

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1191118

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-09-02

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

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Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE ART OF BARBERSHOP MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS.

Activities: London City Singers sing a cappella in the barbershop style. It aims to advance, improve and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of barbershop and a capella singing in all its aspects through the performance of its music. It is open to people of all marginalised genders who sing in the treble range. It is a member of LABBS.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- City Of London
- City Of Westminster

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£30,539	£29,959	-	-
2024-04-30	£27,897	£28,999	-	-
2023-04-30	£18,072	£21,681	-	-
2022-04-30	£19,718	£19,147	-	-
2021-04-30	£18,691	£4,872	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adel Jane Hanily		2023-09-11
Aurelie Solenne Gandour		2025-05-20
Catherine Phillipson		2025-03-12
Jill Barnes		2025-06-24
Ololade Akinboro		2024-06-25
Ruth Marr		2022-06-07
Tilly Martha Scott		2026-01-04

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1191118

Accounts

London City Singers

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



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In



1.Introductory Note

London City Singers (“LCS”) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”). Its charity number is 1191118 and its company number is CE023771. LCS was originally set up as an unincorporated organisation in 2007 before it was converted into a charity in September 2020.

LCS is governed by its constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees, the powers and duties of the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus.

The CIO is run by the Board of Trustees. The trustees at the end of this year were:

Chorus Coordinator	Sarah Palframan
Secretary	Jennie Potts
Finance	Catherine Phillipson
Membership	Ruth Marr
Events - Core	Ollie Akinboro
Events - Non Core	Open Role - Oversight by Chair Sarah Palframan
DEIB	Rachel Knowles
Communications	Adel Hanily

In addition, the Music Director, Simon Arnott, or a delegate, is invited to attend all the trustee meetings but does not have a vote. In this last year meetings have been attended by the Assistant Directors team, Sophie Sanctuary, Jenny Lycett or Katherine Aston.

2. Chorus Chair Report

Sarah has been in London City Singers (LCS) since 2010, she sings Baritone in LCS and is a member of two Barbershop quartets, Sliding Chords and Hail Mary.

This is my second year as Chair and it has been an honour to hold this position and lead the chorus.

LCS has continued to thrive this year. It is my pleasure to highlight these in the annual report. We have continued to support the education of our members, which has resulted in notable improvements in our sound, performance and the scores within Barbershop competitions. We love taking opportunities to perform to and inspire new audiences outside of the Barbershop schedules. We have continued to offer many open evenings both providing education to new audiences and recruiting members.

Our events reports have details of the many activities we have been involved in this year, but I want to call out our achievements at our second LABBS convention in October, which resulted in 3rd place overall as well as best Mid Size chorus and the most entertaining chorus.

Additionally we were invited to represent LABBS on the European Stage in 2025 which we were delighted to accept and attended in May 2025. Additionally our continued improvement has then lead to an invitation to represent LABBS at BHS international 2026, where LCS is in full planning and fundraising mode to support as many of our members as possible to attend.

It's not all been contest related, far from it.

We have grown in size as our membership section reports, it was a very successful year with an established member base continuing to commit. We are delighted to have so many new members on stage with us and each and every person feels like they have been with us through our LCS journey.

The charitable oversight section details all the ways we support our members and operate to support our charitable aims. It was amazing to be able to continue to support individual members for coaching and 5 members took up this option in 2025. This continues to be a valued part of our budget and planning to enhance all members' musical education.

Our coaching continues to be of great importance to us as a chorus and a charity, our continued relationship with coach Rob Mance has us on a path of continued learning, development and improvement. I was very proud that the members embraced individual coaching and feedback within the retreat setting, not an easy thing, but goes to show the chorus culture and support network.

We have also expanded coaching outside of the Barbershop world, working with Julie Atherton. Julie has a background in west end theatre and is bringing depth to our performances and connection with our audiences.

The committee continue to work very hard for our members and I am proud of both the structure and flexibility we have built this last two years. We have been able support each

other through any challenges whilst still delivering within our aims. I thank the team for all their support to myself and each other.

We continue to be led in our Core Music skills by our Directors and our Music team, which has supported us to grow our sound. It's been wonderful to see the chorus embrace the new rehearsal structures and methods of learning and the desire from everyone to continue on our journey. It is inspiring to see our skills and sound grow even further.

It is now time for me to handover the reins to our new committee members, but I can't sign off without saying a big Thank You!

- To Simon and the Music Team for their musical leadership
- To the Trustees for all their hard work in keeping the chorus running
- To every member who has contributed to our development, our sound, our culture and our future.

Sarah

3. Membership

It has been a privilege to have been membership coordinator for 3 years.

Currently the chorus has 39 active members and 1 musical director. We are composed of 14 basses, 10 baritones, 11 leads and 4 tenors. This means we are in the mid- size chorus category in Labbs; the next category up starts at 45 members. We have 1 member of the chorus currently on Leave of Absence.

Leavers

Sadly this year we said goodbye to Emma O.

Joiners

We had India join from Lionsgate chorus (Canada) for the summer.

This year we have had Heather, Emma Arnott and Emma Abbott all return from parental leave; it's been great to have them back.

We have also welcomed 9 new members to the chorus: Sophie H, Carly, Rhona, Katie, Paula, Amy, Helen, Tilly and Rebecca.

Recruitment

This year we have recruited a lot of people who have previous barbershop experience. We have had lots of interest and great turn out at recruitment evenings. For people who haven't continued after a taster evening, the general feedback has been that the level of commitment is greater than the people can commit to at that time.

Feedback from the audition process is that Section leaders and assistant directors were really supportive.

Attendance

Attendance has been good this year and the few members who have found themselves in poor standing have made sure they catch up. The culture around attendance is really positive. Many members have been proactive in knowing that they will be in poor standing due to work/ childcare/ illness issues and contacting their section leader and the membership coordinator to ensure there is a plan ahead of time.

Feedback. Twice a year we ask for feedback from the chorus. This is shared with the committee and music team. The following quote is a particular highlight as it shows the ethos of London City Singers and how wonderful a group we are.

"I'm so happy to be part of a chorus where we care for each other as human beings first, and where the amazing music is just a wonderful side effect. I'm so grateful to every single one of us for making this such a unique, nurturing, and positive group to be a part of ❤️"

Ruth Marr

4.Events - Core

This year we segregated the Events Core and Non Core into two trustee roles to allow us to have more manageable and sustainable roles within the committee.

- Events core relates to our ongoing learning and development and LABBS convention.
- Non Core then picked up any aspects around concerts or other activities.

Ollie has been a member of LCS (properly) since 2023 and sings in the Bass Section. She is on the hunt for a quartet to join.

Retreat 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who filled out the post-retreat feedback—your thoughts (and snack confessions) were very much appreciated. Of the 24 responses, 83% said the retreat was “amazingly enjoyable,” while the remaining 17% said... “greatly enjoyable.”

Consistency—we love to see it.

Vocal coaching received rave reviews: 88% called it amazing, and the rest settled for merely “great.” Accommodation and dinner earned a more diplomatic response—8% found both amazing, 50% said great, and 20% went with fair. The remainder of responders did not stay at the hotel or participate in dinner.

Top highlights? Vocal coaching, bonding time, and snacks (clearly a recurring theme). The lowlights? Inconsistent break times, energy dips, and eating too many snacks—though we commend everyone for their honesty and accountability.

LABBS Convention 2025

At our second ever LABBS convention, we proudly walked away with a bronze medal *and* the Most Entertaining Chorus award. We hit an impressive 80.8%, topping the medium chorus category. What a haul!

European Convention 2025

Our grand debut at the European Barbershop Convention was...just that. We sang, we connected, we came 7th with a solid 80.2% score, and most importantly, we made memories (and probably some new WhatsApp groups). A huge round of applause to every singer, choreographer, costume coordinator, and to our musical director, who made this run so smoothly.

Other event highlights

Christmas 2024

Our Festive dinner and Secret Santa were everything they should be: full of joy, cozy, with lots of festive cheer (and aptly named repertoire-inspired cocktails). With music, laughter, and heartwarming gifts, it was the perfect end to a pitch-perfect year.

Coaching under Julie Atherton

We had the pleasure of having a mini-retreat in September where Julie Atherton performed her magic and brought our LABBS contest set to life. Similarly, she attended 2 chorus rehearsals in April and did the same to our Europeans contest set. Her insights were undoubtedly illuminating and elevated our performance.

Here's to another year of music, magic and dominating the retreat snack leaderboard.

5.Events - Non Core

This year we segregated the Events Core and Non Core into two trustee roles to allow us to have more manageable and sustainable roles within the committee.

- Events core relates to our ongoing learning and development and LABBS convention.
- Non Core then picked up any aspects around concerts or other activities.

The Non Core role was not filled by a specific trustee this year, however was overseen by the Chair and the Events - Core role with members of the chorus stepping in to help with the admin required for each event.

This year we have had a number of events over seen by various members of the chorus who work with the trustees to help deliver each event.

Winter Jam - Another fabulous concert where LCS and Meantime deliver two concerts in December. The concerts are a mix of each chorus performing, joint performances and allowing showcase of quartet performances.

Commemorative event - We were invited to perform some songs at a commemorative event for the family of a Barbershop performer and honour her passing.

London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) 2025 - We were again involved to perform to the racers in this annual event in London. Singing a range of our songs and both entertaining runners and spreading our love of the Barbershop genre to new audiences

I'd like to take this opportunity to again thank our members who have helped support this space this year and hope that we can continue supporting in the same way until a person wishes to step into the trustee role.

Sarah - Chair

6. Communications

Adel has been a member of LCS since 2016, with a short break in 2022 before rejoining in 2023 and sings in the Lead section.

It's been a pleasure to see the chorus go from strength to strength over the past year.

Admittedly, I haven't done as much comms work as I'd have liked, having started a new job in 2024. However, Sue Madden has kindly stepped up to help with our social media and is currently working on updating the website to support our external promotion efforts.

Since last year, we've been sharing lots of exciting content on our social media, including: announcing our performance at the European Convention (where we later placed 7th), celebrating our LABBS bronze medal, congratulating Simon on his Best Music Arranger award, coaching with Julie Atherton, our retreat with Rob Mance, Winter Jam, our performance at the London Landmarks Half Marathon, good luck messages, and content around open evenings and new members (which we aim to do more of). We've also tried to sprinkle in some fun content about what we get up to at rehearsals.

Looking ahead, we're planning fundraising efforts for the International Contest in 2026, and the copy for promotional material — including the Taylor the Latte Boy Challenge — has been updated for external use.

Here's to another exciting year of big plans and silly content.

Social Media platforms:

Instagram and TikTok are growing platforms for us, and our two most recent videos on TikTok received over 500 views. The best performing posts on Instagram were of convention content, London LHM and coaching group photos. Our largest audience is on Facebook, so our efforts will be focussed on these three platforms. We've decided to pause posting on Twitter/X, as it has become a turbulent platform, and many other brands have done the same.

Instagram – 1,131 followers (up by 84)

Facebook - 1.7k followers

TikTok - 175 followers (up by 139)

X (Twitter) - 852 followers (not actively using)

LinkedIn - 60 followers

YouTube - 207 subscribers

Adel

7. Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging (DEIB)

As DEIB Lead, I have not done as much as I had hoped this year due to not having enough time to commit to this role - I am stepping down in the hope that someone can give this role the attention and commitment it merits.

This year we:

- Finalised the DEIB policy (now on harmonysite)
- When racist violence taking place in London last summer, tried to ensure our members felt safe and supported to travel home from rehearsal
- Identified the need to consider accessibility issues when looking at new rehearsal venues and provided a number of checklists to consider. Our new venue is less accessible and this is something we may need to consider in future if we have members who cannot use stairs.
- Identified a list of potential partners to approach for concerts and collaborations more generally, in the hope of bringing barbershop to a broader community and encouraging membership from a broad range of people.
- Attended LABBS' first DEIB meeting and discovered we are doing quite well for DEIB comparatively
- Created a slack channel for neurodivergent members to support and discuss things

Things I would have liked to have done but did not do:

- Review the remainder of our policies/docs for any DEIB issues
- Create a support group system for members who may be in need of particular support (especially at times of crisis)
- Planned some outreach singing sessions in women's charities eg Refuge
- Review the inclusivity section of our website

8. Music Team Report

Musical Achievements since last AGM

It's impossible to not repeat what has already been said throughout the rest of the report as the music is at the heart of everything we do.

Competitive

- LABBS - 3rd Place (Bronze Medal) - 80.7 (Highest score to date); highest mid size; entertainment trophy
- SNOBS - 7th Place Europe Women's Chorus Contest - 80.2 (81.3 for Nothing Without You - I believe our highest scoring to date!)
- We have qualified on both occasions to represent LABBS at the 2026 BHS International Convention, which is a huge achievement for the ensemble.

I remember Rob talking about this point in scoring before. It feels like we are at the beginning of the next stage and this is wildly exciting! Just the consistency to go. I think the move of venue will help us hear some of the intonation that we can work on, as well as be very aware of sync errors across the room.

Education

- We have received a full retreat weekend from Rob Mance and have provided new members with assistance in 1:1 voice lessons. We continue to thrive under the guidance of Rob and build the skill level of all individuals in the ensemble. The sound of the ensemble had been commented on by many who have heard the chorus for years and they have been amazed by the sound we can now make!
- We have spent a great deal of time with Julie Atherton, west end performer and director, to enhance the acting through song skills of the ensemble. This has positively impacted our scoring in this area, but most importantly, audience members have loved how we've made them laugh or cry and everything in between.
- Director received making music award

Concerts

- We have given several performances over the last year with a variety of groups. Audiences have always left having had a good time!
- We should look to performing more within the London communities to allow us the opportunity to spread our values and music across the capital.

The Music

- We continue to promote new 'barbershop contest' music when performing to help engage potential new members or audiences.
- The repertoire is about to have a refresh to allow for new skills the chorus have been building to shine.

It has been another successful year for the chorus on many fronts, but what continues to make it special is the people in the ensemble and their love for the music and each other that continues to move audiences far and wide.

9. Charitable Oversight

Sarah is the Trustee in charge of Oversight of our Charitable Activities. She is the current chair of LCS.

In this role, I am asked to scrutinise all of our activities and ask the following questions.

Are our activities consistent with our charitable objectives?

This year we further developed and extended our links within the Barbershop community. Firstly we attended the LABBS convention in Bournemouth, we took two new arrangements to perform and extend the Barbershop style, but we also took away 3 awards.

- 1st placed mid size Chorus
- 3rd place chorus overall
- The most entertaining chorus award

We were also able to network and extend links within choruses and the LABBS Board.

Our invitation to represent LABBS on the European stage has allowed us to extend our reach even further, again bringing new arrangements and performances to a new audience.

Coupled with linking with other choruses, LABBS chairs, D&I meetings and board visits, we fully feel part of this organisation and look forward to helping within the 50th year anniversary celebrations in 2026.

This year we have held multiple open evenings. Within these we educate attendees in Barbershop, both the style and the singing skills. We have increased overall membership this year and retained members moving forward.

We are incredibly proud of our achievements this year and the journey LCS continues to travel onwards with improvement to singing skills and connection with the world within and outside our Barbershop Community

How have our activities benefited the wider public?

Firstly we continue to entertain audiences and held another fantastic Winter Jam concert as detailed in our Events section. Our partnership with Meantime chorus allows us to showcase both choruses equally and brings in new audiences each time.

We continue to be invited to participate and perform at events. Most notably this year at a memorial event and again the London Landmarks Half Marathon event. These activities allow us to connect, engage and entertain the wider public. We have a fantastic plan for events this winter period and are making connections to expand our audiences even further.

Are our activities sufficiently educational?

We continue to hold a separate music education budget and trustees have highlighted the importance of this and applied a new policy to ensure that budget is retained going forward.

This has already been detailed in our Music education section, however it was a great achievement to support all 5 members who requested coaching amongst all the other activities we achieve.

We continue our coaching relationship with Rob, providing consistent education year on year and the enhancement in skills is evident. Coupling this with our new coach Julie has seen a different layer to the education focusing on performance skills with a consistent coach.

As detailed above we continue to educate any members of the public who would like to find out more about Barbershop and have been proactive in holding regular open evenings where this education is shared.

There has also been a new LCS book club this year, exploring and discussing musical education books. They have met many times within the year and all members are welcome to join for the discussions.

Lastly, by educating our members they continue to grow and develop.

This year more quartets than before have been performing from members within the chorus:

- Quartets that have competed. Horizon, Peridot, These Notes, Dams N Jam, Crunch Time and Met44 all involved in competitions. Also our MD performing in Trailblazers.
- Other Quartets within LCS; Sliding Chords, Avalon, Hail Mary, A Tuneful of Sugar, Les Raclettes and Interference.
- And finally representation in the Treble Harmony Brigade event where lots of our members attended and were able to demonstrate their skills as an LCS sub group.

Have we ensured our membership fees are not a barrier to participation?

We continue to support our members to ensure fees are not a barrier. For LABBS Convention and Retreat, we continue to provide payments towards accommodation, coordinating this centrally. The trustees have agreed to continue to apply a policy of funding to be offered equally to all members. This gives flexibility to members to give back to the chorus when they are able but also allows us to offer support.

When we have open evenings we are very clear with interested prospective members that fees will never be a barrier and continue to operate with a suggested monthly donation. Our membership and finance coordinator continue to connect with all members to provide support.

10. Financial Report and Plan

Because of the decision to attend Europeans and Internationals, we had a slight rework to the budget this year and also to our overall approach to budgeting and setting fundraising targets.

In an ideal world the “routine” activities of the chorus would be covered by membership fees with their gift aid. We have continued to expand the definition of “routine” activities, and they now include:

- Having a top-quality paid musical director
- Having an annual retreat with a world-class vocal coach, with the chorus covering everyone’s first private coaching session too
- Competing in a major competition, with professional performance coaching beforehand
- Paying LABBS annual membership

We can’t quite cover all of this, so each year we have an additional fundraising target, which is usually in the region of £3,000-3,500.

We have now added Europeans and Internationals into our 2025 and 2026 calendar. In line with our other major events we are proposing that the chorus will fund everyone’s contest passes plus the musical director’s costs, and we intend to use up to £5,000 of our retained funds to do this.

This gives us a target of £30,000 to raise over three years. We are proposing to use £5K from our balance sheet. This will use some historic Gift Aid money which was always earmarked for general chorus improvement/education, which will be achieved through the intense focus on quality that international competition will bring.

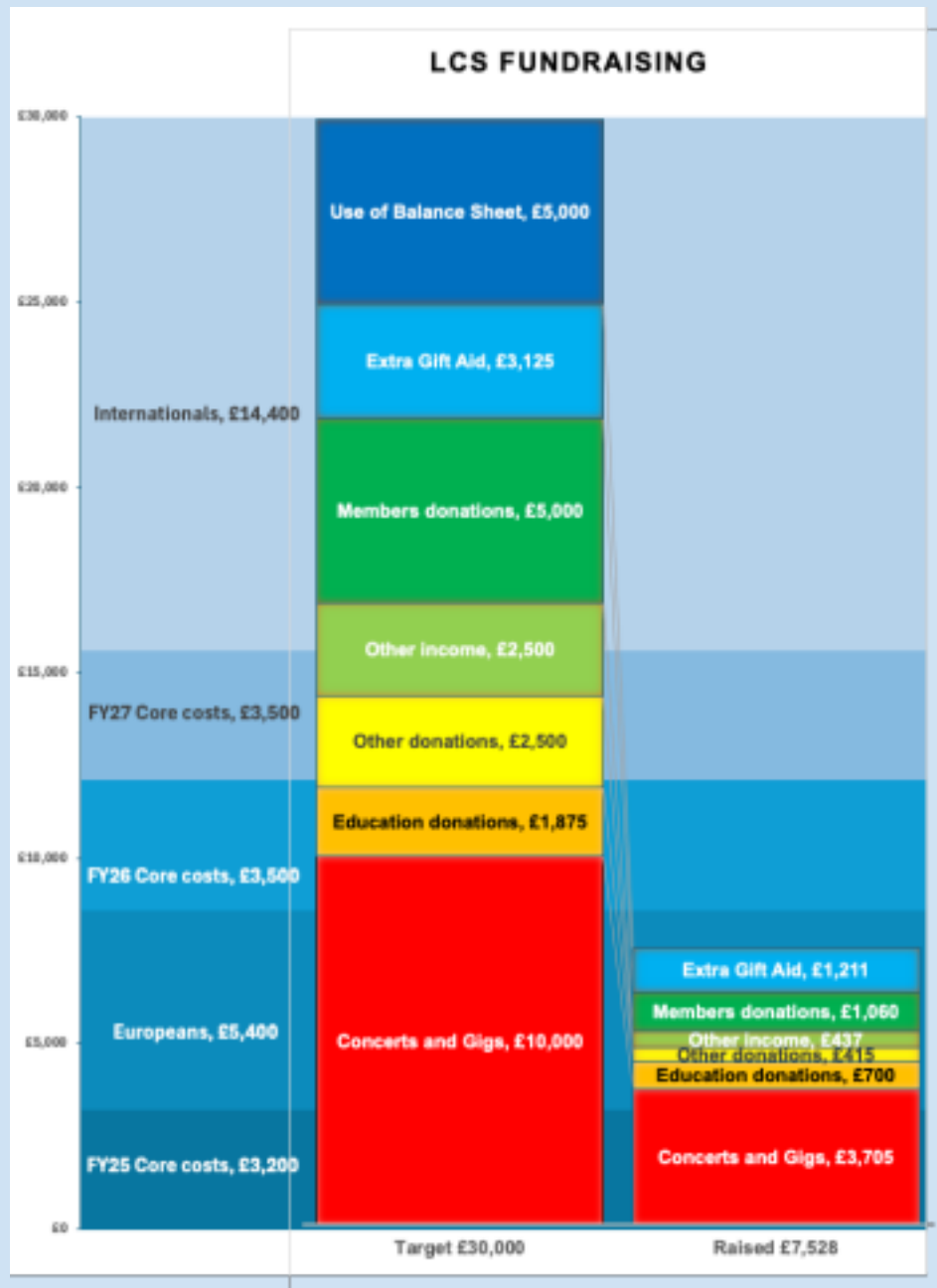
Budgeted Amounts	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Core Income from Fees and Gift Aid	£18,120	£20,650	£21,150
Core Activities	£21,320	£24,150	£24,650
Usual Fundraising Requirement	£3,200	£3,500	£3,500
Europeans - £5,400	£4,000	£1,400	
Internationals - £14,400		£10,000	£4,400
Total Fundraising Needed	£7,200	£14,900	£7,900
Use of Balance Sheet			-£5,000
Headline Target			£25,000

The remaining £25K could be raised in the following ways (these proportions are suggested from other choruses’ experience):

		TARGET	CURRENT
Concerts and Gigs	40%	£10,000	£3,705
Education donations	20%	£1,875	£700
Other donations	12.50%	£2,500	£415
Other income	10%	£2,500	£437
Members donations	7.50%	£5,000	£1,060
Extra Gift Aid	10%	£3,125	£1,211

So far we have raised just over £7,500. We now have a Fundraising team who will be working hard on this during the next financial year.

Here are this year's results and the next two years' budgets. The core income was slightly higher than expected this year, and the core costs slightly lower. The fundraising activity is off to a good start, but so far mostly through members' donations. We used a little bit of money to support some members to attend retreat and convention, and this was more than made up for by the gift aid that we could reclaim.



Here are this year's results and the next two years' budgets. The core income was slightly higher than expected this year, and the core costs slightly lower. The fundraising activity is off to a good start, but so far mostly through members' donations. We used a little bit of money to support some members to attend retreat and convention, and this was more than made up for by the gift aid that we could reclaim.

Account	2025 Budget	2025 FINAL	Under/ over	2025-26	2026-27
Core Income					
Members dues	15,170	15,387	217	16,900	17,300
Gift Aid Core	2,950	3,423	473	3,750	3,850
Total Core Income	18,120	18,810	690	20,650	21,150
Core Activities					
Rehearsals					
Rehearsal venues	5,000	4,821	179	6,000	6,000
Musical Director	5,300	4,500	800	5,300	5,300
Music sheets & tracks	800	337	463	800	800
Misc. core expenses	500	380	120	500	500
Quartet support	250	0	250	250	250
Convention					
Convention chorus costs	4,120	4,095	25	4,100	4,200
Additional coaching costs	750	1,459	(709)	900	1,000
Retreat					
Retreat chorus costs	1,000	1,429	(429)	1,200	1,300
Retreat coaching costs	1,750	1,645	105	2,100	2,200
LABBS Membership fees	1,600	2,091	(491)	2,200	2,300
Education	250	573	(323)	800	800
Total Core Activities	21,320	21,330	(10)	24,150	24,650
Core Shortfall	(3,200)	(2,520)	680	(3,500)	(3,500)
Additional Activities					
Retreat Support					
Retreat per-person costs	0	1,498		0	0
Retreat member donations	0	(1,287)		0	0
Total Retreat Support	0	211	(211)		
Convention Support					
Convention per-person costs	0	2,997		0	0
Convention member donation	0	(2,600)		0	0
Total Convention Support	0	397	(397)		
Additional Events					
Non-Core Event Chorus Cost	4,000	3,319	681	11,400	4,400
Total Additional Events	4,000	3,319	681	11,400	4,400
Total Additional Activities	4,000	3,927	73		
Total Shortfall	(7,200)	(6,447)	753	(3,500)	(3,500)
Fundraising Income					
Concerts and Gigs					
Performance income	5,520	4,020			
Performance costs	(2,400)	(815)		5,750	5,000
Total Concerts and Gigs	3,120	3,205	85		
Other Fundraising					
Education donations	100	700	600	1,000	1,000
Other donations	300	415	115	1,000	1,000
Members donations	25	1,060	1,035	1,000	1,000
Other income	300	437	137	1,000	1,000
Gift Aid Other	405	1,211	806	1,000	1,000
Total Fundraising Income	4,250	7,028	2,778	10,750	10,000
Impact on Balance Sheet	(2,950)	581	3,531	(4,150)	2,100



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LONDON CITY SINGERS

1191118

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01-May-24 To 20-Apr-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members dues	15,387	-	-	15,387	14,711
Members donations	4,947	-	-	4,947	2,474
Gift Aid	4,634	-	-	4,634	4,023
Education donations	700	-	-	700	200
Other donations	415	-	-	415	-
Performance income	4,020	-	-	4,020	6,230
Other income	437	-	-	437	244
Non-primary purpose trading	-	-	-	-	15
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	30,539	-	-	30,539	27,897
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	30,539	-	-	30,539	27,897
A3 Payments					
Musical Director	4,500	-	-	4,500	4,600
Rehearsal venues	4,821	-	-	4,821	4,986
Music sheets & tracks	337	-	-	337	327
LABBS	2,091	-	-	2,091	1,448
Convention	7,092	-	-	7,092	7,118
Retreat	2,927	-	-	2,927	3,278
Coaching	3,104	-	-	3,104	2,655
Education	573	-	-	573	1,071
European Convention	3,319	-	-	3,319	-
Performance costs	815	-	-	815	3,348
Misc. core expenses	380	-	-	380	169
Sub total	29,959	-	-	29,959	28,999
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
NONE	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,959	-	-	29,959	28,999
Net of receipts/(payments)	581	-	-	581	1,102
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,678	-	-	9,678	10,780
Cash funds this year end	10,259	-	-	10,259	9,678

CCXX R1 accounts (SS)

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15/05/2025

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	10,259	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	10,259	-	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Catherine Phillipson	CATHERINE PHILLIPSON	15/05/2025	

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1191118

Accounts

London City Singers

Annual Report 2023-24



London City Singers
Annual Report 2023-34

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In



1.Introductory Note

London City Singers (“LCS”) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”). Its charity number is 1191118 and its company number is CE023771. LCS was originally set up as an unincorporated organisation in 2007 before it was converted into a charity in September 2020.

LCS is governed by its constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees, the powers and duties of the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus.

The CIO is run by the Board of Trustees. The trustees at the end of this year were:

Chorus Coordinator	Sarah Palframan
Secretary	Lan O’Connor
Finance	Catherine Phillipson
Membership	Ruth Marr
Events	Sally Chestnutt
DEIB	Rachel Knowles
Communications	Adel Hanily

In addition, the Music Director, Simon Arnott, or a delegate, is invited to attend all the trustee meetings but does not have a vote. In this last year meetings have been attended by the Assistant Directors team, Sophie Sanctuary, Jenny Lycett or Katerine Aston.

2. Chorus Coordinator's Report

Sarah has been in London City Singers (LCS) since 2010, she sings Baritone in LCS and is a member of two Barbershop quartets, Sliding Chords and Hail Mary.

This year has continued to be an exciting and fulfilling time for our members and supporters. When reflecting on the varied activities and achievements of LCS in the past year it is my pleasure to highlight these in our annual report.

Our Events Team, led by Sally, has been very active and productive. We have embraced entertaining audiences within our own concerts and delighted in being invited to perform with other groups or at other events.

Starting in September 2024 with our Late Summer Concert, we invited our guest act The Sharrow Vale Blues to London. They are a successful Mixed Barbershop quartet based in Sheffield and complemented our repertoire. The concert brought a wide range of barbershop music to our audience and allowed us to support 2 linked quartets within the chorus to perform with us.

We then performed in our first ever LABBS convention. Making new friends within the wider Barbershop community and reconnecting with old friends in this new organisation. We were incredibly proud to come 5th place amongst our peers. We now feel fully part of the LABBS family and our unique style was welcomed onto the LABBS stage by new audiences.

Following that with an open evening and 2 successful Christmas events, we finished 2023 on a high.

So far in 2024, aside from our normal activities of Retreat and Open Evenings, we were invited to entertain runners and spectators at the London Landmarks Half Marathon. This allowed us to promote our Barbershop music to the public who may not have an opportunity to attend other events.

We have finished with our successful summer concert in June 2024 presenting again new barbershop arrangements to our audience.

Aside from our events, we have achieved much within our Charitable status, as listed within the upcoming pages. Being able to support our members within education areas, achieving coaching and education sessions. This year with Tony Colosimo (Sept 2024) and Rob Mance (Feb 2024) we continue to strive to improve and educate

all members of London City Singers with high quality Barbershop education and will always continue to support this within our education budget.

Within the committee, a lot of work has been done this year to review and align roles and responsibilities. Whilst putting structure in place we have continued to stay flexible and I'm really impressed with how we continue to support each other to deliver what is needed to support the chorus. Going forward we will continue to discuss and review our operations to make sure we can support our members and goals.

The chorus continues to flourish, attracting new people to find out what Barbershop is and can bring to their lives. Ablely led in our Core Music skills by our Directors and our Music team, we have been able to continue to grow our sound. It's been wonderful to see the chorus embrace the new rehearsal structures and methods of learning and the desire from everyone to continue on our journey. It is inspiring to see our skills and sound grow even further.

When considering what we bring to the public, it is important to reflect the increased participation with quartets / quartet activity within the chorus, this leads to even more opportunities for us to promote Barbershop. Within our concerts we have given opportunities for quartets performance and whether these are more established quartets or scratch quartets for the Christmas season or seeing our members developing so well in their individual quartets. So many of our members have also embraced the educational opportunities within this sphere too and we will look to support as much as we can.

On the membership side, it's been great to see us maintain our size and great to see our members returning after taking a Leave of Absence. Being able to support our members in changes in family circumstances or other needs, it is a complement to our members and the culture of our chorus that so many wish to return.

I couldn't sign off without saying a big Thank You!

To our Directors and Music Team for their musical leadership.

To the Trustees for all their hard work in keeping the chorus running.

To every member who has practised, baked, 'liked', chatted, volunteered, inspired, listened, used their cup or watched until TE tuner until the face turned green!

Each and every effort contributes towards our success and for that we are all thankful.

Here is to another successful and inspiring year for London City Singers

Sarah

3. Membership

Currently the chorus has 28 active members and 1 musical director. We are composed of 9 basses, 8 baritones, 8 leads and 3 tenors. This means we are in the mid- size chorus category in Labbs; the next category up starts at 45 members. We have 4 members of the chorus currently on Leave of Absence.

Leavers

Sadly this year we said goodbye to Rachel G and Devi but we are hoping we will see them both again when their circumstances change.

We have 4 members currently taking a leave of absence: Emma C, Emma A, Catherine and Sophie.

Joiners

This year we welcomed back Adel, it's been great to have her back.

We have also welcomed 2 new members to the chorus: Sue and Jill. They are both experienced barbershoppers and have slotted straight into LCS.

Recruitment

We have had less recruitment than last year as we are only looking to recruit basses due to the current balance of voice parts. We have been keeping a waiting list for other parts and have had 1 tenor and 3 leads waiting for a couple of months to come along to a rehearsal. We have a recruitment event planned for the 28th April with 6 prospective members signed up.

Feedback from the audition process is that it was very clearly explained and the prospective members felt well supported.

Thankyous

Thank you to everyone for keeping Harmony Site up to date as this helps us to ensure everyone is ready to perform when we have gigs and concerts. Thank you to the music team for supporting members with 1:1s or sectionals to ensure members are confident and concert ready.

Ruth Marr

Membership Coordinator 28th April 2024

4. Events

The Events and Communications role was handed over from Aurélie Gandour and subsequently split into two separate roles. Sally Chestnutt took on the role of Events and has been supported by a team who ensured the smooth running of all events.

Sally has been a member of LCS since 2020 and sings in the tenor section, she also sings with LABBS quartet, Sliding Chords.

There have been lots of wonderful and uplifting events this year.

- **Late Summer Concert** (September) was originally planned as the Summer Concert due to be held in June but was postponed to September due to the rail strikes and renamed. The guest act was a fantastic Barbershop quartet called The Sharrow Vale Blues who sang a wide variety of songs.
- **LABBS Convention 2023** was the first LABBS convention for LCS since becoming members of LABBS. It was a wonderful experience, topped by the success of achieving 5th place.
- **ChoirsRUs Christmas Concert** - LCS were invited as guests to perform at the Christmas concert of the wonderful ChoirsRUs.
- **Joint Christmas Concert with Meantime** (December) – both an afternoon and evening concert were held on a Saturday in early December with fantastic numbers attending both.
- **Joint Open Mic with Meantime** (February) – with fabulous accompanist from Meantime on keyboard many members of both choruses sang in solos, duos and quartets over the course of a very entertaining afternoon.
- **Retreat** (February – and lots of one to ones in the following week) – our annual event with our incredible coach who travels from the US to spend one rehearsal and a weekend coaching us.
- **LLHM** (April) - a super Sunday morning spent at the London Landmarks Half Marathon singing two sets for the runners and spectators.

Sally
25th April 2024

5. Communications

The Events and Communications role was handed over from Aurélie Gandour and subsequently split into two separate roles. Adel Hanily took on the role of Communications Lead towards the end of 2023 and is in the process of setting up support from chorus members.

Adel has been a member of LCS since 2016, with a short break in 2022 before rejoining in 2023 and sings in the baritone section.

Since last year we've been promoting lots of exciting things on our social media including the late summer concert, Winter Jam concert, LABBS, retreat with Rob Mance, and our performance at the London Landmarks Half Marathon. For the Winter Jam concert we ran a twelve days of christmas countdown on social media with Meantime Chorus.

We have been establishing a social media strategy for the next year and are gearing up for full promotion of our 2024 summer concert.

Special thanks go to Mariane for updating and managing the website.

Social Media platforms:

Instagram - 1047 followers

Facebook - 1.7k followers

TikTok - 36 followers

X (Twitter) - 887 followers

LinkedIn - 59 followers

YouTube - 196 subscribers

Adel

6. Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging (DEIB)

DEIB is a new trustee role for the chorus created in 2023. It was held originally by Devi Joshi in 2023 but unfortunately she needed to resign from the position a few months later, she went on LoA and then left the chorus. Rachel became DEIB trustee in January 2024.

Rachel has been a member of LCS since 2012, with a break between 2016-2020 to make tiny humans. She sings tenor in the chorus and in an LCS quartet, Les Raclettes.

Much of the DEIB role so far has been looking at how our existing policies and documents approach DEIB and what we may still need to work on. To this end, we have:

- formed a DEIB group to work on DEIB issues together - members are welcome to feedback to us, join or make suggestions
- reviewed the standing rules and music policy and made some amendments
- updated our description with the charity commission
- drafted a DEIB policy which is almost finalised
- created a template document to try ensure our written documents are written in an accessible way
- done a polling session with the chorus trying to identify our community values for the chorus and some goals to help build our chorus community and make it more inclusive
- proposed concert partners for our summer concert, taking into account our desire to be more inclusive and diverse
- We have identified our chorus community values that will be shared with the chorus shortly for approval, and identified some goals for the forthcoming year to help build our community
- For the year ahead, we plan to work on these goals and continue to review existing chorus documentation to ensure it aligns with our approach to DEIB

Rachel - 29.04.24

7. Music Team Report

Simon Arnott is our Music Director. Simon studied Music at Bristol University, focusing on performance and composition, and is now a Deputy Director of Music in an independent school in south west London. Simon has been performing barbershop since starting in school and sings with the quartet, Trailblazers. He currently directs Meantime Chorus and London City Singers, creating many custom arrangements for these and other groups. He also runs workshops for the British Association of Barbershop Singers and Sweet Adelines International.

Sophie Sanctuary is the Assistant Musical Director. She has a music degree from Bristol University and now works as a primary school teacher. She also sings with current European champion quartet Avalon, and current BinH quartet champions Met44.

Jenny Lycett is the Director for Performance. Jenny has been with the chorus since its inception in 2007 and has specialised in choreography and performance.

Katherine Aston is the Director for Vocal Pedagogy. She has a PhD in Education, a Masters in Teaching and in her PGCE specialised in Higher Education.

This year's Section Leaders were:

Tenor	Mariane Lingley
Lead	Aurelie Gandour
Baritone	Hazel Peck
Bass	Emma Obertelli

This group makes up the Music Team, which is the group that the Trustees have tasked with ensuring that our music is of the right standard and nature to support our Objects. Catherine Phillipson is the Music Secretary and trustee representative on the music team.

This year, we took part in our first LABBS Convention and finished 5th place. We brought two exciting arrangements to the LABBS stage by our musical director, Simon Arnott. The second of our songs, The Girl in 14G, pushed the boundaries of 'contestable' barbershop in numerous ways, but was a big hit with the audience! The chorus greatly enjoyed bringing our brand of barbershop to the LABBS competition and were delighted with the response from both audience and judges alike.

Our yearly retreat with Rob Mance was well attended and an exciting educational event. We further developed our singing skills with two new arrangements in the barbershop style.

We have had a variety of events with different groups to help spread the LCS style of barbershop to a wider audience. We were very well received at the Choirs R Us concert in December and sang with an exciting new ensemble at our summer concert with a focus on diversity in the choral world.

Simon.

8. Music Education Report

Catherine Phillipson is the Music Secretary. Catherine is actively working to promote treble-range harmony brigading in the UK. She sings bass with LCS and lead in mixed-range harmony brigades.

The Music Education budget was established in order to support our charity's educational objectives.

The budget is to be used by the trustees under guidance from the Music Team, and it aims to give the chorus and individual chorus members a broader, deeper education in barbershop singing and vocal pedagogy than they can get from the standard activities of chorus rehearsals, retreat and convention.

The budget can be used for (but is not restricted to):

- Additional coaching for the chorus and individuals;
- Attending a variety of music education choruses;
- Supporting individual chorus members who wish to learn relevant skills such as directing, arranging and quartetting;
- Encouraging members to attend Harmony College and similar specialist barbershop training.

The budget is funded by our Gift Aid reclaims and this year it has also benefited from £650 of donations from individual chorus members.

This year we spent £3,761 on music education and paid for:

- Rob Mance from the USA coach LCS during the weekend in Feb 24
- 6 individual coaching sessions with Rob Mance
- Anthony Colosimo from the USA gave LCS performance coaching
- 4 individual coaching sessions with Anthony Colosimo
- Directors education course for Jenny Lycett
- Vocal Health course for one member
- Purchasing copies of "The Art of Possibility" books to support Simons work
- Travel bursaries were offered to two chorus members who attended educational events

Going forward, we are developing strong links with both LABBS and BABS educational teams, and we look forward to encouraging more chorus members to take part in their activities. We are also targeting more coaching for both the chorus and individuals, particularly with leading US coaches who are already planning visits to the UK

Catherine

9. Charitable Oversight

Sarah is the trustee in charge of oversight of our charitable activities. Sarah is the current Chair of LCS.

In this role, I am asked to scrutinise all of our activities and ask the following questions:

Are our activities consistent with our charitable objectives?

This year, we have further developed our links within LABBS and the UK Barbershop organisations. By attending our first LABBS convention we were able to connect with other LABBS members nationally and meet the board in real life!

We took two new Barbershop arrangements and after an enjoyable performance we were incredibly proud to come 5th. We were able to share and promote our performances of our own unique Barbershop style and received great feedback from our judges and audience.

We have continued to open to new members this year and held 2 periods of open rehearsals in Nov 23 and April 24. This has attracted interest from both the Barbershop community and outside. We use these sessions to educate any members of the wider community who show an interest in what we are working on in the Barbershop world.

In the autumn we sat with our members and discussed LCS aims and objectives. We looked to members for their ideas and commitment towards meeting our charitable objectives. The trustees then reviewed this and created some projects which we are focused on within 2024.

We are incredibly proud of what we put on stage each time we perform and the hard work and dedication of our members to get there. We delight in entertaining our supporters and have been thankful to expand to new audiences.

How have our activities benefited the wider public?

We have been invited to perform outside of Barbershop events to promote the Barbershop form. This was the concert organised by Choirs R Us in Barnet and performed at the London Landmarks Half Marathon. These allow us to entertain and engross a wider audience with our songs and the Barbershop genre.

We have had a very active period, having delivered two summer concerts and the joint christmas concert with Meantime. These allow us to reach the public with performances and also give us opportunities for our inhouse or linked quartets. By

forging these partnerships and links we continue to give more opportunities to promote the Barbershop art form.

We have continued to have periods of open rehearsals during the year, these both allow us to educate existing Barbershoppers and expand our membership but also encourage education outside of the existing community.

For our Summer Concert in June 2024, we took the opportunity to invite a non Barbershop group to perform with us, the fantastic Vox Urbane Next Generation. This allowed us to attempt to reach new audiences and the collaboration will allow us to continue to promote Barbershop music to those outside of the Barbershop community.

Are our activities sufficiently educational?

Our music education budget continues to support our members in achieving education and coaching. This year we supported our new members in coaching sessions to learn more about the skills we look to bring each and every rehearsal. We have continued to support our music team in skills or training sessions.

Additionally our music education budget has been able to support the wider chorus having access to training and education from our coaches at Retreat and additional sessions. We continued to work on our relationship with Rob Mance who has continued to push and develop us within the Barbershop skills and again we see a jump in skills and understanding within LCS.

Education is a key part of our journey and will continue to remain a priority in the next year.

Have we ensured our membership fees are not a barrier to participation?

We continue to work on a system of pay-as-you-can donations for participation, rather than a set membership fee. We have a suggested amount that members donate per month, but they are free to donate more or less as they wish depending on their financial situation.

We were able to subsidise members at our core activities within the LABBS Convention and the annual chorus retreat. We have also looked to support the annual membership fees to the LABBS organisation, ensuring that members are able to participate fully in chorus activities. We continue to ensure that cost will never be a barrier to participation in LCS.

The trustees agree that we have fulfilled our charitable objectives this year.

Sarah

10. Financial Report and Plan

Catherine Phillipson is the trustee in charge of Finances.

Reserves Policy

We started this financial year with nearly £11,000 on our balance sheet. We need around £5,000 to cover large cash flows and to give financial protection against unexpected events such as last-minute concert cancellations. We used £1,500 of the reserves to cover members' LABBS subscriptions – this is a one-off and the subscriptions will be included in the budget in future years. The remaining £4,500, which has been built up through our ability to reclaim Gift Aid, is primarily earmarked for music education and other activities in line with our charitable objects.

Regular income is covering core activities

Our members' monthly donations have just covered the “core” chorus activities - the rehearsal venue, MD costs, music, retreat and convention tickets. We built the membership numbers up during the year from 26 to 32, but with several members on leave of absence our monthly income has stabilised, and the trustees have agreed that future budgets should be based on 32 members as a steady rather than increasing chorus size.

We used fundraising to reduce additional costs

Additional fund raising allows us to subsidise some of the costs of retreat and convention, in order to reduce the number of times we have to ask members for more money during the year.

Our Summer Concert gave us an opportunity to showcase the talents of Shannon Vale Blues quartet while still making a small profit for the chorus of £426. The Winter Concert, done in partnership with Meantime, made a profit for us of £2,365. For both these concerts the ticket sales covered the production costs and the profits were really made from the refreshments and raffle sales – a big vote of thanks is due to all the people who organise those. The London Landmarks Half Marathon gig allowed us to take barbershop to a wider audience while also raising £300.

This year we were able to make all the contributions for convention costs optional, which allowed us to subsidise the costs for some members which was neatly covered by claiming Gift Aid back on the donations which were made. It is really splendid to be able to use our charitable status in this way, to ensure that anybody can be a London City Singer regardless of their financial status. We also covered all the basic accommodation costs for retreat and we paid for everyone's LABBS membership – in total we spent a total of £4,865 reducing these additional costs to members.

As mentioned above, we used around £1,500 of our reserves to do this, acknowledging the fact that fundraising opportunities are still in the process of recovering from Covid restrictions. This part of the budget should be more evenly balanced next year.

Gift aid is providing some excellent music education

We have received over £4,000 this year in Gift Aid, as well as getting £200 of education grants from LABBS, and as mentioned we also have around £4,500 of reserves available in this category.

This has allowed us to access some excellent music education opportunities, often at very short notice. We once again had Rob Mance visiting from the USA to coach us at retreat, and at the end of the summer we were able to have Tony Colosimo (who was guest education at BABS Harmony College) visit for an evening of performance coaching. We paid for six chorus members to have one-on-one coaching with Rob Mance, and four chorus members had one-on-one coaching with Tony Colosimo.

We have also paid for one of our Section Leaders to attend a Vocal Health course and one of our Assistant Musical Directors to attend a directing course. We have bought several copies of the “Art Of Possibility” to support Simon’s work on the way that we learn music and improve our singing. And we spent £150 on travel bursaries to encourage chorus members to attend BABS Harmony College.

Our focus on, and ability to fund, musical education, is a real differentiator, and I see it as one of the best benefits of becoming a charity. I am very proud to be able to hand over the finances to Ruth Howe, your new treasurer.

Catherine Phillipson

Treasurer



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LONDON CITY SINGERS

1191118

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-May-23	To	30/04/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members dues	14,691	-	-	14,691	-
Prospective members fees	20	-	-	20	-
Performance income	6,230	-	-	6,230	-
Other income	244	-	-	244	-
Non-primary purpose trading	15	-	-	15	-
Members donations	325	-	-	325	-
Convention member donations	1,469	-	-	1,469	-
Retreat member donations	680	-	-	680	-
Gift Aid reclaims	4,023	-	-	4,023	-
Education donations	200	-	-	200	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for</i>	<i>27,897</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>27,897</i>	<i>-</i>
A2 Asset and investment sales,					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>27,897</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>27,897</i>	<i>-</i>
A3 Payments					
Musical Director	4,600	-	-	4,600	-
Rehearsal venues	4,986	-	-	4,986	-
Music sheets & tracks	327	-	-	327	-
LABBS	1,448	-	-	1,448	-
Convention chorus costs	3,700	-	-	3,700	-
Retreat chorus costs	972	-	-	972	-
Misc core expenses	354	-	-	354	-
Cash movement	- 128	-	-	- 128	-
Performance costs	3,348	-	-	3,348	-
Recording costs	64	-	-	64	-
Image	- 157	-	-	- 157	-
Convention per-person costs	3,418	-	-	3,418	-
Retreat per-person costs	2,306	-	-	2,306	-
Retreat coaching costs	1,887	-	-	1,887	-
Additional coaching costs	768	-	-	768	-
Sectional support	35	-	-	35	-
Education	1,071	-	-	1,071	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>28,999</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>28,999</i>	<i>-</i>
A4 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Total payments</i>	<i>28,999</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>28,999</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	<i>- 1,102</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>- 1,102</i>	<i>-</i>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,780	-	-	10,780	-
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	<i>9,678</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>9,678</i>	<i>-</i>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,678	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which	Amount due	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1191118

Accounts

London City Singers

Annual Report 2022-23



London City Singers
Annual Report 2022-23

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1. Introductory Note

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LCS is governed by its constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees, the powers and duties of the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus.

The CIO is run by the Board of Trustees. The trustees at the end of this year were:

Chorus Coordinator	Julia Blyth
Secretary	Lan O’Connor
Finance	Catherine Phillipson
Membership	Ruth Marr
Events & Communications	Aurelie Gandour

In addition, the Music Director, Simon Arnott, is invited to attend all the trustee meetings but does not have a vote.

2. Chorus Coordinator's Report

Julia is the bass section lead and sings in chorus with LCS and in quartet with Horizon.

It's been another busy year in the life of LCS. Looking back, in fact, it has very much felt like the start of a new era, where we are finally out of the shadow of Covid and Zoom rehearsing, and changing our allegiance from the rather distant mother of Sweet Adelines - whose values, although in a phase of development of their own, did not chime particularly well with ours - to the much more LCS vibes of LABBS. This was decided almost unanimously by our membership, which made us feel very unified in our task for the year - get better and better and introduce ourselves to our new friends with a bang that they'll never forget!

But to do that we needed to grow, and our membership and music team have been amazing this year at recruiting lots of new members to LCS, who have settled in like old friends (well, some of them are old friends - delighted to welcome back some members who clearly could never forget us! We are after all extremely charming). It's a credit to new members' hard work and enthusiasm, and the existing members for being so welcoming and inclusive, that we're 26% bigger than we were last year. Our retention rate from open evenings has been superb, so thank you to all of you, old-timers and newbies alike!

But just because we left Sweet Adelines didn't mean we didn't get a chance to compete this year. Taking our Beyonceshop to Spain, to win silver medals, was a dreamy weekend, a great way to bond the chorus and sharpen up our performance. Thanks to some excellent work by our treasurer, we were able to subsidise part of the trip and offer assistance to people who may have needed it, so nobody felt excluded from our activities on a financial basis. We worked so hard to get our show so polished, and that came through in both official and audience feedback - I cannot wait to take our Sandcastles to LABBS and render them speechless, to be frank. Special shout-out to our mascot/deputy director Seren for bringing us luck (and thanks to Simon and Emma for juggling parental duties and top MD/baritoning!)

Along with expanding our chorus and bossing it in Spain, we will now be appointing a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging representative on committee, to help us in our ongoing task to be the most inclusive and welcoming chorus we can be. We've also moved into our new rehearsal space in Pimlico - now feeling very much at home there, and I'm grateful to all of our members for acclimatising to this new location with no fuss. We held an amazing double-header concert at Christmas with Meantime, and we have a summer concert to look forward to. We've been able to get everyone who wanted it one-to-one coaching with Rob Mance, who has confirmed that we have improved no end in our singing, we've had a great retreat including an amazing potluck dinner - so many talented chefs among us! - and we have found redemption in the Way of the Cup. Who would have thought a simple coffee cup could make us - manifesting this now - 80%+ scorers...!

So onwards and upwards into the next year, which will be another exciting one for LCS. I'd like to personally thank everyone who has been on the committee and music team while I have been coord for the last two years, and Charl my former co-coord who sadly had to leave us in January, for all the hard work and dedication going into running LCS so seamlessly to make Tuesday nights a fun, educational and emotionally nourishing time - and thanks for putting up with my general scattiness and verbosity!

Yours in Beyonceshop and in 14G,

Julia

3. Membership

Currently the chorus has 29 active members and 1 musical director. We are composed of 9 basses, 8 baritones, 8 leads and 4 tenors.

This means we are in the mid- size chorus category in Labbs. The next category up starts at 45 members.

Leavers

Sadly this year we said goodbye to Charl, Julia M, and Bethany. We also bid adieu to Cat as she went on maternity leave.

We have 2 members currently taking a leave of absence: Heather and Rachel.

Joiners

This year we welcomed back 4 members who all left to have children: Emma A, Emma O, Cat and Sarah T. It's been great having you back! It has also been mentioned that having a matinee concert really helped people with children to come and support LCS and to then feel ready to rejoin.

We have also welcomed 6 new members to the chorus: Caecilia, Pam, Ruth, Emma C, Ollie and Jennie. We've loved getting to know you and we hope you are still enjoying yourself.

We also have some prospective members who are very keen to join but waiting to be able to commit fully before they come for their audition which proves how well the chorus is showing the level of commitment that is needed to join.

Thankyous and Recruitment

Thank you to the music team for supporting all our new and returning members through the audition process, and to the rest of the chorus for being fantastically welcoming and supportive during rehearsals.

Thank you to everyone for filling in your attendance and informing me of your absences; it makes the chorus run much more smoothly.

We are currently looking at recruiting basses before we can recruit other voice parts to ensure good balance. If you know of anyone who might be interested, let me know, and spread the word!

Ruth Marr

Membership Coordinator 6th June 2023

Ruth

4. Events and Communications

The Events and Communications role was handed over from Bethany Southworth to Aurélie Gandour during the year. Aurélie is supported by Devi Joshi, Jenny Lycett, Lan O'Connor, Mariane Lingley, Sarah Palframan and numerous other people.

Aurélie is lead section leader and also sings with Endeavour chorus and the quartets Horizon and Peridot. She's a doctoral researcher in Ethnomusicology at SOAS University of London and the new Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for BABS.

Lots of events this year – none of which would have happened without the hard work of all team members and of the committee. Many people put in huge amounts of work to book things, chase up payments, and overall making sure that what needed to happen happened with as little friction as possible. Many thanks in particular to Julia and CatherineBass for all their hard work!

A little recap of all the events we've had since last AGM:

- **Scratch Quartet Night** (28th June) where six quartets sang a song each which they had worked on over only one month.
- **Double Joint Christmas Concert with Meantime** (2nd December) – shoutout to Alistair Lamyman for jointly organising this and to absolutely everybody who was voluntold into participating in the on-the-day organization.
- **Joint Open Mic with Meantime** (5th February) – with fabulous Sam Woolf as an accompanist and Julian Nicholl on sound, many members of both choruses sang in solos, duos and quartets over the course of a very entertaining afternoon.
- **Retreat** (25th – 26th February – and lots of one to ones in the preceding week) – our annual event with the incredible Rob Mance, who we even got to have for an extra Tuesday rehearsal a few days before.
- **SABS Convention** (14th – 16th April) – Spain, Sun, Sangria, #BeyoncéShop... and medals!

And a little social media roundup (if you're not already following us on all socials... what are you waiting for?!):

- Facebook: 1,709 followers
- Instagram: 992 followers
- Twitter: 896 followers
- YouTube: 163 followers
- LinkedIn: 56 followers
- TikTok: 23 followers

A big shoutout to Mariane for all her work on our website and Harmony Site!

Aurélie

5. Music Team Report

Simon Arnott is our Music Director. Simon studied Music at Bristol University, focusing on performance and composition, and is now a Deputy Director of Music in an independent school in south west London. Simon has been performing barbershop since starting in school and sings with the quartet, Trailblazers. He currently directs Meantime Chorus and London City Singers, creating many custom arrangements for these and other groups. He also runs workshops for the British Association of Barbershop Singers and Sweet Adelines International.

Sophie Sanctuary is the Assistant Musical Director. She has a music degree from Bristol University and now works as a primary school teacher. She also sings with current European champion quartet Avalon, and current BinH quartet champions Met44.

Jenny Lycett is the Director for Performance. Jenny has been with the chorus since its inception in 2007 and has specialised in choreography and performance. She works as a management trainer and has a background in learning and development.

Katherine Aston is the Director for Vocal Pedagogy. She has a PhD in Education, a Masters in Teaching and in her PGCE specialised in Higher Education.

This year's Section Leaders were:

Tenor	Mariane Lingley
Lead	Aurelie Gandour
Baritone	Hazel Peck
Bass	Julia Blyth

This group makes up the Music Team, which is the group that the Trustees have tasked with ensuring that our music is of the right standard and nature to support our Objects. Catherine Phillipson is the Music Secretary and trustee representative on the music team.

In the last year, London City Singers have had great musical success in promoting our own brand of barbershop to the wider public and educating about the style. One major musical decision for the chorus was moving from Sweet Adeline's International to The Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers. One of the most important musical reasons was greater freedom of music choice in competition and a strong education offering from the organisation.

For the first time, we performed a matinee as well as an evening show at Christmas. Singing with Meantime Chorus using both traditional accompanied carols and new a cappella arrangements was a highlight; it was wonderful to do this concert again after the lockdown years without it.

Our yearly retreat weekend with Rob Mance was an excellent educational experience, enhanced by the chorus funded 1:1 vocal lessons throughout the week. As always, the education provided helped advance the knowledge of the singers greatly to improve the performance of the chorus. We are able

to take this knowledge and spread it throughout the barbershop and choral communities through concerts and education sessions.

Both our Musical Director and newly appointed Assistant Musical Director have given educational talks at a variety of events, including BABS QuartetCon, LABBS Harmony College and BABS Sing 2023 Convention.

To bridge the gap between our annual contest dates moving from May to October due to the change in organisation, we attended the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers convention and took part in the International Chorus Contest. We achieved a high score and great praise from the audience, bringing new arrangements to the barbershop style; this culminated in winning the silver medal.

We continue to strive for excellence in singing and helping to educate others in the style of barbershop.

Simon

6. Music Education Report

Catherine Phillipson is the Music Secretary. Catherine is actively working to promote treble-range harmony brigading in the UK. She sings bass with LCS and lead in mixed-range harmony brigades.

The Music Education budget was established during the year in order to support our charity's educational objectives.

The budget is to be used by the trustees under guidance from the Music Team, and it aims to give the chorus and individual chorus members a broader, deeper education in barbershop singing and vocal pedagogy than they can get from the standard activities of chorus rehearsals, retreat and convention.

The budget can be used for (but is not restricted to):

- Additional coaching for the chorus and individuals;
- Attending a variety of music education choruses;
- Supporting individual chorus members who wish to learn relevant skills such as directing, arranging and quartetting;
- Encouraging members to attend Harmony College and similar specialist barbershop training.

The budget is funded by our Gift Aid reclaims and this year it has also benefited from £650 of donations from individual chorus members.

This year we spent £2,480 on music education and paid for:

- 17 individual coaching sessions with Rob Mance;
- A vocal pedagogy course for Katherine Aston, our Musical Director for Vocal Pedagogy;
- A vocal health training course for Mariane Lingley, one of our Section Leaders;
- Travel bursaries were offered to eight chorus members who attended Harmony College, including Sophie Sanctuary, our Assistant Musical Directors who attended the Director's Stream. Two LCS members, Sophie and Aurelie Gandour, also delivered training courses on that event, and Catherine Phillipson helped to organise a new Extreme Quartetting stream.
- Travel bursaries were also offered to three members who attended Harmony Brigade and one who received quartet coaching at the BABS Directors' College.

The Trustees were also very happy to be able to use the charity's reserves to offer staged payments to non-chorus members attending LABBS Harmony College. This offer carried no financial risk to the chorus as the advances were completely covered by the college's cancellation terms, and we plan to offer this again in the future if necessary.

Going forward, we are developing strong links with both LABBS and BABS educational teams and we look forward to encouraging more chorus members to take part in their activities. We are also targeting more coaching for both the chorus and individuals, particularly with leading US coaches who are already planning visits to the UK

Catherine

7. Charitable Oversight

Julia is the trustee in charge of oversight of our charitable activities. Julia is the bass section lead and sings in chorus with LCS and in quartet with Horizon.

In this role, I am asked to scrutinise all of our activities and ask the following questions:

Are our activities consistent with our charitable objectives?

This year, London City Singers has concentrated its efforts on reaching into wider communities both within and outwith barbershop music. We have left the more constricting confines of the Sweet Adelines International organisation, and joined LABBS, which has enabled us to forge ties with a wider range of people nationally. Members of LCS have been involved at a committee level in initial moves to blend together various barbershop societies into a more cohesive whole, which will in turn leave us able to expand our educational reach.

We have concentrated on inclusivity this year, amending language in our constitution to make it less constricted by outdated gender norms. We are appointing a new trustee responsible for Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging, who will be working hard in communicating our objectives to a wider community. We are proud to be a fully inclusive high-voice choir, with no barriers to entry other than the need to bring core musical skills and a determination to learn.

How have our activities benefited the wider public?

We have concentrated this year on expanding our membership, by holding free and open rehearsal education sessions. These have been vital in communicating our version of modern barbershop and vocal pedagogy to the wider public. We have had excellent uptake on these sessions. We have expanded our social media to reach more people. We have also moved rehearsal venues to one which is larger and more accessible by public transport.

Are our activities sufficiently educational?

We have this year appointed a new music team secretary, who has worked with the treasurer to ensure that we have a robust music education budget that we haven't previously been able to access. As a result, we have been able to provide free one-to-one world-class coaching to all our members. We have enabled bursaries for members and non-members to attend educational sessions such as Harmony College. We have kept our online activities, both performances and educational materials, freely available.

Have we ensured our membership fees are not a barrier to participation?

We work on a system of pay-as-you-can donations for participation, rather than a set membership fee. We have a suggested amount that members donate per month, but they are free to donate more or less as they wish depending on their financial situation. We have been able to subsidise many costs

incurred by taking part in events such as the Spanish Association of Barbershop convention in Spain. We continue to ensure that cost will never be a barrier to participation in LCS.

The trustees agree that we have fulfilled our charitable objectives this year.

Julia

8. Financial Report and Plan 2022-25

Catherine Phillipson is the trustee in charge of Finances.

We switched to having a paid MD just as Covid happened, so this is the first full year that we have paid for both an MD and a rehearsal venue as well as an in-person retreat and convention. We had saved quite a bit of money over the last three years, including our initial Gift Aid reclaim, and even though we had been able to do very little fundraising, we went into the year with reserves (above the money required for cash flow) of around £10,000. Here is how we are shaping the chorus budget going forward, allocating our three different sources of income to specific chorus activities, and how we are planning to use some of those reserves.

1. Core Activities. The members' monthly donations are allocated to cover the “core” chorus activities, which are the rehearsal venue, MD costs, music, retreat and convention tickets. This year this comes to £14,635. Almost all these costs are fixed and so if we get more members they don't increase very much. However our core income is directly proportional to the number of members, which is targeted to increase now that we have joined LABBS. We are using the reserves to support this in the short term as the trustees have committed to rebuilding and growing membership numbers.

2. Music Education. We are now receiving over £2,500 per year Gift Aid, and the plan is to use this, together with any one-off donations received, to form our music education budget. This budget is indicative and could be flexible if the Music Team require it. Music education can include personal or group coaching, attending barbershop education events and training. Music education does not always align well to financial years, so unused music education budget can be carried forward to the next financial year. The trustees may also decide to use some of this money to reduce additional costs for some or all of the members.

3. Reducing Additional Costs. Any additional fund raising will allow us to subsidise some of the costs of retreat and convention, to reduce the number of times we have to ask members for more money to cover a particular event. Because we will have two conventions in calendar year 2023 (although in different chorus FY's), we have allocated up to £2,000 of reserves to subsidise these costs where appropriate. Going forward we are intending to do more fundraising in order to cover these costs in a sustainable way.

THREE YEAR PLAN 2022-2025				May 2022- April 23		May 2023-Apr 24	May 2024-Apr 25
				BUDGET	ACTUAL		
Chorus size	KEY METRIC 	Rebuild to	26	26	Grow to	32	Grow to 36
SURPLUS OR LOSS				(£6,315)	(£3,609)	(£3,420)	(£751)
EXPENDITURE							
Core Activities							
MD costs				£4,800	£4,220	£5,000	£5,200
Main rehearsal venue				£4,375	£4,200	£5,000	£5,625
Music sheets and tracks				£1,000	£765	£1,200	£1,400
Convention				£2,160	£2,042	£2,700	£3,060
Retreat				£2,300	£2,321	£2,500	£2,800
Misc. core admin costs				£500	£613	£600	£700
Total core activities				£15,135	£14,161	£17,000	£18,785
per member				£631	£545	£567	£553
Music Education							
Additional coaching							
Weekend days with other coaches (in				£0	£0	£1,000	£1,000
Rehearsals with other coaches				£200	£0	£250	£500
Personal/small group coaching				£0	£1,726	£1,750	£2,000
Sectionals venues				£150	£88	£250	£350
Music education				£1,050	£522	£750	£1,000
Quartet support (coaching, brigading)				£800	£145	£300	£400
Outreach activities							
Total music education				£2,200	£2,480	£4,300	£5,250
per member				£92	£95	£143	£154
Reducing Additional Costs							
LABBS Transition payment (one-off)				£900	£1,060		
Convention accom paid for by chorus				£3,000	£2,760	£2,800	£1,700
Retreat accom paid for by chorus				£0	£1,180	£750	£850
Dress deposit refunds (2023 only)					£40		
Additional costs budget				£3,900	£5,040	£3,550	£2,550
per member				£163	£194	£118	£75
TOTAL ACTUAL/PLANNED EXPENDITURE				£21,235	£21,681	£24,850	£26,585
per member				£885	£903	£828	£782

THREE YEAR PLAN 2022-2025				May 2022- April 23		May 2023-Apr 24	May 2024-Apr 25
				BUDGET	ACTUAL		
INCOME							
Core Income							
	Membership Fees			£10,600	£10,673	£14,400	£16,320
	Prospective Members Fees				£220		
	Total core income			£10,600	£10,893	£14,400	£16,320
Charity-related Income							
	Gift Aid			£2,620	£4,157	£2,880	£3,264
	Other donations			£0	£650	£0	£0
	Total charity-related income			£2,620	£4,807	£2,880	£3,264
Additional Fundraising							
	Concerts	VERY IMPORTANT		£1,000	£1,963	£2,500	£3,000
	Gigs			£350	£350	£1,000	£2,000
	EasyFundRaising			£250	£86	£500	£750
	Branded goods			£100	£0	£150	£500
	Internet music sales			£0	-£27	£0	£0
	Total additional fundraising			£1,700	£2,372	£4,150	£6,250
TOTAL ACTUAL/FORECAST INCOME				£14,920	£18,072	£21,430	£25,834
Total Surplus/Shortfall				(£6,315)	(£3,609)	(£3,420)	(£751)

Catherine

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	LONDON CITY SINGERS			1191118	CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	01-May-22	To	31 Apr 2023	
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					
Members dues	10,673	-	-	10,673	-
Prospective members fees	220	-	-	220	-
Gift Aid reclaims	4,157	-	-	4,157	-
Music education donations	650	-	-	650	-
Paid gigs income	350	-	-	350	-
Recording sales	- 27	-	-	- 27	-
Other donations	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	86	-	-	86	-
Performance income	1,963	-	-	1,963	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	18,072	-	-	18,072	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	18,072	-	-	18,072	-
A3 Payments					
Musical Director	4,220	-	-	4,220	-
Rehearsal venues	4,200	-	-	4,200	-
Music sheets & tracks	765	-	-	765	-
Convention chorus costs	2,042	-	-	2,042	-
Retreat chorus costs	634	-	-	634	-
Retreat coaching costs	1,687	-	-	1,687	-
Sweet Adelines	- 33	-	-	- 33	-
Misc.core expenses	581	-	-	581	-
Cash movement	65	-	-	65	-
Additional coaching costs	1,726	-	-	1,726	-
Sectional support	88	-	-	88	-
Education	522	-	-	522	-
Quartet Support	145	-	-	145	-
LABBS	1,061	-	-	1,061	-
Convention per-person costs	2,760	-	-	2,760	-
Retreat per-person costs	1,180	-	-	1,180	-
Image	40	-	-	40	-
Sub total	21,681	-	-	21,681	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,681	-	-	21,681	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,610	-	-	- 3,610	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,389	-	-	14,389	-
Cash funds this year end	10,780	-	-	10,780	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,780	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	Catherine Phillipson	Catherine Phillipson		06-Jun-23
	Julia Blyth	Julia Blyth		06-Jun-23

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1191118

Accounts



Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021-22

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ON THE COVER

London City Singers on stage at the chorus competition of the Warwick Convention 2022 of the Quartet of Nations (Sweet Adelines International Region 31)

Our purpose

We believe that barbershop singing is one of the most demanding and awe-inspiring ways to make music. That's why London City Singers is committed to mastering skills to challenge and motivate our members, and to create memorable experiences for our audiences.

Message from our Chorus Coordinators

London City Singers has two trustees serving as Co-Chorus Coordinators for the period covered in this report: **Julia Blyth** and **Charl Asuit**.

A year ago, we had an Annual General Meeting, which you'd be forgiven for not remembering because it was - like every rehearsal we'd had for 14 months before that, and everything else in our lives back then - held on Zoom. I personally don't remember it at all, because I was deep in a post-Astrazeneca fever frenzy, but that in itself marked a turning point from the long dark days of pandemic-enforced lockdown to where we are now. Hard to believe it's only been a year.

To be a singing group that cannot sing together is not altogether a great way to be, so I'm very happy to report that we have made significant progress in the last 12 months to approach some kind of normality again. While Simon and the music team continued their heroism to keep us all learning and give us the community of online rehearsals, sterling efforts were made by the previous committee (and assistants) to find our new rehearsal venue, St James Garlickhythe, and in August we made the first tentative attempts to come back together to rehearse. First in masks, at a big distance, breaking every 20 minutes to breathe the outside air, and unable to hear each other, or hug.

But even though it was challenging, we had a lot of little milestones that we could mark through the year. We met all the people that had joined us over lockdown and we'd only ever seen on Zoom screens, we sang songs together we had only

learned (and arranged ourselves!) in our



Julia, Charl and Simon accepting awards on behalf of London City Singers at the Warwick Convention 2022

bedrooms alone. We eventually were able to ditch the masks, then stay indoors (with our big winter coats on!), then stand closer together. And although there were setbacks - Omicron ruining our chance for a Christmas social and robbing us of an evening with Deke Sharon - we were able to have a Christmas activity with Meantime, put together an amazing convention set, have a full retreat with everyone in attendance AND His Majesty Rob Mance to coach, and then go to Warwick and deliver a trophy - and medal-winning performance to be proud of!

All this would not have been possible without the continued passion and tenacity of our members, who have come together every week possible to keep LCS going, whether that's online or back in real life. And who have shown such

commitment to the charitable aims and ethos of the chorus - learning and maintaining great technique, supporting each other creatively, and entertaining the world while spreading our own brand of progressive barbershop. To have been awarded the Most Improved Chorus at the Quartet of Nations Convention just goes to show how hard everyone has worked in really trying circumstances that a lot of other choruses have not been able to survive. To have actually improved when we only had four proper months of singing together in two years - that's the LCS way all right.

As we take stock and enter a new chapter in LCS' story, I'm certain that we can build on this amazing foundation, and we've got a lot of exciting stuff in our future - new music, new events, and hopefully, a chance to collaborate and sing with some amazing US choruses in 2024. I couldn't be prouder and more honoured to be part of such an inspiring and fun group and I hope we go from strength to strength. With you guys, there's no doubt.

Yours in harmony,

Julia

This year was a year of transitions for LCS as we transitioned back to in-person

rehearsals from online (on Zoom). We now have a new rehearsal space right in the heart of the city. Hearing those chords at our first return to in-person rehearsals was such a joy!

We continue to focus on working as a charity. We are reviewing and re-establishing our operational processes and policies. We are also setting new goals to motivate us to achieve our charitable aims.

I'm in awe of every member of this chorus. The commitment and dedication to maintaining good singing and barbershop technique were evident throughout lockdown, and carried on when we got back to rehearsals in real life. These efforts were hugely rewarded when LCS was awarded the Most Improved Chorus and second place in the Division A category at the Warwick Convention. All these accolades with our very own brand of barbershop music. Wow! My jaw literally dropped when LCS' name was announced.

Looking to the future has never been more exciting and I'm honoured to serve and help steer the chorus to even greater heights.

Charl

Events & Communications

Bethany Southworth is the trustee in charge of Events and Communications.

During the period of May 2021-May 2022,



London City Singers in-person recording of **Christmas Lullaby**

we made the transition back to in-person rehearsals and events, although the events calendar has been on the quieter side as the world opens up again to the idea of live performances and gatherings. Our first in-person rehearsal since 2020 was on 3 August 2021 and other than a handful of weeks where illness/self-isolation led us to have rehearsal online, we have continued to rehearse in-person.

Due to Covid safety concerns around the Omicron variant in autumn/winter 2021, we opted to not host a public Christmas concert which would usually be a hallmark of the LCS annual calendar. However, we took the opportunity to be social, hosting a joint rehearsal with London-based men's chorus, Meantime, where we sang seasonal songs for each other and a joint song together. In-house quartets had the opportunity to perform for an audience,

some for the first time in a long time! This event was filmed: our video of [Christmas Lullaby](#) is available for viewing on YouTube, and our song collaboration with Meantime, [Christmas Time Is Here](#) is on Meantime's YouTube channel.

Our focus on returning to in-person regional convention hosted by Sweet Adelines International Region 31 (Quartet of Nations) means that, at time of writing, we are not considering hosting a summer concert this year. We look forward to planning future concerts now that our rehearsals are considerably less impeded by Covid.

To prepare for the contest we hosted our first in-person retreat since 2020 - attended by 27 members including seven first-timers. Robert Mance, an award-winning barbershop chorus director and vocal coach, returned to host the weekend in Sutton.

In May 2022, we competed at the Quartet of Nations convention, the first in-person since May 2019. We enjoyed not only the competition but also the chance to spend time together socially and strengthen the chorus bond. Achieving the Most Improved Chorus award and second place in our category (Division A for small choruses) was the cherry on top!

We will be bringing back an old favourite chorus event, the scratch quartet night, on 28 June 2022. This helps to promote and encourage the art of barbershop quartet

singing within the chorus. The event will only be presented to an internal audience.

Aurelie Gandour was added this year to the Events & Comms committee to assist with several tasks. Her skill for long-term planning and vision will be immeasurably useful as we plan ahead to future concerts and outreach events, including a plan to host a chorus exchange between London and Kansas City, with Meantime, Central Standard, and Vocal Standard choruses. This is due to take place in 2024 and will be a considerably high-profile event promoting barbershop music to new audiences on both sides of the pond.



*London City Singers and Meantime Chorus in-person recording of **Christmas Time Is Here***

We continue to use and grow our social channels, including the launch of our new TikTok channel, [@acaninjas](https://www.tiktok.com/@acaninjas). We look forward to experimenting with fun content to help the joy of barbershop reach far and wide!

Bethany

Membership

Jessie Kwok is the trustee in charge of Events and Communications.

At the time of writing this report, we have 27 singers at London City Singers: three tenors, nine leads, seven baritones and eight basses. In addition, we have one music director.

While we saw strong participation in chorus activities during Covid lockdown, the return to in-person rehearsals meant that some of us had to re-evaluate our life priorities while others relocated to different cities. With that in mind, we said our goodbyes to Daisy, Deborah, Maggie, Mary, Mea and Mesi.

This year, we welcomed back a returning member, Sarah, a brand new member, Devi.

An extra well done to those who compete with LCS for the first time in the Sweet Adelines International Region 31 convention. They are Ann, Anna, Bethany, Devi, Julia, Kate, Rachel, Sally and Sophie.

Thank you all for your support in the last three years as I step down as membership coordinator. Good luck to Ruth, who is taking over the role.

Jessie

Music

Simon Arnott is our Music Director and also heads the Music Team. Music Team members are:

Jenny Lycett - assistant director

Katherine Aston - assistant director

Mariane Lingley - tenor section leader

Aurelie Gandour - lead section leader

Hazel Peck - baritone section leader

Julia Blyth and **Catherine Phillipson** - bass co-section leaders

Bringing the chorus back from the virtual chorus world of the pandemic was always going to be a difficult task; however, I believe we have managed to come back very strongly to promote our brand of barbershop.

Knowing that a Christmas concert would be difficult to navigate with the ever changing situation regarding Covid, we opted to do a recording. The recording was sung in person and involved a collaboration with Meantime Chorus. Although distanced and wearing masks, it was a wonderful experience to perform together again. The videos were released on multiple platforms to reach a wide audience. We released Christmas Lullaby and Christmas Is Here, the latter sung with Meantime Chorus both arranged for the choruses by myself.

With restrictions beginning to lift in 2022, we were able to hold our in person retreat with Rob Mance, a vocal pedagogy expert from one of the top barbershop choruses in the world. We were able to learn a huge amount from the weekend to help us towards our musical objectives. Having brought Rob to the UK along with Meantime Chorus, we were able to share his work with other groups and individuals

throughout the week. The annual retreat is a huge part of the chorus calendar and it was wonderful to have this back in person.

Having not been in a Sweet Adelines contest since May 2019, we decided to bring exciting new music to the competition despite the probable outcome of the music category not scoring them well. We felt it important to be ourselves and promote the music we love to a barbershop audience. Using *Pulled* and *Almost There* as our contest set, we were able to win the most improved chorus and second place division A with our highest score and placing to date. I have always thought it one of the best achievements to win the Most Improved trophy and this year in particular really shows the dedication of the chorus through a difficult couple of years.

We now have a large list of repertoire suggestions to look through and a year with greater potential for performances. I look forward to continuing the musical development of the group to achieve the goals the chorus sets.

Simon

Charitable oversight

Julia Blyth is the trustee in charge of oversight of our charitable activities.

Are our activities consistent with our objectives?

We have been able to transfer smoothly from rehearsing online to rehearsing in real life, whilst still maintaining a streaming option for those who could not attend due to reasons of location or personal risk levels.

We have utilised a very thorough risk assessment to ensure that rehearsing in real life while the pandemic was a factor was as safe for members as possible, including distancing, mask wearing, air breaks, improved ventilation and monitoring air quality. This ensured the mental health and wellbeing benefits of singing with others were maintained with minimal risk to physical health. We did not report any outbreak of Covid from our rehearsals.

We have been able to supply financial support through a bursary for a quartet of our members, to assist their education and progress through the competition system. We have used some of our online activities to raise money for other musical charities.

How have our activities benefited the wider public?

We have introduced a wide range of new social media platforms to our outreach, which allows us to reach a much larger demographic. We are using this as an educational tool to educate and inspire the public in the art of modern barbershop. We continue to develop our open audition system, which allows us to reach the widest possible pool of potential singers,

assessing people for their willingness and ability to learn, rather than their existing barbershop skills. We have been able to take part in public performances which were streamed online.

All our online activities have been available freely on the internet.

Are our activities sufficiently educational?

Our online activities are the main spur of education for the public. We have been able to receive coaching from internationally renowned vocal coaches for the chorus, and individual members and other non-members have also benefited from the access provided by LCS.

LCS members have taken an active part in the Sweet Adelines convention and in a wide range of other barbershop workshops.

Have we ensured our membership fees are not a barrier to participation?

We have a bursary system and a flexible fee scale for any member who is not able to donate the full membership contributions each month. We have also made any contributions to financing trips to convention or costs involved in retreats or extra training voluntary for members. We do not intend membership donations to be a barrier to singing with the chorus.

The trustees agree that we have fulfilled our charitable objectives this year.

Financial statements and report

Rachel Gibbs is the trustee in charge of looking after our finances.

What a year! We have seen the return of in person rehearsals and events after the pandemic. We started hiring the church for in person rehearsals in August, held our in-person retreat with the one and only Rob Mance (and Simon, Simon isn't so bad).

During the pandemic the chorus's finances have benefited from not having to pay for rehearsal space and from starting to claim Gift Aid.

To celebrate the return to in-person events and give back to our members for all their financial support over the pandemic period, the chorus covered just over half of the costs of retreat and convention this year whilst keeping

ourselves in a relatively similar financial position to how we started the year.

Next year, the chorus will need to start thinking about saving a little money and fundraising for our planned trip to the United States.

I've just about kept the chorus finances ticking over in between illness, a busy job and a hectic life so I'm delighted to be handing over the books to the wonderfully knowledgeable Catherine. I'd like to give my huge thanks and appreciation to the others on the committee who have been an amazing, welcoming, and lovely group to work with and wish them the very best of luck for the next year!

Rachel



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LONDON CITY SINGERS

1191118

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-May-21

To

30-Apr-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members dues	10,140	-	-	10,140	6,940
Prospective members fees	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid reclaims	5,205	-	-	5,205	-
Performance income	-	-	-	-	583
Paid gigs income	-	-	-	-	-
Recording sales	-	-	-	-	-
Other donations	75	-	-	75	-
Members contributions	4,298	-	-	4,298	11,168
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,718	-	-	19,718	18,691
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,718	-	-	19,718	18,691
A3 Payments					
Rehearsal venues	2,890	-	-	2,890	-
Musical Director	4,275	-	-	4,275	3,000
Music sheets & tracks	271	-	-	271	443
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Retreat chorus costs	600	-	-	600	-
Retreat coaching costs	1,732	-	-	1,732	661
Retreat per-person costs	126	-	-	126	-
Additional coaching costs	15	-	-	15	-
Image	40	-	-	40	-
Convention chorus costs	2,430	-	-	2,430	-
Convention per-person costs	4,924	-	-	4,924	-
Sweet Adelines	1,212	-	-	1,212	422
Marketing	-	-	-	-	-
Website	356	-	-	356	247
Misc. expenses	276	-	-	276	98
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	19,147	-	-	19,147	4,872
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	19,147	-	-	19,147	4,872
Net of receipts/(payments)	571	-	-	571	13,819
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,819	-	-	13,819	-
Cash funds this year end	14,390	-	-	14,390	13,819

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	14,390	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,390	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Catherine Phillipson	CATHERINE PHILLIPSON	09-Oct	
	Julia Blyth	JULIA BLYTH	09-Oct	

Reference and administrative details

Charity number

1191118

Company number

CE023771

Registered address

310 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4EH

Structure and governance

London City Singers (LCS) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution, which describes its charitable aims, how the trustees are elected, their powers and duties, and how members are involved in the governance of the CIO.

LCS is an accredited chapter of an international barbershop organisation called Sweet Adelines International. This accreditation requires LCS to be compliant with their governance policies, encapsulated into the Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules. When the CIO was established, the leadership team ensured alignment between the CIO constitution and Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The chorus coordinating committee oversees the running of the CIO and is made up of the Board of Trustees and our Music Director. The trustees and Music Director serving for period covered by this annual report are:

Chorus Coordinators

Charl Asuit (appointed 4 May 2021)
Julia Blyth*

Secretary

Lan O'Connor (appointed 25 Jan 2022)

Events & Communications Coordinator

Bethany Southworth

Membership Coordinator

Jessie Kwok

Finance Coordinator

Rachel Gibbs

Music Director

Simon Arnott**

* also serving as Music Team

Representative on the Board of Trustees

** invited to all trustees meeting but does not have a vote

LONDON CITY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1191118

Accounts

London City Singers

Annual Report

2020-21



London City Singers Annual Report 2020-21

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BLENDED REPORT FOR 2020-21 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-22

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1

Introductory Note



Introductory Note

London City Singers has been active as a chorus since 2007, set up as an unincorporated organisation. In May 2019, the chorus voted to convert itself into a charity.

This report covers all the chorus activities from May 2020-April 2021. Although some of this period was before formal approval was received from the Charities Commission, this report shows how all the activities in this period were aligned to the new charitable objectives.

The new charity, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (or “CIO”) was formally established on 2nd September 2020. The old organisation is being wound up; it cannot be converted into a CIO.

Structure and Governance

London City Singers (“LCS”) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”). Its charity number is 1181119 and its company number is CE023771.

LCS is governed by its constitution which describes the charitable aims, how the chorus elects the trustees, the powers and duties of the trustees and how members are involved in the governance of the charity and chorus.

LCS is an official chartered chapter of an international barbershop organisation called Sweet Adelines International. This membership requires LCS to be compliant with their governance rules and regulations, which are translated into a document called the “Standing Rules”. When the CIO was established the leadership team ensured alignment between the Charity Constitution and the Standing Rules.

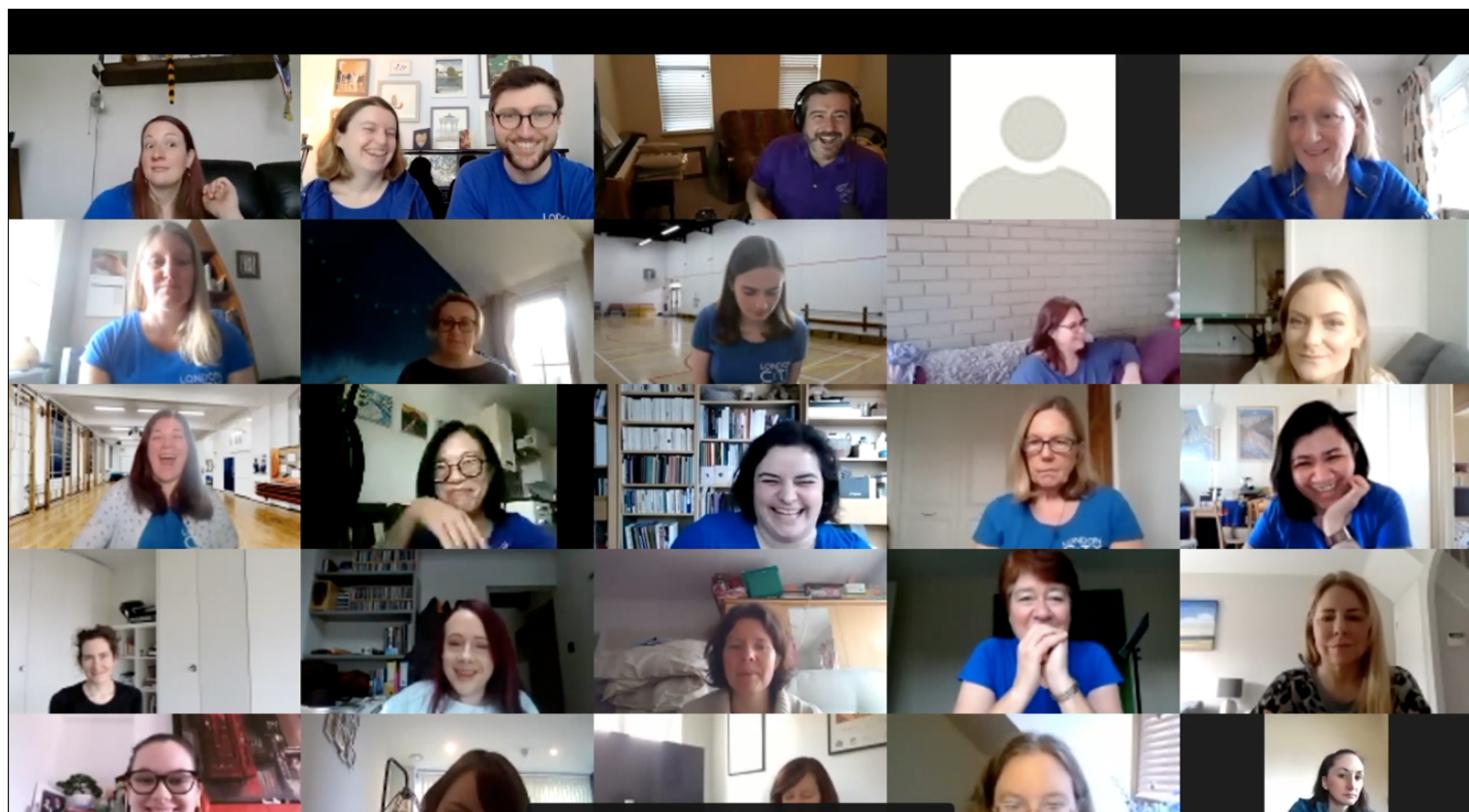
The CIO is run by the Board of Trustees. The trustees at the end of this year were:

Chorus Coordinator	Heather Wright
Secretary	Sally Rowberry
Finance	Gabriela Degwitz
Membership	Jessie Kwok
Events and Publicity	Bethany Southworth
Music Team Representative	Julia Blyth

In addition, the Music Director, Simon Arnott, is invited to attend all the trustee meetings but does not have a vote.

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Chorus Coordinator's Report



Chorus Coordinator's Report

Heather Wright is the Chairman of the trustees and the Chorus Coordinator. Heather sings bass with the chorus.

I can't quite believe it has been a year since I wrote the last report acknowledging the loss we all felt at not being able to sing together. That loss and sadness is still there, but it's tinged with hope at what we have to come over the coming months and years.

Looking back at the last year, what we've done and achieved has been so different to what we would have expected, but reading the list in the Events section, I'm sure you will agree we still did great! As well as these amazing events, we also managed to recruit a good few new members which is an achievement in any year, but in a pandemic even more so. I hope they stick with us as we venture back into real chorus singing.

It has been a really strange experience, being the coordinator of a singing group that hasn't sung together at all, but we have found so many creative ways to make it work. I am impressed by each and every one of you. To the new members who joined, who we only know as squares on a screen, thank you for bringing some fresh energy and outstanding commitment, we are lucky to have found such fab new London City Singers. To the old members, who know what they're missing by not being able to sing together, thank you for your perseverance and novel ways to stay connected and singing during the last year.

I have mixed feelings about stepping down from my role as chorus coordinator – it has been a pleasure to represent you but it has obviously been a difficult year to do so. I hope I fulfilled my election campaign promises from the 2019 season – selling our risers, getting a new venue (despite losing it again) and I hope that I've made people feel as if they can talk to the committee about any difficulties they might have in the chorus. Going forwards, please do keep approaching the new committee with any questions or queries, including if there is anything preventing you from staying active in the chorus. We want to keep our members! This includes if you need any financial support with dues or other chorus expenses in the future.

I want to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee and wish the best of luck to those incoming. Also, a huge thanks to all the members of LCS who do so much work behind the scenes – including video making, socials, admin (e.g. charity registration). Really my job has been easy because so many in the chorus pull together to get stuff done. Thank you all, I am so happy to be a member of this group.

Virtual hugs and harmony,

Heather

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Membership



Membership

Jessie Kwok is the trustee in charge of membership. Jessie sings as a lead and is usually on the front row in performances.

2020 was a difficult year for many choruses who struggled to motivate and retain members, and could not find a way to manage new recruitment.

By contrast, 2020, was one of the biggest recruitment years in LCS history. At the start of lockdown, we created an entirely new virtual audition process. This did not necessarily assess people for their current barbershop singing skills but aimed to find singers who are willing to put in the work and improvement that being an LCS member requires.

We have also revised our membership fee structure, moving towards a voluntary donation of £30 per month. Any member who is not able to afford this can elect to pay less.

These two changes support our charitable objective to be accessible to singers from the widest possible pool of potential members.

From 28 members of last year, we are now 35 members strong (plus 1 director) – we are currently 10 basses, 7 baritones, 14 leads and 4 tenors.

This year we welcomed, into the bass section, Sophie Wilson and Anna Saernefaelt; into the baritone section, Kate Roberts; into the lead section, Julia Mandziy, Maggie Heslin, Rachel Gibbs and Mary Hill; into the tenor section, Sally Chestnutt and returning member Jo Holmes.

This year, we also said goodbye to Sarah Palframan and Cheryl Pardey. We hope that they will rejoin us in the not too distant future.

Thank you all for being such good team members and for your participation in these difficult times. Thank you to our new members who went through a slightly stranger audition process and persevered with coming to virtual rehearsals and events when you might not have even met any of us in person. Thank you to the team for being flexible and understanding with people's situation in general. Hopefully very soon we will be singing together again.

Jessie

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Events and Communications



Events and Communications

Bethany Southworth is the trustee in charge of events and communication, supported by Charl Asuit, Jenny Lycett, Adel Hanily, Mary Marshall, Lan O'Connor and numerous other people.

Bethany sings lead and also sings with Hot Ticket quartet and LABBS Youth Chorus. She works for the National Youth Orchestra as a fundraiser.

In what could have been a very quiet year for LCS, during the last year we have kept ourselves busy with numerous events and projects.

17th May 2020 – As part of the [Region 31 Online Convention](#) many of our members took part in the *How We Sang Today* mass sing video, and nominated Daisy Blench as our [Woman of Note](#). Another one of our members, Charl, was also nominated by the regional management team as their [Woman of Note](#).

29th June 2020 – We recorded and released our [first lockdown performance video](#) of *This Is Me* which amassed 1,831 views on YouTube, in support of London Black Women's Project. The song was arranged by our own Music Director, Simon Arnott.

20th October 2020 – We hosted an **online open evening** which led to us welcoming several new members as well as connecting with other singers from our region (UK and the Netherlands) and beyond.

20th November 2020 – Our first **LCS Sessions**, an open mic style event featuring members of the chorus; this was a private event for the chorus members.

1st December 2020 – We released our first [Christmas EP](#) in collaboration with Meantime Chorus.

11th December 2020 – Our **online Christmas concert** premiered on YouTube, joint with Meantime Chorus and featuring several quartets from both choruses, racking up 1,948 views. The chorus songs were also uploaded individually to respective YouTube channels.

[Christmas Lullaby](#) - 475; [Interference](#) - 187; [Fab-YULE-us](#) - 60; [Sham](#) - 57; [Sublime!](#) - 573; [Not So Mean Girls](#) - 111; [Christmas Time Is Here](#) - 323

We took donations totalling £533 through ko-fi.com, which was split evenly between the two choruses.

12th January 2021 – **LCS Sessions 2** - as above.

20th-21st February 2021 – We took our [annual retreat](#) online with Rob Mance; quite different to our usual retreats but including workshops on the performance side of *There Are Worse Things I Could Do* from our Assistant Music Directors, Jenny Lycett and Katherine Aston, *What The Voice Is* from Aurelie Gandour, and on *Performance Anxiety* from Emma Arnott. Simon ran a stream of arrangement workshops during which we arranged *Oops I Did It Again* as a chorus (which has now been published on [Sheet Music Plus](#)). We also had two great social evenings plus the **LCS Sessions 3**.

We ran these workshops again for Meantime Chorus, and in return they ran two of their workshops for us – Alex Sanctuary covered *Chorus Identity* and James Whittick covered the *Cycle of Fifths and Arranging*.

9th April 2021 – [LCS and Friends Concert](#) featuring loads of choruses and quartets from the UK and Ireland and within the chorus. This concert was in support of Help Musicians UK and raised £300 for the charity. This has had 1,085 views on YouTube. Individual songs from the chorus were also uploaded.

[Deeper Shade of Blue](#) - 274; [Somewhere In The Crowd](#) - 89; [There Are Worse Things I Could Do](#) - 66

23rd April 2021 – LCS Sessions 4 - as above, featuring a special chorus *Trickle Trickle* project for Simon!

We have a few things to look forward to as we slowly begin to bridge the gap from online to in-person singing.

14th-16th May 2021 – [Region 31 virtual convention](#) featuring our [#WeAreStillSinging video](#) and our [Unsung Champion](#) nomination for Catherine Phillipson for her work in creating the LCS charity.

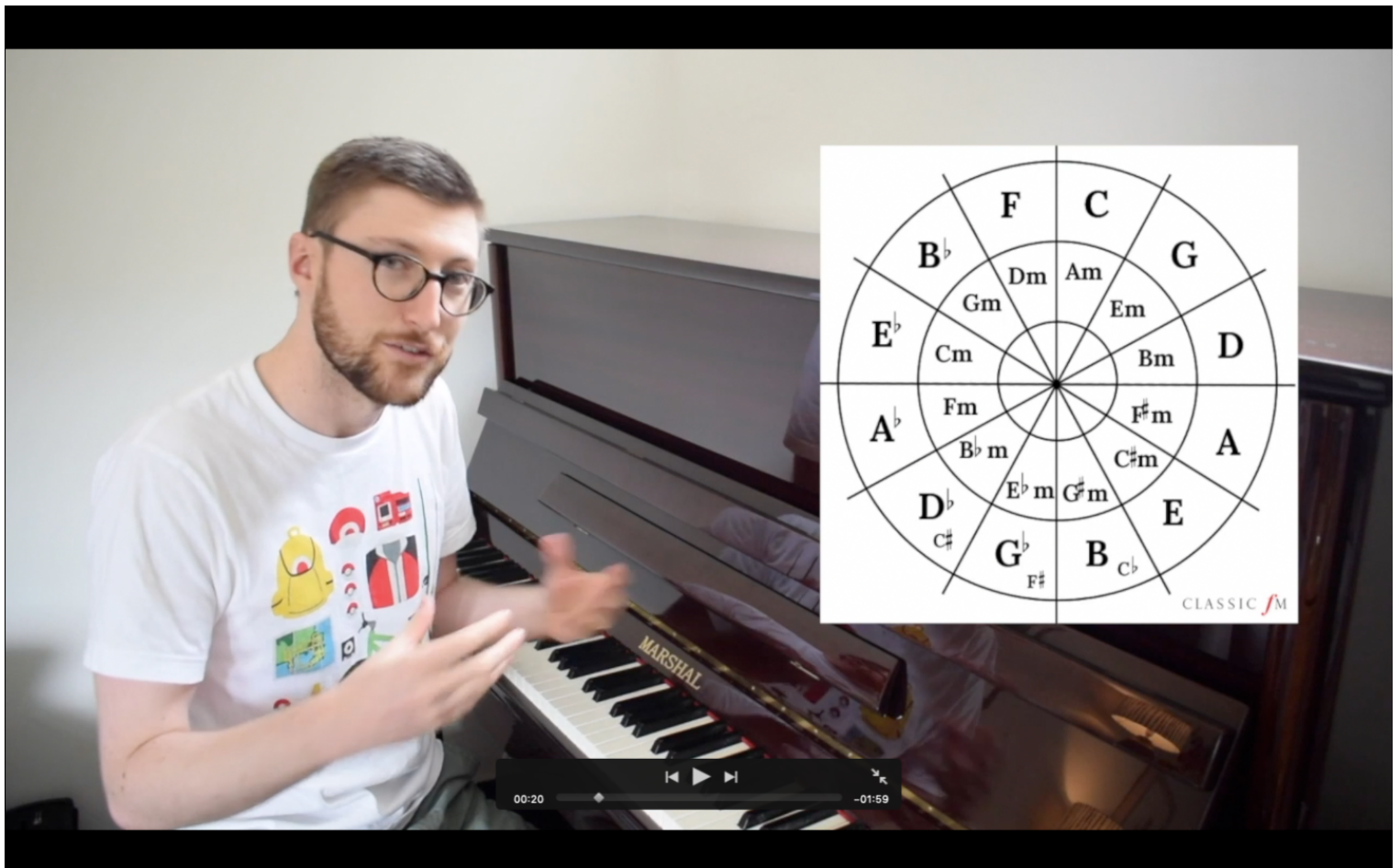
The events and comms team are looking forward to planning future events, whether online or in-person!

Bethany

viewing figures accurate at time of writing this report, May 2021

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Music Team Report



Music Team Report

Simon Arnott is our Music Director, supported by Jenny Lycett and Katherine Aston as Assistant Music Directors.

Simon studied Music at Bristol University, focusing on performance and composition, and is now a Deputy Director of Music in an independent school in south west London. Simon has been performing barbershop since starting in school and sings with the quartet, Trailblazers. He currently directs Meantime Chorus and London City Singers, creating many custom arrangements for these and other groups. He also runs workshops for the British Association of Barbershop Singers and Sweet Adelines International.

Jenny Lycett is Assistant Music Director for performance. Jenny has been with the chorus since its inception in 2007 and has specialised in choreography and performance. She works as a management trainer and has a background in learning and development.

Katherine Aston is Assistant Music Director for music. She has a PhD in Education, a Masters in Teaching and in her PGCE specialised in Higher Education.

This year's Section Leaders were:

<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Mariane Lingley</i>
<i>Lead</i>	<i>Aurelie Gandour</i>
<i>Baritone</i>	<i>Hazel Peck</i>
<i>Bass</i>	<i>Julia Blyth and Catherine Phillipson</i>

This group makes up the Music Team, which is the group that the Trustees have tasked with ensuring that our music is of the right standard and nature to support our Objects. Julia Blyth is the trustee representative on the music team.

First, I would like to thank every single member of the chorus. You have put so much effort in to maintaining and developing your skills during an entire year without in-person singing.

You have seen from the Events section that we have actually done a huge amount in the year. Our first key success was to create the new virtual audition process and run the open evening, which directly led to several new members joining. They bring a great range of voices and experience to the chorus, and I am really pleased that we managed to do this.

We then set up the LCS Sessions series, which gave chorus members a chance to try different styles of singing – these were such a success that in the end we ran four of them, topped off memorably by your gift to me of a surprise *Trickle Trickle* recording.

The Christmas concert was a great success, bringing together songs by LCS, our partner male voice chorus, Meantime, and quartets which spanned both groups. I was really impressed by the quality of the quartets in this, people had put in a great deal of extra work.

We then managed to construct an entire virtual retreat, including coaching of the whole chorus and smaller sub-groups by Rob Mance. This is the third year we have had coaching from Rob and he continues to support us strongly as we develop our technique and skills. We took advantage of the virtual format to create workshop streams, covering the performance side of *There Are Worse Things I Could Do* by Jenny and Katherine, *What The Voice Is* by Aurelie, and *Performance Anxiety* by

Emma. I led a set of arrangement workshops during which we arranged *Oops I Did It Again* as a chorus, which is going into the chorus's general repertoire and has now been published on [Sheet Music Plus](#).

We also ran an active outreach programme during the year. I ran a workshop with Lace City Chorus, and streams on Barbershop Arrangement for both Sweet Adelines Harmony College, and the British Association of Barbershop Singers. LCS members presented their workshops to Meantime¹ Chorus virtual retreat, and in return they presented workshops on *Chorus Identity* and the *Cycle of Fifths* to us. We also took an active part in the Region 31 workshop week.

As the vaccination rollout continues, we are hoping to move back to in-person rehearsals during the summer. We have a detailed plan for this, helping you to practice your posture and semi-occluded vocal tract (SOVT) exercises to get your voice back to its pre-Covid strength.

Our next goal would usually be the Christmas concert. However, we are going to make this very light-touch this year – if we can do it at all – so that we can use the autumn to move some of the songs we learned on the Zoom rehearsals into the main repertoire, and then start new songs which could be used for next year's convention in Warwick.

We'll discuss as a chorus what we want to do for the convention set – how adventurous or mainstream we want our music to be, and whether we want to be testing the boundaries of the new Sweet Adelines judging rules.

The other things that 2022 could hold is an in-person retreat with Rob Mance coaching us, and the possibility of returning to the Irish Association of Barbershop Singers competition in Ireland or doing a separate trip to perform with some of our Irish friends and supporters, including Blingmasters.

Either in 2022 or 2023, we are hoping to organise a London Barbershop Day in partnership with Meantime Chorus. We would like this to reach as many newcomers to barbershops as possible so are considering the possibility of holding it somewhere like the South Bank. This will require a great deal of work but would be a really inspirational goal to work towards.

2023 might perhaps be the opportunity to try again to organise the GQ concert we had to abandon in 2020. GQ remain one of the top global quartets, and like us, are pushing the boundaries of Sweet Adelines rules, so this would be a fantastic event.

And then in 2024, I am really pleased to be able to tell you that both LCS and Meantime have been invited to Kansas City to perform with Rob Mance's choruses, Central Standard and Vocal Standard. This is an amazing offer although it will take a lot of organisation and preparation, so it is a great three-year goal to have.

Thank you all, and thanks to the rest of the Music Team, for working so hard and consistently during this really challenging year.

Simon

¹ Meantime are Simon's male barbershop chorus. We often do events together to offer audiences the full range of barbershop sound.

6

Charitable Oversight



Charitable Oversight

Julia is the trustee in charge of oversight of our charitable activities. Julia is the bass section lead and sings with both LCS and Capital Connection.

In this role, I am asked to scrutinise all of our activities and ask the following questions:

Are our activities consistent with our objectives?

We kept operating during the entire pandemic period, and never missed a scheduled rehearsal. This provided vital mental health support to our members during some very challenging times.

We have used some of our online activities to raise money for other musical charities.

How have our activities benefited the wider public?

We are very proud of our new audition process, which allows us to reach the widest possible pool of potential singers, assessing people for their willingness and ability to learn, rather than their existing barbershop skills. We created a virtual audition process which we were able to use during the lockdowns, allowing more people to join the chorus whatever their current household circumstances.

All our online activities have been available freely on the internet.

Are our activities sufficiently educational?

Our open rehearsal attracted participants from across and beyond the UK, with a very wide range of barbershop skills, allowing some people to try out this style of singing for the first time.

LCS members have taken an active part in the Sweet Adelines virtual convention and in a wide range of online workshops.

We have also run workshops for LCS and Meantime on barbershop arranging, the management of performance anxiety and the voice, and chorus members also worked with Sweet Adelines Region 31 to lead the recording of a new regional polecat.

Have we ensured our membership fees are not a barrier to participation?

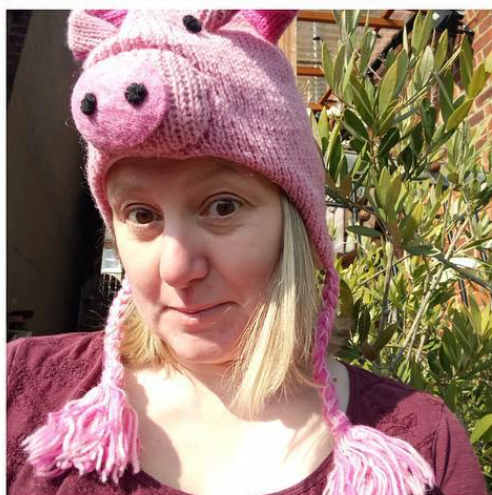
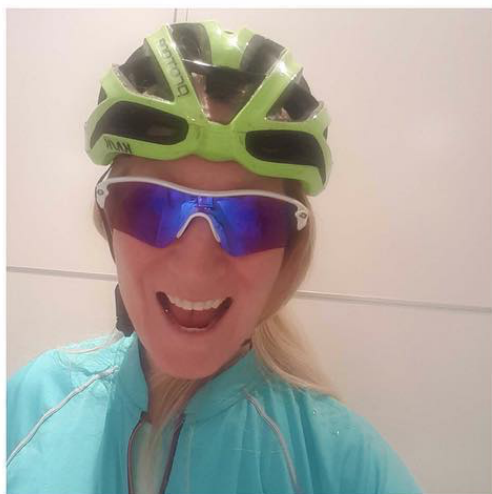
During the lockdown period we introduced a bursary system and a flexible fee scale for any member who is not able to donate the full £30 each month. We do not intend membership donations to be a barrier to singing with the chorus.

The trustees agree that we have fulfilled our charitable objectives this year.

Julia

7

Financial Report



Financial Report

Gaby Degwitz is the trustee in charge of Finances.

This past year was pretty unique, as the chorus went virtual. Since we had no in-person rehearsals or events, and were fortunate to have more new singers joining us than leaving, we closed this financial year with a sizeable budget surplus. Despite not holding any live concerts this year, the chorus received income from online donations and CD sales/streaming.

This coming year, we expect to gradually return to in-person activities. As such, I have accounted for the hire of a new rehearsal space and have also allocated some of the budget to next year's retreat. Since the next in-person convention is scheduled for 2022, there is no money allocated for convention in May 2021, but we should have enough money left over at the end of this coming year to cover the cost of our next live convention. We also have money to use toward new costumes, new music and music education.

Huge thanks to Catherine for officially making London City Singers a charity in 2020. This means we can now benefit from tax reliefs, charity grants, and greater public recognition. Huge thanks also to Aurelie for making my job as treasurer so smooth and manageable with her beautifully detailed spreadsheets and documents—I am sure the next finance coordinator will agree. Thanks for trusting me with this job!

Gaby

During this year, the new London City Singers charity received approval from the Charities Commission and was formally incorporated on 2nd September. Members were given a choice of having their surplus historic membership fees refunded to them individually, or donating their share of the money to the new charity. These donations are shown as income in the new charity's accounts.

The next page contains the financial report for the charity for the part-year from 2nd September to 30th April.

Financial Report from 2/9/2020 to 30/4/2021

Income

Members dues	6,940
Other fundraising	583
Members contributions	11,168
	18,691

Expenses

Musical Director's Salary	3,000
Music sheets & tracks	443
Website	247
Sweet Adelines	422
Misc. expenses	98
Retreat - coach fee	661
	4,872

<i>Income - Expenses</i>	13,819
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BALANCE SHEET

Opening balance	0
Profit or (loss)	13,819

<i>Closing balance</i>	13,819
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date

To

Period end date

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members dues	6,940	-	-	6,940	-
Other fundraising	583	-	-	583	-
Members contributions	11,168	-	-	11,168	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	18,691	-	-	18,691	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	18,691	-	-	18,691	-
A3 Payments					
Musical Director	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Music	443	-	-	443	-
Website	247	-	-	247	-
Sweet Adelines	422	-	-	422	-
Misc expenses	98	-	-	98	-
Retreat - coach fee	661	-	-	661	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,872	-	-	4,872	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,872	-	-	4,872	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,819	-	-	13,819	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	13,819	-	-	13,819	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	13,819	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,819	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Rachel Gibbs	RACHEL GIBBS	23-Jan
Julia Blyth	JULIA BLYTH	21-Jan