

Bury St Edmunds Bach Society

Annual Report

2024/25

1. The Charity's Aims

- 1.1. The Bury St Edmunds Bach Society is registered with The Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity Number 1181842). It operates under the name Bury Bach Choir.
- 1.2. The society is a choral society based in Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, dedicated to public performances of classical choral works, particularly those of JS Bach.
- 1.3. The objectives of the CIO are the maintenance of the Bury St Edmunds Bach Society in the study and practice of choral music, and the promotion of musical performances both generally and for the benefit of such charitable purposes as the charity trustees may from time to time think fit.
- 1.4. The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

2. Governance

- 2.1. The society is governed by a committee of trustees who meet regularly through the year to plan programmes and manage the affairs of the choir.
- 2.2. Trustees are elected at the AGM and may be co-opted during the year, in accordance with the CIO's Constitution, its governing document.
- 2.3. Trustees during the 2024/25 financial year were:
 - Richard Chatham
 - Jo Dekkers
 - Richard Fletcher (Hon. Treasurer)
 - Paget Fulcher (Vice Chair)
 - James Heathcote (Chair)
 - Carolyn Heywood (Hon. Secretary)
 - Sarah Mansfield
 - Mary-Clare O'Sullivan
 - Julia Rance
 - Stephen Ruthen
 - Marian Rutherford
 - Arland Shawe-Taylor
 - Janet Todd
 - John White-Thomson

3. In Year Activity

3.1. The choir held four concerts during the year:

- Works by Imogen and Gustav Holst and Gabriel Faure on 2 December 2023 at the Apex. The choir was accompanied by The United Strings of Europe and soloist Tara Bungard.
- A Christmas Concert in Lavenham church.
- The St Mark Passion by J S Bach on 29 March 2025, accompanied by The Geldart Ensemble and soloists Hilary Cronin, Tom Lilburn, Hugo Hymas and Ben Noble.
- The Mozart Requiem in St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds on 7 June 2025. The piece was performed with a piano four hands accompaniment by Czerny and soloists Jo Songi, Martha Jones, Andrew Henley and Andri Robertsson.

3.2. The choir held 33 Wednesday evening rehearsals and three Saturday rehearsals at King Edward VI school.

3.3. The Music Director throughout the year was Benedict Collins Rice and the rehearsal pianists were Anne Reece and Christopher Moore.

4. Income

4.1. The choir received income from a number of sources:

- Subscriptions of £192 per annum were charged to singing members over the age of 30. There was an average of 98 singing members during the year.
- Ticket sales from the four concerts generated £25738. Ticket prices varied between £16 and £27 and a total of 1235 tickets were sold for the four concerts (Nov 322, Dec 182, March 351, June 380).
- The choir receives both corporate and individual patronage. Major corporate sponsors during the year included The Rougham Estate Trust (£5000), Glasswells (£1000), Ridley Godfrey Foundation (£2000) and Knights Lowe (£500).
- Gift aid is claimed from HMRC on singing members' subscriptions and individual patronage, where they have made the necessary declarations.
- The choir receives quarterly income from the Jubilee Fund and surplus funds are deposited with Barclays and CCLA (Church of England) to generate interest.
- Ad hoc fundraising this year included raffles at Christmas and Easter which raised £1596.

5. Expenditure

5.1. Rehearsal expenditure comprised the MD's retainer, accompanist's fees and hire of the school hall.

5.2. The costs of putting on concerts comprise payments to instrumentalists, soloists and conductor, venue and instrument hire and staging. These vary according to the concert programme and venue. The costs for the four concerts this year were:

- Holst/Faure - £12177
- Christmas - £3849

- Bach St Mark - £14308
- Mozart Requiem - £11014

5.3. There are incidental costs associated with staging concerts including box office fees, publicity, performing rights fees, orchestral score hire, soloist accommodation and refreshments.

5.4. The aim is to offset the expenditure on music for singers by income from singers. In some instances the choir subsidises the cost of music from general funds.

5.5. General costs associated with running the choir include insurance, recruitment and voice checks, bank charges and officers' expenses.

6. End of Year Position

6.1. The year ended with cash reserves of £49043.

6.2. During the year the trustees have adopted a reserves policy to measure the adequacy of cash reserves carried forward into the next year. This is calculated as the total costs of the most expensive concert in the coming year plus 10%. On that basis our cash reserves should be at least £32049. The trustees are therefore satisfied that the end of year reserves are sufficient.

Bury St Edmunds Bach Society
(Registered Charity Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

Accounts for the 12 month period ended
31st July 2025

Receipts	2025	2025	2024	2024
Singing Members				
Subscriptions	18921		17,244	
Fund-raising efforts	1791		1,039	
		20,712		18,283
Concerts				
Ticket sales direct to choir, at door and other ou	9228		7,979	
Ticket sales at the box-office	16510		15,657	
Sponsorship			-	
Supplying copies of music to singers	3973		3,860	
Sale of programmes at concerts	831		875	
Advertisements in concert programmes	50		75	
Other concert income		30,592		28,445
Patronage and Grants				
Corporate patrons	9490		7,120	
Personal patrons	2246		2,305	
Tax refunds on covenants	3830		3,721	
Miscellaneous patronage		15,566	-	13,146
Trading Activities				
Social Events			-	
Miscellaneous trading	138	138	71	71
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	1352		1,361	
Jubilee Income	1842	3,194	1,802	3,163
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£70,203		£63,109

Bury St Edmunds Bach Society
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**Accounts for the 12 month period ended
31st July 2025**

Expenditure	2025	2025	2024	2024
Rehearsing				
Conductors' fees	8025		8,037	
Accompanists' fees	2682		2,599	
Venues	3529		3,329	
		14,236		13,965
Concerts				
Conductors' fees	3500		3,000	
Soloists' fees	6094		5,950	
Orchestra's fees	8685		12,717	
Hire of instruments and orch.scores	2660		1,069	
Venues	5599		6,525	
Staging and Lighting	5250		3,894	
Handbills, Posters etc.	1776		1,125	
Performing Right fees	170		176	
Box-office commission	2560		2,437	
Supplying copies of music to singers	4499		5,880	
Concert programmes	803		601	
Miscellaneous concert expenses	1102		1,597	
		42,697		44,970
Trading				
General Publicity			326	
Social/Training Events			-	
Purchase or repair of Fixed Assets	270		408	
		270		734
Administration				
Conductors/Officers expenses and mee	91		304	
Making Music Subscription and Insuran	840		811	
Bank Charges	73		48	
Miscellaneous expenses	679		953	
		1,683		2,116
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£58,886		£61,785

Bury St Edmunds Bach Society
(Registered Charity Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

Accounts for the 12 month period ended
31st July 2024

	2025	2024
Receipts	£70,203	£63,109
Expenditure	£58,886	£61,785
Net receipts for the year	£11,317	£1,324
Cash and bank balance at 1st August 2024	£37,726	
Cash and bank balance at 1st August 2025	£49,044	
Increase (decrease) in year	£11,317	

Assets and Liabilities

Bury St Edmunds
Bach Society CIO

Monetary Assets	2025	2025	2024	2024
Cash and Bank Balances				
Community Account - Barclays Bank	2544.01		1,580.86	
Business Premium Account - Barclays Bank	23411.56		13,123.64	
Cash in hand	87.93		21.86	
COIF Account choir fund	23000.00		23,000.00	
Total Monetary Assets		49,043.50		37,726.36
Debtors (Significant income not yet received)				
Creditors(Significant invoices not yet received or not yet paid)		0		0
TOTAL ASSETS (Monetary plus Debtors less Liabilities)		49,043.50		37,726.36
FIXED ASSETS (at Cost)		17,085.76		17,085.76



KnightsLowe

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

ACCOUNTS

Accounts for the year ended

31 July 2025



Eldo House, Kempson Way, Suffolk Business Park
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BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Year ended 31 July 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bury St Edmunds Bach Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bury St Edmunds Bach Society (the Charity) for the Year ended 31 July 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James Knights FCA
Knights Lowe Chartered Accountants
Eldo House, Kempson Way
Suffolk Business Park
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP32 7AR
21/01/2026

BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

Accounts for the year ended
31 July 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts and Payments Account				
Income Receipts				
Voluntary Sources				
Singing Members				
Subscriptions	18,921		17,244	
Fundraising efforts	<u>1,791</u>		<u>1,039</u>	
		20,712		18,283
Concerts				
Ticket sales direct to choir, at the door & other outlets	9,228		7,979	
Ticket sales at the box office	16,510		15,657	
Supplying copies of music to singers	3,973		3,860	
Sale of programmes at concerts	831		875	
Advertisements in concert programmes	50		-	
Other concert income	<u>-</u>		<u>75</u>	
		30,592		28,446
Patronage				
Corporate patrons	9,490		7,120	
Personal patrons	2,246		2,305	
Tax refunds on covenants	<u>3,830</u>		<u>3,721</u>	
		15,566		13,146
Trading Activities				
Miscellaneous trading	<u>138</u>		<u>71</u>	
		138		71
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	1,352		1,361	
Jubilee income	<u>1,842</u>		<u>1,802</u>	
		3,194		3,163
Total Receipts		<u><u>70,203</u></u>		<u><u>63,109</u></u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

Accounts for the year ended
31 July 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Rehearsing				
Conductors' fees	8,025		8,037	
Accompanists' fees	2,682		2,599	
Venues	3,529		3,329	
		14,236		13,965
Concerts				
Conductors' fees	3,500		3,000	
Soloists' fees	6,094		5,950	
Orchestra's fees	8,685		12,717	
Hire of instruments and orchestral scores	2,660		1,069	
Venues	5,599		6,525	
Staging and Lighting	5,250		3,894	
Handbills, Posters and Banner	1,776		1,125	
Performing Rights fees	170		176	
Box Office commission	2,560		2,437	
Supplying copies of music to singers	4,499		5,880	
Concert programmes	803		601	
Miscellaneous concert expenses	1,102		1,597	
		42,697		44,971
Other Expenditure				
Trading				
General Publicity	-		326	
Purchase or repair of fixed assets	270		408	
		270		734
Administration and Management				
Conductors /officers expenses and meetings	91		304	
Making Music Subscription and insurance	840		811	
Bank charges	73		48	
Miscellaneous Expenses	679		953	
		1,683		2,116
Total Expenditure		58,886		61,786

BURY ST EDMUNDS BACH SOCIETY

(Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1181842)

Accounts for the year ended
31 July 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				
Monetary Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances				
Current Account – Barclays Bank	2,544		1,581	
Business Premium Account – Barclays	23,412		13,124	
Cash in Hand	88		22	
COIF Account Choir Fund	23,000		23,000	
Total Monetary Assets		49,044		37,726
 Total Monetary Assets, less liabilities		<u>49,044</u>		<u>37,726</u>
 Non-Monetary Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets				
At cost		17,086		17,086
		<u>66,129</u>		<u>54,812</u>
 Funds				
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		54,812		53,489
Total income for the year	70,203		63,109	
Total expenditure for the year	(58,886)		(61,786)	
Net receipts for the period		11,317		1,323
Fund balances at 31 July 2025		<u>66,129</u>		<u>54,812</u>