

ELY CONSORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1194693

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-06-07

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

Contact

Address 62 High Street
Haddenham
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB6 3XB

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:-(1) TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CHORAL CONCERTS IN EAST ANGLIA; AND(2) TO MAKE GRANTS TO SUPPORT SUCH GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION DETERMINE.

Activities: The objects of Ely Consort CIO are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts in East Anglia and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire
- Norfolk
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£11,777	£12,372	-	-
2024-08-31	£9,654	£9,396	-	-
2023-08-31	£11,104	£9,199	-	-
2022-08-31	£8,849	£8,366	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Henry Simmons	Chair	2022-11-17
Caroline Stanger		2022-11-17
Dr Angela Elizabeth Major		2026-01-22
Elisabeth Katharine Mellor		2022-11-17
Jonathan Bradley		2026-01-22
Miriam Alice Elisabeth Brown		2026-01-22
Roger Timothy Hill		2022-11-17

ELY CONSORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1194693

Accounts



**Annual Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31st August 2025**

Introduction and Charitable Objects

Ely Consort CIO is a Chamber Choir of about 40 voices based in Ely, Cambridgeshire. The choir's charitable object, as set out in the Constitution is as follows:

"The objects of the CIO are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts in East Anglia; and to make grants to support such general charitable purposes according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may in their absolute discretion determine."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for public benefit:

The activities of the charity are to:

- Perform public choral concerts throughout the year.
- Educate the general public in a wide variety of choral music across the ages both accompanied and unaccompanied including new compositions.
- Provide free or reduced membership costs for the disadvantaged and those in full-time education.
- Provide a wide variety of rewarding volunteering roles to deliver the charity's activities.
- Provide free or reduced-price concert tickets for young people and the disadvantaged.
- Provide occasional opportunities for school children to participate in concerts.

Administrative information

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee Selection: Co-opted

Trustees:

John Simmons, Chair

Roger Hill, Treasurer

Nicholas Barton

Elisabeth Mellor

Caroline Stanger

It is considered that all Trustees and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of Ely Consort are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Musical Director: Mathew Rudd

Charity Name: Ely Consort CIO

Charity Registration Number: 1194693

Musical Director's report

This report covers the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025. Ely Consort performed three concerts during the year in Chatteris Church, St. Mary's Church, Ely and Ely Cathedral.

We were pleased to return once again to Chatteris Church for our first concert of the season, where we performed a Christmas programme including two substantial works accompanied by a chamber orchestra, the Ad Hoc Sinfonia. In Haydn's *St Nicholas Mass*, our wonderful guest soprano soloist Elenor Bowers-Jolley was joined by alto (Monica), tenor (Martin) and bass (John) soloists from within the choir; although on a smaller scale than Haydn's famous late masses, the *St Nicholas Mass* is a delightfully charming setting, full of attractive melodies. The second major work was Ola Gjeilo's *Dreamweaver*, a thrilling new work for choir, soprano, piano and strings. The challenging and dramatic music brings this story vividly to life, and was well received by the enthusiastic audience. A selection of Christmas favourites completed the programme.

Our spring concert was a collaboration with our great friend and acclaimed violinist Steve Bingham; titled *Bach to the Future*, the programme began with a performance of Bach's extensive motet *Jesu, meine Freude*, which we interspersed with movements from his partitas and sonatas for solo violin. Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs* combined the forces of choir, violin and piano in an incredibly evocative setting of these short song texts, and works by fellow twentieth century American composers Morten Lauridsen and Aaron Copland provided a further modern contrast. More futuristic still, however, were Steve's incredible performances of music for electric violin, electronics and live looping. We were grateful to Jeremy Lloyd for accompanying us in this concert at short notice.

From time to time we are fortunate to commission composers to write pieces for us, and for our summer term in Ely Cathedral's Lady Chapel we were honoured to give the world premiere of *Sing, O heav'ns*, by Ben Ponniah, who is rapidly becoming one of the most in-demand choral composers of his generation. This wonderful and uplifting new piece formed a pair with the seventeenth century Ely Cathedral organist John Amner's setting of the same words, in a concert which contrasted old and new versions of different texts. Eric Whitacre's monumental *When David heard* was a highly challenging piece which we performed magnificently, clearly moving the audience with the power of this music.

We were delighted that Anne Reece was able to return to rehearsals and accompany this concert, after a broken ankle ruled her out of playing for us during the spring term; she is a hugely valued colleague who is appreciated by all of us both for her playing at our weekly rehearsals and in concerts.

The committee have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the music can happen; none of our concerts would be possible without the hard work which goes into various areas, including finance, administration, venue booking and liaison, publicity, website and

mailing lists, music hire, our own music library and lighting. We were very pleased to be joined by a number of new members at the beginning of the year who have already become valued members of the choir. Thank you to everyone involved in Ely Consort for another incredibly varied and successful season!

Matthew Rudd, Musical Director

Trustees' report

Achievements and Performance

The choir has performed three highly successful concerts in the season under review:

- 7th December 2024 – Chatteris Parish Church
- 15th March 2025 – St Mary's Parish Church Ely
- 21st June 2025 – Ely Cathedral Lady Chapel (including the world premiere our newly commissioned piece *Sing, O Heavn's* by Ben Ponniah).

All the concerts were well-attended and well-received by our audiences and maintained satisfactory financial outcomes. We were supported in each concert by excellent guest soloists and efficient facilitation from the venues concerned.

Our Director of Music Matthew Rudd has developed programmes for each concert that achieve a balance of challenge and familiar work, resulting in accessible and enjoyable performances. This has been supported to a very high standard by our rehearsal pianist Anne Reece.

The choir's five Trustees and wider management team with three co-opted members have continued to meet regularly to plan all aspects of the choir's programme. An AGM was held in accordance with regulations on 23rd January at which Nick Barton and Roger Hill were re-elected as Trustees.

Our significant work in forward planning of programmes 'one year plus' ahead enabled the publication for the first time this year of an advertising flier containing details of the full season: we aim to continue this in future years. This requires continuous development in our relationships with other choirs to avoid 'clashes' and will help build audiences for future concerts.

Our recruitment drive in print and online was particularly successful leading to auditions held on 5th September 2024 and the recruitment of five new singers for the 24-25 season who quickly integrated into the choir and contributed significantly to our performance strength.

Plans for the future

Our committee will continue to keep membership under review in order to ensure, for a choir of our size, appropriate balance and adequate coverage without over-expansion in numbers. We remain open to new enquiries and suitable candidates may be admitted subject to preliminary voice tests and Matthew's approval.

Our charitable focus remains under review and open to new ideas to further our aims. We

are particularly pleased to be linking our first concert next season to the Mayor of Ely's charities – this will highlight and generate contributions to worthwhile local causes.

We have also been planning a choir tour to Prague which is set for late May 2026 and there is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with Fairhaven Singers for their landmark performance of Britten's War Requiem in Spring 2026.

Financial report

Ely Consort's financial objective is to break even during the year. In broad terms we plan our budgets so that subscriptions will pay for rehearsal and administration costs and ticket sales will pay for on-the-day concert costs and a contribution to the new music commission fund.

The choir operates four bank accounts. Three of these are Unrestricted accounts (1) the Current account and (2) the Reserve account, which are General funds, and (3) the Designated new music commission account. The Designated new music commission account contains money set aside by the Trustees for the commission of new works. The fourth account (4) the Tour account, is a Restricted account to cover the cost of occasional singing tours undertaken by the choir. The day-to-day running costs of the choir are financed through the Unrestricted accounts.

For the first concert in Chatteris Church on 7th December 2024, as in previous years, we revealed full financial details of the concert to the church for the purpose of sharing any surplus made once all costs and ticket sales were considered. Ticket sales were 89 and 6 additional complimentary/reduced price/young person's tickets were issued. The concert made a small loss of £180.

The second concert was held in St. Mary's Church, Ely on 22nd March 2025. Ticket sales were 97 and 4 additional complimentary/reduced price/child tickets were issued. The choir also funded and sold interval drinks using the church's alcohol license. The concert made a surplus of £550.

The third concert was held in Ely Cathedral's Lady Chapel on 21st June 2025. For this concert we commissioned the composer Ben Ponniah to compose a new work to the words of '*Sing, O Heav'ns*' which was sung alongside a seventeenth century version by the Ely composer John Amner. The new work was very well received. The composition cost of £2,500 was funded by a £1,000 grant from the Williams Trust for Church Music and £1,500 from Ely Consort's new music commission account.

Ticket sales for the third concert were 103 and 16 additional complimentary/reduced price/child tickets were issued. At the time of closure of the reporting year we expected the concert would have made a small loss when full reconciliation of ticket sales and costs had been received in a final invoice from Ely Cathedral. Although not included in this year's accounts we can since confirm the concert lost £466.

Tickets have been offered at reduced prices for the disadvantaged for all concerts and those under aged 18 years can attend concerts free of charge. We have also provided free or reduced membership costs to meet our charitable objects and to those in full-time education.

The trustees agreed to part refund the Designated new music commission account by transfer of £1,000 from General Funds to the value of the grant received from the Williams Trust for Church Music. Ely Consort applied to HMRC for Gift Aid for the year 2024-25 and a payment of £1,150 was received in June 2025.

Ely Consort CIO made an overall loss of £515 in the 2024-25 financial year, which was expected as a result of the expenditure of £2,500 on the new work commission. The Restricted Prague tour account shows a surplus of £1,260 although some £1,180 of this comprises a cash flow loan from general funds at the time of the 1st deposit payment by members to the travel company Rayburns. This loan has since been repaid after the end of the financial year. The underlying surplus of Ely Consort CIO activities excluding the commission cost was £1,985. On August 31st 2025, the total assets of Ely Consort CIO were £9,726.

The Membership subscription of £150 of the 2024-25 season will be retained for the 2025-26 season.

HMRC requested that a Corporation Tax submission be made by Ely Consort during the tax year and this was duly submitted. HMRC later confirmed that no tax was due and that in future a tax submission should only be made when requested by HMRC.

ELY CONSORT CIO

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2025

	2025			2024	
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Restricted funds £
RECEIPTS					
Subscriptions	5,568	-	-	5,021	-
Concert Receipts	3,725	-	-	3,175	-
Sponsors - Williams Trust for Church Music	0	1,000	-	0	-
Donations/ Misc	187	-	-	341	-
Bank interest received	125	22	-	-	-
Gift Aid	1,150	-	-	1,117	-
Contributions from members for Prague Tour	-	-	25,560	0	-
	10,755	1,022	25,560	9,654	0
PAYMENTS					
New work commissioned	-	2,500	-	-	-
Music Hire/printing	810	-	-	841	-
Rehearsal Pianist	1,625	-	-	1,950	-
Soloists / Orchestra	3,150	-	-	1,825	-
Music Director	1,855	-	-	1,820	-
Venue Hire/Tuning	570	-	-	804	-
Room Hire	883	-	-	974	-
Website	19	-	-	0	-
Insurance Fees	245	-	-	259	-
Equip / Stationery	350	-	-	372	-
Misc / Reserve	365	-	-	551	-
Payments to tour company for Prague tour	-	-	25,480	-	-
	9,872	2,500	25,480	9,396	0
Excess of receipts over payments	883	-1,478	80	258	-
Balances brought forward 1 September 2024	7,751	2,500	0	9,993	-
Loan to tour account from reserve account	-1,180	0	1,180	-	-
Balances carried forward 31 August 2025	7,454	1,022	1,260	10,251	0

SURPLUS/LOSS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS

For 2025 a loss of **£515**

For 2024 a surplus of **£258**

ELY CONSORT CIO
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2025

	2025			2024	
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Restricted funds £
ASSETS					
Current Account	6	-	-	249	-
Tour account - Loan from reserve account to be paid back and balance of tour money to be refunded to members once final costs of transport are known	-	-	1,260	-	-
Commission Account	-	1,022	-	2,500	-
Reserve Account	7,448	-	-	7,502	-
Total Bank Accounts	<u>7,454</u>	<u>1,022</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>10,251</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ASSETS					
For 2025 £9,736					
For 2024 £10,251					

Reserves Policy

The Accounts show unrestricted reserves of £8,476. Going forward, in accordance with our Reserves Policy, our level of reserves represents some 77% of our 2025/26 non-tour budgeted income of approximately £11,000.

We consider that this is sufficient in the event of any uninsured or unanticipated events such as insufficient concert ticket sales to cover venue hires, professional musician costs or uninsured concert cancellation by venue.

Risk Management

GDPR and Privacy, and Conflict of Interest policies are completed in draft and will be presented to the next meeting of Trustees.

Health and Safety, Financial Risks and Safeguarding policies are currently being developed.

We ensure that the accounts are regularly reviewed by another Trustee apart from the Treasurer in order to safeguard financial probity.

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees, John Simmons, on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed: *John Simmons*

Date: 27th November 2025

Independent Examiner's report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Ely Consort CIO on the accounts from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 as presented on pages 7 and 8 is shown below.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements: to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or to which

- 2) in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Robert Andrews

Signed: *Robert Andrews*

Date: *10th November 2025*

Address: 3 Swards End, Wickford, Essex SS12 9PB

Relevant professional qualification:

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

ELY CONSORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1194693

Accounts



**Annual Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31st August 2024**

Chair's report

The choir continued to perform a well-received programme of concerts during the reporting year. Although significant audience numbers have proved hard to achieve in some cases, our three concerts were all attended by warm and appreciative audiences.

Our autumn rehearsals prepared for a return to Chatteris Parish Church on 25th November 2023 for a concert entitled 'Sing Joyfully!' where the principal work for the second half was a performance of the choruses from Brahms' A German Requiem, with a fine piano duet accompaniment provided by Anne Reece and Christopher Moore. A typically wide-ranging set of anthems by Byrd (in the 400th anniversary of his death), Weelkes and Jonathan Dove was interspersed with piano solos by John Ireland played by Anne Reece.

Although we performed ahead of the Christmas Lights switch-on this year, a good-sized audience gave us a warm welcome to this well-appointed parish church which has become a favourite venue once more.

In Spring we moved back to Ely on 9th March 2024 for a return to St Mary's Parish Church, the original home of our predecessor St Mary's Chamber Choir - now renovated to become more adaptable for modern worship and as a performance space. The church is beautifully finished with moveable seating and makes a fine venue for a choir of our size. A large audience enthusiastically received our performance of Dvorak's Mass in D with accompaniment from Cherry, Lindi, Clare, Tim and John – the Quintessential Winds. The band also performed a solo by Nielsen in a first half which included Marenzio's Jubilate Deo, Stanford's Three Latin Motets and contemporary works by Janet Wheeler and Marek Raczynski.

We are also most thankful to members and supporters who 'sourced' and operated the donations-only refreshments in the church hall, much appreciated by all!

For our summer term performance, we travelled further afield to re-visit Suffolk on 22nd June, performing an evening of classic and contemporary choral music in the magnificent space of Holy Trinity Parish Church in Long Melford. Members enjoyed the delights of the town – which included a beer festival and a circus on the day of our visit – and an appreciative audience heard movements from Jonathan Dove's The Passing of the Year, Ola Gjeilo's Unicornis Captivatur and Morten Lauridsen's Sure on this shining night – all works from our existing repertoire – as well as new works to us including Bach's Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden and Brahms' motet Wo ist ein so herrlich Volk. Anne Reece played some beautiful Brahms pieces to provide interludes during the first half.

The brilliantly planned, programmed and executed concerts once again the inspiration and dedication of our leader Matthew Rudd, who attained a significant birthday milestone at the Chatteris concert which was suitably marked with a generous gift from the choir. Matthew's unfailingly positive and encouraging style make him a true friend of a choir he has now been directing - somewhat unbelievably - for 22 years.

Anne Reece is a hugely capable musician and we are very fortunate to have her skills

available to us as rehearsal pianist and concert soloist.

The management committee has now fully adjusted to the new-style CIO requirements which demonstrate proper governance to the Charities Commission. The five original trustees (John, Roger, Liz, Nick and Caroline) continue their work. The principal officers remain the same with John as Chairman, Roger as Treasurer and Liz as Secretary. Nick's focus is on our (often complex!) ICT issues and Caroline is our invaluable expert on governance. In compliance with our new regulations, John and Caroline stood down at the AGM and were duly re-elected. The trustees must make major decisions (e.g. commitment of expenditure) by majority vote and these are beginning to be taken on-line where necessary. All the choir's business is regularly discussed with the full management committee including our co-opted members Helen (music library), Pete and Angela (publicity and marketing). Our committee members and trustees deserve our thanks for the efforts put in 'behind the scenes' to ensure the choir operates smoothly.

In the management committee our discussions focus around forward planning and finance in particular with reference to our charitable role as demonstrated to the Charities Commission. It was also decided to re-establish the re-audition process disrupted by the COVID pandemic and not undertaken for six years. All eligible members attended a re-audition during the Spring. Whilst recognising that this process can be challenging for individuals, the management committee and Director feel it is essential to undertake reviews regularly to maintain our standards of singing and allow for individual one-to-one discussions with the Director. The process will in future take place every three years (with those joining within the intervening period being exempt from re-audition at that time).

As a result of the audition process, our need to maintain good coverage for absences and to ensure balance in multiple-part works which are a feature of our repertoire, it was agreed to publicise a recruitment drive at the end of the 2023-24 season. This generated significant interest and the choir has gained new members through auditions for the 2024-25 season. As part of our charitable focus, we are entering discussions with local singing teachers and musicians around the creation of apprentice-type roles for adult singers just starting out in choral singing.

There have been few personnel changes during the reporting year. Particular mention should be made of our long-standing soprano member Bev Sweet, who has battled serious illness, including months in hospital, during 2023-24. Bev is making great progress and we must thank all choir members who have joined with her many friends and family in supporting her recovery.

The choir is well-positioned financially and has a full programme already in place through to 2026, with much to look forward to. Attracting substantial audiences to view our always exciting concert performances is still the most difficult task and all members need to work together to achieve this – the choir deserves to be heard!

John Simmons, Chair

Charitable objectives

The choir's charitable object, as set out in the Constitution is as follows:

"The objects of the CIO are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts in East Anglia; and to make grants to support such general charitable purposes according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may in their absolute discretion determine."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for public benefit:

The activities of the charity are to:

- Perform public choral concerts throughout the year.
- Educate the general public in a wide variety of choral music across the ages both accompanied and unaccompanied including new compositions.
- Provide free or reduced membership costs for the disadvantaged and those in full-time education.
- Provide a wide variety of rewarding volunteering roles to deliver the charity's activities.
- Provide free or reduced-price concert tickets for young people and the disadvantaged.
- Provide occasional opportunities for school children to participate in concerts.

Musical Director's report

Our Autumn Term concert saw a welcome return to Chatteris Church, where we performed a programme of two contrasting parts. In the first half we marked the 400th anniversary of the deaths of two great Tudor composers, Thomas Weelkes and William Byrd, by singing a selection of their anthems; despite the four centuries that have passed, this remains challenging and engaging repertoire and it was good to work in detail on these pieces. In the second half, we sang the choruses from Brahms' German Requiem, accompanied by piano duet in a new arrangement which put our two fine pianists through their paces just as much as the choir! We look forward to returning to Chatteris in Christmas 2024.

The Spring Term saw us visit St Mary's Church in Ely, and although this was a return to the choir's original home, it was actually the first time in more than two decades that we have sung there. A remarkable building project has transformed this already beautiful church into a warm and spacious venue which both the choir and audience appreciated enormously, and we certainly hope to sing there as a regular fixture. The programme was full of contrasts as always. We often sing music in an eight-part 'double choir' format, but we began this concert with a wonderful motet by Marenzio which divided the choir into three separate choirs, creating exciting 'stereo' effects across the church. Other works included Stanford's three great church motets (Justorum animae, Coelos ascendit hodie and Beati quorum via) and Janet Wheeler's modern 'Homage to Stanford' based on Beati quorum via. Dvořák's Mass in D is a well-loved mainstay of the choral repertoire, thanks to its appealing

melodic writing throughout, but we gave it a fresh take by performing with a new accompaniment arranged for wind quintet.

In the summer term, we ventured further afield, to the magnificent Holy Trinity Church in Long Melford. We sang a varied but challenging programme, with three particularly demanding works: William Harris's double-choir anthem *Faire is the Heaven*, Bach's motet *Lobet den Herrn*, and excerpts from Jonathan Dove's song cycle *The passing of the year*. The choir rose to the challenge splendidly, giving a particularly fine performance to round off another enjoyable season.

It was a pleasure to work with a group of talented instrumentalists over the course of the season, Christopher Moore (piano) and the Quintessential Wind Quintet. Underpinning everything, though, has been our much-loved accompanist Anne Reece; as well as playing for our weekly rehearsals and accompanying us in concerts, she has performed a number of fine piano solos too. She is hugely valued and appreciated by all of us.

The committee have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the music can happen; none of our concerts would be possible without the hard work which goes into various areas, including finance, administration, venue booking and liaison, publicity, website and mailing lists, music hire, our own music library and lighting. It has been another exciting and successful season - thank you all!

Matthew Rudd, Musical Director

Treasurer's report

This report covers the period from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. Ely Consort performed three concerts during the year in Chatteris Church, St. Mary's Church, Ely and Long Melford Church.

Our financial objective is to break even during the year. In broad terms we plan our budgets so that subscriptions will pay for rehearsal and administration costs and ticket sales will pay for on-the-day concert costs and a contribution to the new music commission fund.

The choir operates four bank accounts. Three of these: a current account, a music commission account and a reserve account are unrestricted accounts. The commission account shows money set aside by the Trustees from general funds in case they may wish to commission new works, but has the option to be used for general purposes. The fourth account, the tour account, is a restricted account to cover the cost of occasional singing tours undertaken by the choir. The day to day running costs of the choir are financed through the unrestricted accounts.

In 2024 the choir purchased a SumUp Card Reader which enabled ticket sales to be made both to choir members and at the door by bank card which minimized the handling of cash. Other ticket sales were made online through TicketSource.

The first concert of the season was performed in Chatteris Church on November 25th 2023. As in the previous year we agreed that we would provide full financial details of the concert to the church and share any profit made once all costs and ticket sales had been taken into

account. We hoped that this would encourage the church to sell tickets and jointly ensure success of the concert. Ticket sales were 60, which was a little less than expected as a result of the less than optimum November date for a Christmas concert owing to church availability. Nevertheless, the concert made a small profit of £64 and £32 was given to the church as their share of the profit.

The second concert of the season was held in St. Mary's Church, Ely on March 9th 2024. This was the first time the choir had performed in St. Mary's Church since its major renovation and the concert and venue proved to be a great success. We sold 81 tickets and the concert made a profit of £200. The choir also funded and sold interval drinks for the first time using the church's alcohol license and this contributed to the overall profit.

Our third concert was held in Long Melford Church, Suffolk on 22nd June 2024. We budgeted for a low-cost concert as we were performing some distance for our normal audience base. The concert was a success and we sold 51 tickets, although these were fewer expected. Nevertheless, we made a profit of £58 and under our profit-sharing agreement we gave £29 to the church as their share of the profit.

At all concerts reduced price tickets were given to those unable to pay for full-priced tickets and free tickets were given to those under the age of 18.

Ely Consort applied to HMRC for Gift Aid for the year 2023-24 and a payment of £980.00 was received in June 2024. Ely Consort CIO made a surplus of £258 for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Trustees agreed to transfer £640.45 from the Reserve Account to the Commission Account to bring the amount in the Commission Account to £2,500 in anticipation of commissioning a new work in the 2024-25 season.

On August 31st 2024, the current account contained £249, the commission account contained £2,500, the reserve account contained £7,502 and the tour account contained £0.01. The total current assets of Ely Consort were £10,251 at the end of the year.

The Membership subscription of £140 has been held for two years. However, there has been significant inflation over that period and along with a more ambitious music programme planned for the 2024-25 season the Trustees have agreed to raise the Membership subscription to £150 for the 2024-25 season.

Roger Hill, Treasurer

ELY CONSORT CIO

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

Income	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Subs		5,021		5,064
Concert Receipts		3,175		4,211
Adverts Sponsors		0		80
Music Sales		0		0
Gift Aid / Misc.		1,320		1,724
Interest/Reserve		137		25
		<u>9,654</u>		<u>11,104</u>
less Expenses				
Music Hire/printing		841		683
Rehearsal Pianist		1,950		1,595
Soloists / Orchestra		1,825		2,575
Music Director		1,820		1,650
Venue Hire/Tuning		804		1,390
Room Hire		974		680
Website		0		0
Misc.		551		308
Insurance Fees		259		318
Coach Hire		0		0
Equip / Stationery		372		0
		<u>9,396</u>		<u>9,199</u>
		258		1,905
Commissioned Music		0		0
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>258</u>		<u>1,905</u>

ELY CONSORT CIO
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

	2024		2023		Notes
	£	£	£	£	
FIXED ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Bank Accounts	10,251		9,993		
	<u>10,251</u>		<u>9,993</u>		1
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Sundry Creditor	-1		-1		2
	<u>-1</u>		<u>-1</u>		
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>10,250</u>		<u>9,992</u>	3
 REPRESENTED BY:					
General Fund		9,993		<i>8,088</i>	4
Excess Income Over Expenditure for		<u>258</u>		<u>1,905</u>	5
		<u>10,250</u>		<u>9,993</u>	6

Notes

- 1 Total of Current, Tour, Commission, Reserve accounts
- 2 Tour account creditors
- 3 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts
- 4 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts
- 5 Surplus/Loss for period
- 6 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees, John Simmons, on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed: ***John Simmons***

Date: ***6th November 2024***

Independent Examiner's report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Ely Consort CIO on the accounts from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 is shown below.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Robert Andrews

Signed: **Robert Andrews**

Date: **10th December 2024**

Address: 3 Swards End, Wickford, Essex SS12 9PB

Relevant professional qualification:

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Reserves Policy

The Accounts show unrestricted reserves of £10,251. Going forward, in accordance with our Reserves Policy, our level of reserves represents some 80% of our 2024/25 budgeted income of approximately £13,000.

We consider that this is sufficient in the event of any uninsured or unanticipated events such as insufficient concert ticket sales to cover venue hires, professional musician costs or uninsured concert cancellation by venue.

Structure and governance

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee Selection: Co-opted

Trustees:

John Simmons, Chair

Roger Hill, Treasurer

Nicholas Barton

Elisabeth Mellor

Caroline Stanger

It is considered that all Trustees and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of Ely Consort are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Musical Director:

Mathew Rudd

Reference details

Charity Name: Ely Consort CIO

Charity Registration Number: 1194693

Charity's principal address: 62, High Street, Haddenham, Ely, CB6 3XB.

ELY CONSORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1194693

Accounts



**Annual Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31st August 2023**

Chair's report

We have seen a gradual return to normality during the season under review although the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the start of September 2022 led to the final cancellation of our previously postponed Italian Grand Tour concert, as the new date fell in the period of mourning. It was decided to wave goodbye to this repertoire by undertaking a private performance of the full programme at the intended venue in Sutton Parish Church on Thursday 15th September. We were delighted that Charne Rochford was able to take part and his larger-than-life solo items were indeed spectacular, ably assisted by Ralph Woodward on organ and piano. It was a great disappointment that this exciting and colourful event was destined never to be presented to an audience.

We then moved into a rehearsal period for our next concert at Chatteris Parish Church on Saturday 3rd December. Entitled 'Winter Songs', the programme included some challenging pieces for the choir including Durante's Magnificat, Elgar's 'O Wild West Wind' and 'Ring Out Wild Bells' by Jonathan Dove plus Hummel's Mass in B flat as the second half 'major work'. Although not specifically Christmas-themed, the extravagant Christmas lights in Chatteris and a good-sized and appreciative audience added seasonal warmth to the occasion. Kate, Roz, Andrew and Pippa formed the Arco String Quartet and accompanied the concert alongside our own Anne Reece. Together they performed an atmospheric instrumental piece, 'First Snow' by Ola Gjeilo.

Into the new year and rehearsals begin – at the Methodist Church and St John's School owing to the non-availability of the King's Ely Recital Hall this term – for our concert at the Cathedral on 18th March entitled 'The Gift of Life' after the principal work in the programme by John Rutter. Another varied programme devised by Matthew included 'Who Shall Separate Us' by Sir James Macmillan specially composed for the Queen's funeral service. Anne Reece succumbed to COVID just before the concert and we were very fortunate to obtain the services of Christopher Moore at the last minute. Ralph Woodward played the Cathedral organ and Rohan Platts on harp and Roger Bett on timps and percussion completed the instrumental line-up. A good-sized and enthusiastic audience was present in the Presbytery for the concert.

We returned to King's Ely for rehearsals in the Summer term leading to our concert at Burwell Parish Church on Saturday 24th June, another varied programme entitled 'A Celebration of Summer' with Ralph Vaughan Williams' piece 'Toward the Unknown Region' as the finale (featuring Matthew's specially-devised accompaniment to include our clarinet soloist for the evening, Claire Stevenson). Handel's 'The King Shall Rejoice' and 'A Summer Garland' by Alan Bullard were the principal works in the first half. Anne Reece rejoined us at the piano. Another good audience showed their appreciation.

I mention the RVW accompaniment in order to highlight the significant amount of additional work and dedication to the choir shown across the board by Matthew, besides directing rehearsals – he checks and devises instrumental arrangements, researches repertoire and fixes instrumentalists into the bargain. He remains as positive and encouraging as ever in

his direction, exuding infectious confidence to help us through our more challenging musical moments!

Anne has coped with an extraordinary number of notes on the piano in her huge contribution to our work as rehearsal pianist and concert performer. She has become a firm friend of the choir and her skills are much admired by all.

The management committee, now including the current five Trustees of the CIO (John, Roger, Liz, Nick and Caroline) as well as co-opted members Helen (Music Library) and Peter Lancaster and Angela Major (publicity and marketing) continue to make an invaluable contribution to the organisation of the choir 'behind the scenes'. We were relieved to return to face-to-face committee meetings in June thanks to hosts Roger and Helen. Forward planning, robust finance and compliance with CIO regulations as well as thinking carefully about our charitable role in general remain at the forefront of our discussions.

Some changes to the membership have taken place, with Jon Bradley and Philippa Mann returning to the choir, Michael and Alison Smedley joining us and David Gascoigne deciding to retire at the end of the year. We remain grateful to David for his contribution and in particular the work done for our memorable trip to the Loire Valley a few years back.

The economic climate remains tough in a world fraught with difficulties and it is so good to have our rehearsals, and the camaraderie of the choir to look forward to on Thursday evenings! The choir is in good financial shape and well administered and we can look forward to the future with confidence – however, audience-building remains a priority in times where concert attendance may not be a top priority for many, and we need to work hard to spread the word. We really are worth listening to!

John Simmons, Chair

Charitable objectives

The choir's charitable object, as set out in the Constitution is as follows:

"The objects of the CIO are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts in East Anglia; and to make grants to support such general charitable purposes according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may in their absolute discretion determine."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for public benefit:

The activities of the charity are to:

- Perform public choral concerts throughout the year.
- Educate the general public in a wide variety of choral music across the ages both accompanied and unaccompanied including new compositions.
- Provide free or reduced membership costs for the disadvantaged and those in full time education.

- Provide a wide variety of rewarding volunteering roles to deliver the charity's activities.
- Provide free or reduced price concert tickets to young people and the disadvantaged.
- Provide occasional opportunities for school children to participate in concerts.

Musical Director's report

Our first performance of the 2022 - 2023 season was a bit different from usual. Having rescheduled our Italian Grand Tour concert to September after a postponement due to covid in July, we were thwarted once again by the death of the Queen a few days earlier. With another big concert looming for which we needed to start rehearsing, a further postponement was unrealistic, but it was actually rather fun to sing through the whole programme in an informal, yet full-blooded, performance in Sutton Church. Work then began on our programme for Chatteris; Durante's 'Magnificat' and Hummel's 'Mass in B flat' were our major works, combined with a number of 'winter songs'. Accompanied by string quartet, chamber organ and piano, this programme was very well received, along with an invitation to return which we gladly accepted.

The Spring Term saw us visit the Cathedral, for a performance which included John Rutter's 'The Gift of Life' as the main piece, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. This was a challenging work, in particular its central movement, 'Hymn to the creator of light' which divides the choir into multiple parts with some difficult tonality to navigate. After a lot of hard work in rehearsals, we gave a splendid account of this piece. It was also good to work on James MacMillan's recently published 'Who shall separate us', which was sung at the funeral of HM the Queen. It was very pleasing to sing to a full presbytery for this concert.

Our summer concert was in Burwell, and took the title 'A celebration of summer'; interpreted in various ways, this theme allowed us to re-visit (after very many years) some of the fine English pastoral part songs from the early twentieth century, perform Alan Bullard's relatively new and extended unaccompanied work 'A summer Garland', and give a nod to the coronation of King Charles III via Handel's Coronation Anthem 'The King Shall rejoice'. Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Toward the unknown region' is normally the domain of large choirs singing with a large orchestra, but it was good to experience singing this early piece of RVW, which made a rousing finale to our season.

It has been a pleasure to work with another fine set of instrumentalists in each of our programmes: a string quartet, an ensemble of organ, piano, harp and timpani, and Claire Stevenson, the clarinettist who played a number of stunning solos in the summer concert. Most of all though, underpinning all of our performances and rehearsals, has been our fabulous accompanist Anne Reece. At the time of writing this report, Anne already feels so fully part of the group that it is hard to believe that the concert at the start of this season was her first performance with us. I am delighted to have her support in rehearsals each week, and know that you all really appreciate her playing too.

Thank you also to everyone on the committee; as you know they run things brilliantly whether publicly or behind the scenes; none of what we do would be possible without the hard work which goes into various areas, including finance, administration, venue booking and liaison, publicity, music hire, our own music library and lighting. It has been a most enjoyable season - thank you all!

Matthew Rudd, Musical Director

Treasurer's report

This report covers the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023. Ely Consort performed four concerts during the year in Sutton Church, Chatteris Church, Ely Cathedral and Burwell Church.

Our financial objective is to break even during the year. We plan our budgets for subscriptions to pay for rehearsal costs and ticket sales to pay for on the day concert costs.

The choir operates four bank accounts. Three of these: a current account, a commission account and a reserve account are unrestricted accounts. The commission account shows money set aside by the Trustees from general funds in case they may wish to commission new works, but has the option to be used for general purposes. The fourth account, the tour account, is a restricted account to cover the cost of occasional singing tours undertaken by the choir. The day to day running costs of the choir are financed through the unrestricted accounts.

The first concert of the concert season was held in Sutton Church. This was a concert previously planned for July 2022 but subsequently postponed following a Covid outbreak in the choir. The concert was replanned for September 2023 but was unfortunately cancelled at the request of Sutton Church as it coincided with the mourning period for the death of Queen Elizabeth II. However, the church permitted the concert to take place without audience during the mourning period and at the request of members the concert was performed without audience on a rehearsal evening. The choir received no income from the concert but the soloist was paid in full.

The second concert was performed in Chatteris Church in December 2023. For this concert we agreed that the choir would share the financial details of the concert with the church and share any profit made once all costs and ticket sales had been taken into account. We hoped that this would encourage the church to sell tickets and jointly ensure success of the concert. This policy proved a success and we performed to a good audience and shared a small profit with the church.

The third concert was held in Ely Cathedral in March 2023. Although the Cathedral audience approached the level that would have been expected pre Covid we did not quite sell as many tickets as hoped. We made a small loss on the concert.

Our fourth concert was held in Burwell Church June 2023. After a strong marketing effort in Burwell we performed to a large audience and had a successful concert. The concert made a small profit.

Reduced price tickets were given to those unable to pay for full priced tickets at all concerts. Free tickets were given those under the age of 18, and for the Chatteris concert, five free tickets were made available to Ukrainian refugees.

Ely Consort gained charitable status as a CIO in June 2021 and applied to HMRC for Gift Aid for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23. A total payment of £1,723.99 was made by HMRC to Ely Consort CIO in August 2023.

Ely Consort CIO made a surplus of £1,905 for the 2022-23 financial year. Without Gift Aid the choir made a small surplus of £181 for the year. We expect to receive annual Gift Aid payments of about £900 in future years but expect most of this will be used to pay increased costs resulting from a current financial inflation rate of about 8%.

On August 31st 2023, the current account contained £3,028, the commission account contained £1,834, the reserve account contained £5,130 and the tour account contained £0.01. The total current assets of Ely Consort were £9,993 at the end of the year.

The tour account balance was reduced to £0.01 during the year following a refund to two former choir members who were unable to participate in the 2022 tour of Italy owing to the covid pandemic.

Roger Hill, Treasurer

ELY CONSORT CIO

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

Income	2023		2022 (15 months)	
	£	£	£	£
Subs		5,064		5,514
Concert Receipts		4,211		2,914
Adverts Sponsors		80		120
Music Sales		0		0
Gift Aid / Misc.		1,724		300
Bank Gross Interest		25		1
		<u>11,104</u>		<u>8,849</u>
less Expenses				
Music Hire/printing		683		242
Rehearsal Pianist		1,595		1,993
Soloists / Orchestra		2,575		1,650
Music Director		1,650		1,760
Venue Hire		1,390		1,027
Room Hire		680		984
Website		0		77
Misc.		308		336
Insurance Fees		318		193
Coach Hire		0		0
Post Stationery		0		105
		<u>9,199</u>		<u>8,366</u>
		1,905		483
Commissioned Music		0		0
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>1,905</u>		<u>483</u>

ELY CONSORT CIO
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2023

	2023		2022 (15 months)		Notes
	£	£	£	£	
FIXED ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Bank Accounts	9,993		9,171		
	<u>9,993</u>		<u>9,171</u>		1
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Sundry Creditor	-1		-1,083		2
	<u>-1</u>		<u>-1,083</u>		
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>9,992</u>		<u>8,088</u>	3
 REPRESENTED BY:					
General Fund	8,088		7,605		4
Excess Income Over Expenditure for	<u>1,905</u>		<u>483</u>		5
	<u>9,993</u>		<u>8,088</u>		6

Notes

- 1 Total of Current, Tour, Commission, Reserve accounts
- 2 Tour account creditors
- 3 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts
- 4 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts previous year
- 5 Surplus/Loss for period
- 6 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts current year

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees, John Simmons, on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed: **John Simmons**

Date: 15th December 2023

Independent Examiner's report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Ely Consort CIO on the accounts from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 is shown below.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement


My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Robert Andrews

Signed: 

Date: 27 December 2023

Address: 3 Swards End, Wickford, Essex SS12 9PB

Relevant professional qualification:

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Reserves Policy

The Accounts show unrestricted reserves of £9,992. Going forward, in accordance with our Reserves Policy, our level of reserves represents some 90% of our 2023/24 budgeted income of approximately £11,000.

We consider that this is sufficient in the event of any uninsured or unanticipated events such as insufficient concert ticket sales to cover venue hires, professional musician costs or uninsured concert cancellation by venue.

Structure and governance

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee Selection: Co-opted

Trustees:

John Simmons, Chair

Roger Hill, Treasurer

Nicholas Barton

Elisabeth Mellor

Caroline Stanger

It is considered that all Trustees and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of Ely Consort are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Musical Director:

Mathew Rudd

Reference details

Charity Name: Ely Consort CIO

Charity Registration Number: 1194693

Charity's principal address: 62, High Street, Haddenham, Ely, CB6 3XB.

ELY CONSORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1194693

Accounts



**Annual Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31st August 2022**

Chairman's report

The world has changed so much in the past couple of years that 'normality' seems like a very long time ago – but the gradual progress back to business as usual began in the period under review, although with some setbacks along the way.

Our first gathering came on Saturday 26th June 2021 when a number of us gathered for a picnic in the wonderful gardens of Sarah and Johnny Shippey – and attempted some singing with varied degrees of success!

We next came together for a short series of 'socially distanced' rehearsals at Ely Methodist Church at the end of July, resuming later in August and getting properly underway again on 9th September to prepare our repertoire for the joint concert with Fairhaven Singers which took place in the Cathedral on 30th October. Both choirs sang very well individually and the combined effort in the Rutter Gloria coupled with Prime Brass was quite spectacular!

Rehearsals continued at Ely Methodist Church during the continued non-availability of King's School due to the necessary prioritisation of scholars' wellbeing in the immediate post-COVID period. We remain most grateful to the church for helping us to get 'back on track' and providing us with a wonderful rehearsal space over this period.

Christmas arrived with a re-staging at Chatteris Parish Church on 11th December of Matthew's excellent Messiah highlights programme, again with Steve Bingham and his Con Brio Chamber Orchestra together with the wonderful solo voice of Julia Riley. With an enthusiastic audience and the spectacular Christmas lights of Chatteris in the background, the year came to a very colourful conclusion. We were pleased to return to Chatteris after a very long absence.

I am pleased to say that for all the concerts we promoted we offered free tickets to young people under 16 years of age and reduced prices for the unwaged and disadvantaged in accordance with our charitable objectives.

Returning to the Methodist Church on 13th January 2022 we entered a period of rehearsal for our re-staging of the postponed Cherubini Requiem concert at the Cathedral. Two rehearsals in this period were successfully held at St John's School, one of which (24th February) included the final AGM of the choir under the pre-CIO governance arrangements.

The concert took place successfully on 12th March with good attendance and an enthusiastic reception in the Presbytery of the Cathedral. Our guest instrumentalists on this occasion included the organist Roland Robertson, making his debut with Ely Consort.

Rehearsals returned to King's Ely recital hall after Easter. Sadly however our plans for a spectacular 'Grand Tour' concert of Italian opera highlights, together with movements from the Puccini Messa di Gloria planned for 2nd July at Sutton Parish Church and featuring the

splendid tenor voice of Charne Rochford, were sadly thwarted by a COVID outbreak within the choir. A disappointing reminder that the pandemic has not entirely left us yet.

Some of the repertoire (as intended) was performed at concerts in Lucca, Montecatini Terme and Siena in the long-planned concert tour to Tuscany, which finally took place with most of the original group (plus some extras!) on 14th-18th July. The blazing temperatures were daunting but a great time was had by all.

The tour was the last time that Charlie Penn performed with us, his regular engagement as rehearsal pianist having come to an end during the year as Charlie pursued other opportunities elsewhere. We were very fortunate to have Charlie with us for so long as accompanist and occasional director and he's become a great friend to us. He has a tremendous talent well demonstrated to us over the years in performance, and hopefully we will still see him from time to time in the future.

We secured the services of Leslie Olive in the interim following Charlie's departure but were extremely fortunate to appoint Anne Reece as our regular rehearsal pianist. Anne has already shown us what a highly skilled pianist she is and we are so pleased to have her with us.

Of course, we would be nowhere without our Director Matthew Rudd, now (incredibly) about to start his twentieth season with the choir. Friendly persuasion is Matthew's preferred approach and it always gets the best from us time and time again – as ever, he deserves our maximum support and deepest thanks.

Your committee has as usual been busy behind the scenes planning our way out of the hiatus caused by COVID, and I hope members will agree that we have 'kept the show on the road' as far as we are able. We have now reconstituted as a board of trustees with additional management committee roles undertaken by co-opted members. All involved deserve our thanks for the work they do for the choir. In particular, Roger has had a lot to do in covering the additional reporting demands for the CIO as well as the tour finances at the same time as coping with a period of illness which prevented his planned trip to Tuscany. Liz is settling into the Secretary role and looking at ways to expand our links to regular supporters. Caroline has given invaluable advice on the transition to CIO and done a lot of the hard work over submissions to the Charity Commission. Nick has kept us all up to speed with ICT advice, rehearsal notes and website management.

Our co-opted management committee members include Helen West, who continues highly effectively with the complex music library management task, and Angela Major working with Pete Lancaster on publicity and promotion – we accept we need to do more here and are working on various ideas to build audience numbers as well as develop the charitable aspects of the choir in this regard. Outside the committee, Bev has helped organise our social life together!

During the year we also provided free or reduced membership costs for the disadvantaged and those in full time education.

For a group of singers from the choir, our saddest engagement of the year had come on 1st June when we were invited to add our voices to the moving but joyful memorial service for our much-missed colleague Terry Cross, who had passed away on 6th May following a lengthy fight against terminal cancer. The service at Terry's beloved St Margaret's parish church at Chippenham showed just how wide-ranging Terry's gifts were, and he will long remain in our memory. Terry's contribution to the choir – as enthusiastic bass, carpenter, lighting technician and very good company at the pub post-rehearsal summed up his approach to life in general.

During the period covered by the report there have been some changes in the ranks. We have said farewell to some – including Shirley Lowe who has sung with us for many years. Others such as Ellen Simmons have made career-related moves elsewhere. We are so pleased for Anna Jones who has been appointed Chaplain at Queens' College Cambridge and left us at the end of August to focus on this demanding new role. We are sorry to see them go but have been cheered by an influx of newcomers to the choir, including Monica Underwood and Tony and Anita Catterick, who are already making strong contributions. Mike Banyard has made a welcome return following illness.

As mentioned above, our priority now is to get back to a regular programme and build our forward engagements to enable more focus on marketing and audience growth, at a difficult time where pennies are being counted and coming to a choral concert may not be at the top of the priority list – it's going to be a challenge but we are well equipped to meet it going forward into the 2022-23 season, with a varied and exciting programme for the year to come.

Charitable objectives

The charity's charitable object, as set out in the Constitution is as follows:

“The objects of the CIO are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts in East Anglia and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.”

Summary of the main activities undertaken for public benefit:

The activities of the charity are to:

- Perform public choral concerts throughout the year.
- Educate the general public in a wide variety of choral music across the ages both accompanied and unaccompanied including new compositions.
- Provide free or reduced membership costs for the disadvantaged and those in full time education.
- Provide a wide variety of rewarding volunteering roles to deliver the charity's activities.
- Provide free or reduced price tickets to young people and the disadvantaged.

- Provide occasional opportunities for school children to participate in concerts.

Musical Director's report

The summer of 2021 saw a welcome return to rehearsals after a long break enforced by the pandemic. Our first concert of the Autumn season, in October 2021, was the long awaited fund-raising concert for the Cathedral Music Fund. The first planning discussions for this concert took place in April 2018, an incredible three and a half years before the performance finally happened. Although Martin Gent, who instigated the event, retired from Consort during the intervening period, it was good to remain in close contact with him as the concert finally turned into a reality. We are particularly grateful to both Prime Brass and the Fairhaven Singers for being so willing to re-schedule the concert into their own busy programmes. Collaborating with these two fine local groups was a great pleasure, and it is clear that all involved would like to plan for future joint ventures.

Our performance of Messiah highlights in December 2021 (postponed since 2020) was another great success, and it was good to return to Chatteris Church after a lengthy absence from this particular venue. It was great to work once again with Steve Bingham, with whom we have built a strong relationship over the years, and also to introduce a fabulous new soloist to the choir, Julia Riley.

We were very sorry indeed to say goodbye to our accompanist Charlie during the Autumn Term; he has been the most enormous musical support to the choir as a whole and to me personally, as well as becoming a great friend to many of us. We were lucky to retain him for as long as we did, and wish him every success as he continues to develop his freelance career.

Our Spring season concert in the Cathedral featured another programme which had been delayed twice, but it was well worth the wait - Cherubini's Requiem, an extended work for choir without soloists which was performed with the accompaniment of a string quartet and organ - and a solitary, but vital, loud note for an orchestral gong! We were very pleased to appoint Anne Reece as our new accompanist during this term, and look forward to working with her over the coming seasons.

The summer term rehearsals proceeded well with the choir in fine form as we prepared for our performance in Sutton Church of 'An Italian Grand Tour' - choral music with an Italian theme, much of which was to be performed on our tour to Tuscany a couple of weeks later. Sadly an outbreak of Covid meant there was no alternative but to postpone the concert. Thankfully, the twice-postponed tour did take place, and enjoyable - if rather hot - concerts were given to appreciative audiences in Lucca, Montecatini Terme and Sienna.

As always, I would like to end my report with some thanks: firstly, to all of the committee members who work tirelessly to keep everything going, in particular amidst the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic, which has often necessitated meeting with little notice to solve the next problem! Let us hope the worst is behind us now. 2022 marks my 20th anniversary with Consort; I can't quite imagine how twenty years can have passed so quickly, but never once have I not looked forward to a rehearsal or a concert - which is

thanks to you, the members, for your friendliness, support, ability, and willingness to engage with a very wide range of eclectic repertoire, which hopefully continues to please most of the people most of the time!

Treasurer's report

Following consultation with the Charity Commission we have prepared this report covering the period from the time of incorporation of Ely Consort as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 7th June 2021 up to the end of our normal calendar year on 31st August 2022. Thereafter we will provide reports annually up to the 31st August each year.

The concerts in Ely Cathedral in October, in Chatteris in December and in Ely Cathedral in March had audience numbers as expected and financially the concerts were close to breakeven. The addition of three months to our normal financial year for the time between incorporation in June 2021 and the beginning of our normal financial year in September 2021 resulted in additional income from subscriptions in the summer term. As a result Ely Consort showed a surplus of £483 over this 15 month accounting period instead of a £254 loss had the accounts covered our normal financial year.

The choir operates four bank accounts. Three bank accounts: a current account, a commission account and a reserves account are unrestricted accounts. The commission account shows money set aside by the Trustees from general funds in case they may wish to commission new works, but has the option to be used for general purposes. The fourth account, the project account, is a restricted account to cover the cost of occasional singing tours undertaken by the choir. The day to day running costs of the choir are financed through the unrestricted accounts.

The choir undertook a three concert tour in Italy in July 2022 following postponements of the tour in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid pandemic. As the restricted account for the tour was set up in 2020 and spanned three years, we have not included details of income and expenditure in this financial report. However, the total of the account balances for the choir as a whole, including the tour account, at the beginning and end of the accounting period are included in the income and expenditure accounts in this report.

On August 31st 2022, the current account contained £1,148, the commission account contained £1,828, reserve account contained £5,112 and the tour account contained £1,083. The total current assets of Ely Consort were £9,171. The balance of the tour account will be used to refund two choir members who were unable to participate in the tour as planned owing to the two postponements in 2020 and 2021 due to the covid pandemic.

ELY CONSORT CIO

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

7 June 2021 to 31 August 2022

Income	7 June 2021 to 31 August 2022	
	£	£
Subscriptions		5,514
Concert Receipts		2,914
Adverts Sponsors		120
Music Sales		0
Misc.		300
Bank Gross Interest		1
		<u>8,849</u>
less Expenses	7 June 2021 to 31 August 2022	
Music/printing	242	
Rehearsal Pianist	1,993	
Soloists / Orchestra	1,650	
Music Director	1,760	
Venue Hire	1,027	
Room Hire	984	
Website	77	
Misc.	336	
Insurance Fees	193	
Coach Hire	0	
Post Stationery	105	
		<u>8,366</u>
Commissioned Music	0	
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>483</u>

ELY CONSORT CIO

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2022

**7 June 2021 to
31 August 2022**

	£	£	Notes
FIXED ASSETS	0		
Bank Accounts	9,171		
	<u>9,171</u>		1
Sundry Creditors	- 1,083		2
	<u>- 1,083</u>		
		<u>8,088</u>	3
REPRESENTED BY:			
General Fund		7,605	4
Excess Income Over Expenditure		<u>483</u>	5
		<u>8,088</u>	

Notes

- 1 Total of Current, Tour, Commission, Reserve accounts at 31 Aug 2022
- 2 Tour refund creditors
- 3 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts at 31 Aug 2022
- 4 Total of Current, Commission, Reserve accounts at 7 Jun 21
- 5 Surplus/Loss for period

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed by the Chair of the Trustees, John Simmons, on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed:

John Simmons

Date: 2 November 2022

Independent Examiner's report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Ely Consort on the accounts for its first year as a charity from its incorporation on 7th June 2021 to 31st August 2022 shown on pages 6 and 7.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements: to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or to which

- 2) in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Robert Andrews

Signed:

Bob Andrews

Date: 2 November 2022

Address: 3 Swards End, Wickford, Essex SS12 9PB

Relevant professional qualification:

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Reserves Policy

The Accounts show unrestricted reserves of £8,088. Going forward, in accordance with our Reserves Policy, our level of reserves represents some 80% of our 2022/23 budgeted income of approximately £10,000.

We consider that this is sufficient in the event of any uninsured or unanticipated events such as insufficient concert ticket sales to cover venue hires, professional musician costs or uninsured concert cancellation by venue.

Structure and governance

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee Selection: Co-opted

Trustee Names:

John Simmons, Chair

Roger Hill, Treasurer

Nicholas Barton

Elisabeth Mellor

Caroline Stanger

It is considered that all Trustees and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of Ely Consort are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Musical Director:

Mathew Rudd

Reference details

Charity Name: Ely Consort CIO,

Charity Registration Number: 1194693

Charity's principal address: 33, Lawn Lane, Sutton, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2RE