account – Barclays	12,945		3,892	
Current Account – HSBC	0		0	
Cash in Hand	54		168	
COIF Account Choir Fund	23,000		23,000	

<b>Total Monetary Assets</b>	36,402	31,809
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<b>Debtors</b>	120	0
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### **Liabilities**

#### **Creditors**

PRS	0	0
Soloist fee	500	0
	500	0

<b>Total Monetary Assets, less liabilities</b>	36,022	31,809
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### **Non-Monetary Assets**

#### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

<b>At cost</b>	£ 15,749	£ 15,705
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