

Sing Healthy Choirs
Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2023
Charity Number: 1194226

Approved at Trustees meeting: 17/1/24

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1.0 Introduction

The trustees present their annual report for the year ending 31st December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared on the “Receipts and Payments” basis as defined by the Charity Commission to apply to a charity of our size.

2.0 Reference and administrative details

CIO name: Sing Healthy Choirs

Charity registration number: 1194226

Charity address: Wilton House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1PH

Trustees

The trustees were established on the 25th May 2021 and have remained unchanged for the year.

Ann Shaw	Chair
Lynn Marshall	Secretary
Michael Gale	Treasurer
Paul Dunn	Trustee
Ann Stainton	Trustee
Nicola Nicholson	Trustee

In compliance with our constitution, two of the trustees (Nicola Nicholson and Paul Dunn) stood down at the annual AGM on 4th April 2023. No members wished to stand for election and Nicola and Paul were re-elected unopposed back into their posts.

3.0 Structure, governance and management

Sing Healthy Choirs CIO is governed by its Constitution document of 26th April 2021. The Constitution defines the objects of the charity and the associated controls and governance around it.

4.0 Objectives and activities

Sing Healthy Choirs CIO has two objects for the benefit of the public:-

1. To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the CIO trustees see fit including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals

2. Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine

The charity seeks to fulfil its objects through the running of choirs that benefit both the members in their enjoyment of music and also the general public who benefit from the choir performances.

Charitable donations are made to, primarily, local charities when the funding position of the charity permits.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The following responses are taken from the charities which benefited from Sing Healthy Choir concerts during 2023.

"Thank you so much for thinking of COATS, again; what a pleasant surprise! We have a number of themed days: St David, St Patrick, St George each of which will involve a professional entertainer. I think we will use your generous donation for this. Many thanks again to all at Sing Healthy who have made this possible." – **COATS**, February 2023

"Thank you very much for the £200 donation. It will allow us to run more great events. Thank you for supporting the work that we do." – **CLASP**, March 2023

"Wow what an amazing amount you raised! Thank you SO much! With demand on our service higher than ever it will come in extremely handy!"
– **Bracknell Food Bank**, May 2023

"An absolute HUGE thank you to @singhealthy, for raising an amazing amount of money for us at ARC!" – **ARC Counselling**, August 2023

"Oh wow...that is an incredible amount of money raised and what a wonderful result to receive just before Christmas. Once again thank you to the whole choir for a wonderful evening of music and for of course supporting your local ambulance charity." – **South Central Ambulance Charity**, December 2023

5.0 Achievements and performance

5.1 General situation

2023 represented the second full year of Sing Healthy Choirs being a CIO. Sing Healthy has continued to operate two choirs, one more oriented towards classical choral repertoire and the other to popular contemporary music. This mix offers the members a choice and some do attend both choirs.

The constraints from Covid are now a distant memory and the choirs have fully returned to normal activities.

Our two Music Directors continue to develop enjoyable repertoires for the choirs that have led to successful concerts both musically and financially. The trustees continue to be indebted to the Directors for their talent, musicality and willingness to try many new approaches for the enjoyment of the members and general public.

Overall, our membership numbers have remained relatively stable with new members largely matching our losses. There is some seasonality to the membership numbers which has meant a reduction in membership income over the year compared with 2022, but overall, the trend is positive and we are pleased to welcome new singers. The trustees provide the membership with newsletters to keep them abreast of choir activities, plans and charitable donations.

5.2 Performances

We have held four successful public performances this year.

In April, we staged a Bracknell choir “Showtime” concert which showcased a range of songs from popular musicals and films. We were pleased to be joined by 'Liquorice Allsorts', Bracknell & Wokingham Community Band's clarinet octet.

July saw the Wokingham choir stage a “Serenata” concert in conjunction with Ascot Brass. The programme combined a selection of lyrical and romantic songs for choir and brass band, including famous opera choruses and folk songs.

A summer concert/picnic was held in July for the choir members, family and friends. This provided an opportunity for both choirs to come together, to enjoy each other's music and to sing joint pieces. Our CLASP Choir for adults with learning disabilities took part, too.

Finally in December, we had our joint choirs Christmas concert in conjunction with CLASP self-advocacy charity.

All our organised concerts proved to be very popular and appreciated. All were profitable and donations were presented to our chosen charities.

Christmas time also saw the members supporting several fundraising and publicity “sing outs” of popular carols at various locations across our area.

*“It was a pleasure having your choir sing in the Parlour. We had so many positive comments. We may have to host it in the Oak-room next year, due to the demand.” -
‘The Rose’ Wokingham*

Thank you for your entertaining efforts on Friday night! I have heard nothing but praise with regard to the concerts you so ably performed on such a cold night! **Crowthorne Parish Council**

5.3 Charitable giving

The CIO has been very pleased to make an increased number of charitable donations this year from our concert profits. Recipient charities:

COATS - Crowthorne Old Age to Teen Society is a charity whose object is to promote the welfare of Senior Citizens within Crowthorne and the surrounding area. It provides companionship, lunches, teas, activities, entertainment and services for local older people.

Caring, Listening and Supporting Partnership (CLASP) – a self-advocacy group for adults with learning disabilities

ARC Counselling – ARC offers confidential counselling services to all ages in a warm, comfortable and safe environment, offering much needed support to those who have become fearful or anxious.

South Central Ambulance Charity – raises money to support the Ambulance Service through services, projects and equipment including the training of First Responders which is not supplied by Government NHS funding

Bracknell Food Bank – works with referral agencies to provide support to those in need of emergency food in times of crisis and to offer help to break the cycle of poverty by putting people in touch with relevant agencies who can offer further aid.

6.0 Financial review

Overall, the charity made a profit of just over £1.9k.

Our cash reserves have increased to just over £16k which is slightly over our target level of approximately 50% of our subscription income.

Our approach to charitable donations is to use the profits from our concerts. The generosity of our members and audiences has allowed us to make over £5k in donations to a range of local charities selected by our members.

(Note that there has been a minor restructuring of the CC16a expenditure categories and the 2022 numbers have been similarly adjusted to enable comparison.)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Sing Healthy Choirs

No (if any)
1194226

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2023

To

Period end date
31/12/2023

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					
Membership Fees	26708	-	-	26,708	27,478
Concert Income	7634	-	-	7,634	8,530
HMRC Gift Aid on Membership Fees	3113	-	-	3,113	3,251
Music Score Sales	2019	-	-	2,019	1,453
HMRC Gift Aid on Concert/Event donations	518	-	-	518	615
Other Income	427	-	-	427	581
Clothing Sales	344	-	-	344	219
Tea/Coffee donations	92	-	-	92	38
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	40,854	-	-	40,854	42,164
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
		-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,854	-	-	40,854	42,164
A3 Payments					
Musical Directors Fees	16244	-	-	16,244	17,865
Donations from concerts	4665	-	-	4,665	5,101
Concert Costs	3560	-	-	3,560	4,083
Musical Directors Expenses	3325	-	-	3,325	3,466
Rehearsal Venues Hall Hire	3086	-	-	3,086	3,039
Music Scores	3104	-	-	3,104	2,042
Book Keeping	1800	-	-	1,800	1,800
Self Storage Hire	1320	-	-	1,320	1,032
Making Music Membership & Insurance	543	-	-	543	508
Website/Telephone/Storage/IT	430	-	-	430	430
Choir clothing	247	-	-	247	418
Other Donations	400	-	-	400	200
Miscellaneous Purchases	99	-	-	99	149
Zoom Video Conferencing		-	-	-	91
HSBC Bank Charges	86	-	-	86	82
Increase in cash float		-	-	-	39
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	38,909	-	-	38,909	40,345
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	38,909	-	-	38,909	40,345
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,946	-	-	1,946	1,818
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,283	-	-	14,283	12,465
Cash funds this year end	16,229	-	-	16,229	14,283

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 current account	16,229	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,229	-	-
	(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			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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
	M R Gale	M R Gale		17/01/2024
	A Shaw	A Shaw		17/01/2024

6.1 2023 Commentary

Comments are made on an exception basis

6.1.1 Income

The numbers for 2023 are very similar to 2022 and reflect two consistent post covid years with very similar activities.

Membership income over the year is slightly down and the associated Gift Aid income reflects that. Similarly, concert income is down as we had one less concert in 2023.

6.1.2 Expenditure

As with the income, our expenditure levels and pattern for 2023 was very similar to 2022.

While the Music Directors income appears to be down, this is because of exceptional payments made in 2022. The underlying comparable numbers are an increase in spend in 2023.

Music costs have increased with the repertoire including more items in copyright. While the impact is mitigated by the music sales income from the members, the cost is subsidised to some extent hence creating the overall deficit on music purchases vs sales.

The achievement of over £5k of charitable donations in total is considered a great success by the trustees

7.0 Plans for future periods

The trustees have continued to develop a broader strategic plan in 2023 identifying a number of key areas for the focus of activity.

Further work is needed to review elements of the plan with our Music Directors but it is already helping in framing the trustee agenda.

The trustees believe that Sing Healthy Choirs CIO continues to be well set up to meet our charitable objects.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Sing Healthy Choirs	No (if any) 1194226
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

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		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	
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		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,229	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
	M R Gale	M R Gale	17/01/2024	
	A Shaw	A Shaw	17/01/2024	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Sing Healthy Choirs

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1194226

Set out on pages

7&8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

H Basmal

Date:

25/02/2024

Name:

Hayley Basmal

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

CIMA

Address:

1 Aldworth Gardens

Crowthorne

Berkshire, RG45 6PQ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.