

# THE SWAN CONSORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1194785

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2021-06-14

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

## Contact

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**Address** 41 Ashdene Close  
Willerby  
Hull  
HU10 6LW

**Phone** 07840177887

**Email** [anita@theswanconsort.com](mailto:anita@theswanconsort.com)

**Website** [www.theswanconsort.com](http://www.theswanconsort.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1) TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART OF MUSIC, AND IN PARTICULAR CHORAL MUSIC, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS AND THE PROVISION OF LECTURES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS; 2) TO FURTHER SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SHALL THINK FIT BUT IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE MAKING OF GRANTS AND DONATIONS.

**Activities:** 1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of music, and in particular choral music, in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals and the provision of lectures, workshops and events; 2) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£551	£291	-	-
2024-03-31	£4,092	£4,748	-	-
2023-03-31	£17,229	£16,460	-	-
2022-03-31	£4,884	£4,851	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Thomas Wale	Chair	2020-08-22
Catherine Bench		2024-08-08
KIERAN COOPER		2020-08-22

**THE SWAN CONSORT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1194785

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# Accounts

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**The Swan Consort CIO**

Charity number 1194785

Annual report and accounts  
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

## **Trustees**

The following served as Trustees in this period:

Catherine Bench (appointed 8 August 2024)

Kieran Cooper

Nataliya Izedinova (resigned 31 July 2024)

Tom Wale (Chair)

## Accounts

### INCOME

Fees	0.00
Donations	550.00
Gift Aid	0.00
Bank interest	0.51
Misc income	0.00
Total	550.51

### EXPENDITURE

Artist fees and travel	0.00
Bank charges	60.00
Insurance	231.00
Competition entry fee	0.00
Total	291.00

Result for the year	259.51
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### BALANCE SHEET

Opening balance	112.73
Result for the year	259.51
Cash in bank 31 March 2025	372.24

# **Artistic Director report – Anita Datta**

## **Summary**

### **Artistic Director's Report March 2025**

#### **Summary**

Following a period of restructure and reflection, The Swan Consort has begun to again rebuild a programme of activities, a structure, and a sense of identity for the ensemble and arts organisation. This has entailed mostly strategic engagement and partnership building. The ensemble and charity's public presence has been maintained by periodic updates to social media and through other public communications channels

#### **'Away Day' May 2024**

The Artistic Director met with freelance singers involved with the ensemble since its inception in a voluntary capacity to review the charity's activities to date, conduct a SWOT analysis, and develop a five-year activities plan to structure the organisation's activities going forward. The away day resulted in the development of a specific contract framework for engaging freelancers, a media policy in line with organisational and artistic values, and a renewed focus particular activity threads in agreement with freelancers and volunteers.

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England & Wales - Charity number 1194785

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# Accounts

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**The Swan Consort CIO**

Charity number 1194785

Annual report and accounts  
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## **Trustees**

The following served as Trustees in this period:

Kieran Cooper  
Nataliya Izedinova  
Tom Wale (Chair)

## Accounts

### INCOME

Fees	2,896.40
Donations	1,154.95
Bank interest	0.74
Other income	40.00
Total	4,092.09

### EXPENDITURE

Artist fees and travel	4,322.70
Bank charges	60.00
Insurance	266.00
Competition entry fee	100.00
Total	4,748.70

Result for the year -656.61

### BALANCE SHEET

Opening balance	769.34
Result for the year	-656.61
Cash in bank 31 March 2024	112.73

# Artistic Director report – Anita Datta

## Summary

### Artistic Director's Report September 2024

#### Summary

This year has been focussed on the development of organisational strategy, with a view to launching a series of larger projects in 2025-2026. Successful concerts and business/strategy meetings have been undertaken, as the organisation looks forward to commencing fundraising for initiatives within a new artistic strategy.

#### Activities Review

- **Wye Valley Music: 'A Tudor Christmas' and Bird Song workshops**  
The Swan Consort were invited to provide the Christmas concert for Wye Valley Music (WVM) in Gloucestershire, December 2023. This booking was extended to involve bird song workshops in local primary schools
- **A Tudor Christmas: Concert:** The Swan Consort delivered a programme of Tudor Christmas music presented by a 5-part consort, accompanied by lutenist Jacob Heringman. The concert sold out in advance of the performance date, and as the consort's first performance in that region provided an opportunity to develop new audience and promoter relationships. The concert was well-received with excellent feedback from the festival
- **Primary School 'Bird Song' workshops:** Workshops were delivered at two schools in a new, expanded format, responding to ACE feedback on the previous funding application. AD visited schools with additional repertoire and scaffolding to performance a fortnight before the whole group visit, resulting in increased engagement and a flourishing of skills. The extended workshop scheme demonstrates evident improvements on the previous model, and received detailed and extensive positive feedback from the WVM organisation.

#### Executive 'Away Day'

In April, AD called an executive away day with the two longest-serving members of The Swan Consort (Lewis Cullen, Robin Datta) and young artist Stellaria Ciampolini to review The Swan Consort's working patterns and develop a strategy for the next 3-5 years.

- The executive team identified key strengths amongst the existing team and agreed new working protocols to support the establishment of a more consistent and robust executive structure in the planning, organising, and execution of arts events
- AD and Stellaria Ciampolini proposed the establishment of COLLEGIUM, an instrumental ensemble to complement the work of the vocal consort and increase the organisation's scope to include cantata, oratorio, opera, and instrumental concerti
- The executive identified that, taking into account feedback from promoters and the disruption to the group's trajectory following covid, the organisation agreed that the development of professional MEDIA ASSETS would be prioritised in 2025, with a view to securing concert tours of existing/planned programmes, and working towards a studio recording by 2028.

**THE SWAN CONSORT**

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# Accounts

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**The Swan Consort CIO**

Charity number 1194785

Annual report and accounts  
1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

## **Trustees**

The following served as Trustees in this period:

Kieran Cooper  
Nataliya Izedinova  
Tom Wale (Chair)

## Accounts

### INCOME

Fees	16626.29
Donations	600
Bank interest	2.63
Total	17228.92

### EXPENDITURE

Artist fees and travel	16381.58
Bank charges	78
Total	16459.58

Result for the year	769.34
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### BALANCE SHEET

Opening balance	0
Result for the year	769.34
Cash in bank 31 March 2023	769.34

## Artistic Director report – Anita Datta

### March 2022

*Schools Workshops, BREMF*

As the final part of the Brighton Early Music Festival Young Artists programme, five members of The Swan Consort delivered workshops to two primary schools in Brighton and Hove on a Bird Song theme. These workshops built on mentoring provided by BREMF at the Royal Academy of Music in February, that had been attended by Anita Datta and Serena Jopson, to refine the workshop plan. The response to the workshops was extremely positive, and the children engaged well with the material, finishing by having completed a vocal warm up, sung in unison, and improvised a 4-part ‘madrigal’ inspired by bird calls provided by the RSPB. The workshops are intended to serve as a pilot for a large-scale touring project in 2023.

#### *Feedback from Schools:*

A message to say an enormous thank you for our fabulous workshop on Thursday. The children were really buzzing & inspired afterwards & we all enjoyed your beautiful singing, many of the adults supporting said how much they had enjoyed the session too!

...

Thank you again & good luck with other education projects you do, you have put together a really good formula.

*Emma Bright, Westdene Primary School*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your concert/workshop yesterday.

The children really enjoyed it. It was very interactive and engaging.

The behaviour was very good as a result of the engagement of the children. Well done!

*Juan Maestro, Elm Grove Primary School*

Personnel: Anita Datta, Ailsa Campbell, Serena Jopson, Robin Datta, Samuel Gilliatt

### May 2022

*‘Contrapunctus’, London Festival of Contemporary Church Music*

The Swan Consort delivered the World Premiere of Alastair Borthwick’s *Missa Brevis* (Chichester Music Press) on 9<sup>th</sup> May at St Pancras Church, Euston. The programme was entitled ‘Contrapunctus: A Brief History of Mass’, and featured the new work interspersed with music by Tallis, Taverner and Byrd. There were also readings in Old and Middle English selected and delivered by Dr Amy Albudri (University of Hull), resulting in a multifaceted hour-long performance incorporating text with the old and new music. The programme was reasonably well attended considering limited marketing by the festival. The programme was funded by Canterbury Christ Church University, where Professor Borthwick is the Head of the School of Arts and Design. Extensive programme notes were provided online to reduce environmental impact.

Personnel: Anita Datta, Ailsa Campbell, Rachel Haworth, Lewis Cullen, Matthew Farrell, Dominic Wallis, Robin Datta, Stuart O'Hara, Ben Tomlin, Tim Reader

## **June 2022**

### *Tour of Spain*

The Swan Consort made their international debut with a tour of Spain in June 2022. The initial invitation was to the Festival Renaixement in Valencia, run by Fundacio Cultural CdM. The invitation had been for 2021, when the festival selected The Swan Consort following a Europe-Wide call for young artists via REMA, but the performance was postponed due to Covid travel restrictions. This performance was augmented by performances with Madrid-based ensemble *Quondam* (dir. Rupert Damerell), and a lunchtime recital in Ávila as part of the Festival Internacional de Música Vocal (run by Maite Seco Benedicto).

The consort arrived in Madrid to rehearse with *Quondam* on 14<sup>th</sup> June, principally to support them in preparing and performing the world premiere of a new Stabat Mater setting by Manuel Ruíz del Corral. Following the rehearsal, the consort travelled to Valencia where they performed as one of the main concert events in the Monestir San Miquel dels Reis in Valencia on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The concert coincided with the annual REMA conference, and approximately 40 delegates from across Europe attended the concert, including promoters of various international early music festivals. The Swan Consort then travelled to Las Navas del Marques in Ávila and performed with *Quondam* in an evening concert on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, and separately in a stand-alone lunchtime recital on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Both events were well attended by local audiences and dignitaries. The Swan Consort received positive verbal feedback from the promoters of both events, and from a number of the delegates and promoters of other festivals attending the Valencia concert in association with REMA.

Personnel: Anita Datta, Lewis Cullen, Robin Datta, Alexander Jones, Ben Tomlin, Stuart O'Hara

## **August - September 2022**

### *Private Engagements: Wedding Ceremonies*

For the first time, The Swan Consort this year received requests to perform at wedding ceremonies. The first (Wedding A) was in Newnham College, Cambridge and entailed a full consort booking for the ceremony and the reception. The second (Wedding B) was in Wirral in Merseyside, and involved a booking of six singers for the ceremony only. Both of these events, serving as a private booking not related to the organisation's charitable purposes, provided a range of benefits to the organisation as a charity. These include financial contributions towards the organisation's overheads for the period surrounding the wedding; the creation of employment for our young artists; opportunities to produce social media material to continue the promotion of the ensemble and the maintenance of its good reputation; opportunities to explore new repertoire for public performance and trial singers who have not previously performed with the group in a less pressurised context than a public concert. The couple for Wedding A solicited the consort through a personal connection with the founder, whilst the couple for Wedding B identified the consort through a search online. Extremely positive feedback was received from both wedding parties, and it is recommended that the consort

further explore the provision of music for weddings to support the broader charitable and artistic work of the organisation.

Feedback

“The music really made the whole day; thank you”

*Isabel Nimmo, Bride, Wedding A*

Personnel (Wedding A): Anita Datta, Ailsa Campbell, Rosa Sparks, Lewis Cullen, Luthien Brackett, Robin Datta, Dominic Wallis, Luca Myers, Henry Montgomery

Personnel (Wedding B): Anita Datta, Molly O’Toole, Lewis Cullen, Alexander Rowland, Jonathan Hill, Tom Butler

## **October 2022**

### *Canterbury Festival*

Building on the Contrapunctus programme delivered at LFCCM in May, The Swan Consort performed a lunchtime recital at St Gregory’s Centre for Music as part of the Canterbury Festival. The programme was kept the same, although due to late confirmation from the university the personnel differed. The concert was again sponsored by Canterbury Christ Church University, and the consort were also engaged to deliver a Masterclass to music students and the choral scholars of Canterbury Cathedral following the concert. The lunchtime concert series at St Gregory’s is free entry, but the majority of the seating is available to reserve through pre-booked tickets. All pre-booked tickets were reserved in advance of the concert, and the hall was at full capacity with additional walk-ins. The producer stated that this was the best attended concert in the entire recital series during the festival. The university made a video and audio recording of the programme, that can be used to promote the programme and The Swan Consort for future opportunities. The masterclass, led by Anita Datta with input from The Swan Consort, was well-attended and extremely successful. Three small groups of students performed and received constructive critique, before all attendees were invited to participate in a workshop rehearsal of Byrd’s *Emendemus in Melius* and *Civitas Sancti Tui*. Approximately 50 students and 10 staff participated from across the School of Creative Arts and Design, including the university chamber choir, Canterbury Cathedral choral scholars, and music students. The singers in The Swan Consort sang with the participants, and demonstrated features as requested by Anita to support the workshop.

Feedback:

the thanks and appreciation should all be on our side: you gave what was one of the most profoundly impressive concerts St Greg's has seen and heard, and the programme was every bit the tremendously effective juxtaposition of old and new we had been eagerly anticipating. And, of course, it was particularly meaningful, given that the new work was Alastair's wonderful music. Stunning performance and inspiring presentation; thank you very much indeed.

The workshop afterwards was everything we could have wished for, notwithstanding the first group's performance. You dealt with that extraordinarily well, combining sensitivity,

patience, and a high musical standard. It was a masterclass in how to run a masterclass; thank you very much for that. Of course, the plenary singing was the proverbial icing...

Many, many thanks again, and I do hope our paths re-cross before too long.

*Dr Christopher Price, Head of Music, CCCU*

Personnel: Anita Datta, Rosa Sparks, Natalie Houlston, Lewis Cullen, Matthew Farrell, Dominic Wallis, Robin Datta, Jonathan Hill, Lucas Maunder

**THE SWAN CONSORT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1194785

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees Annual Report 2021-2022**

*Completed by Volunteer: Anita Datta*

### Finances and Charitable Status

The Swan Consort obtained Charity status in June 2021. Til date the funds for the charity had been held in a separate bank account under the name of the founder, Anita Datta. Once Charitable Status had been obtained, the Trustees began the process of opening a bank account with CAF Bank.

### Work Towards Charitable Purposes

During this period the organisation worked towards the charity's purposes through the following events and engagements:

- October 2021: Performance of 5-part consort as Young Artists in the Brighton Early Music Festival
  - o Five young artists gained career development and performance opportunities through this scheme
  - o The performer fees and travel were subsidised by Brighton Early Music Festival
- December 2021: Development, creation and distribution of '12 Days', an online digital mini-series of seasonal music made in collaboration with Echo Vocal Ensemble and the Gesualdo Six, in association with Ryedale Festival.
  - o The programme was supported by two private donors, and raised funds in ticket sales split by the groups and the festival
- March 2021: Primary School Workshops with Brighton Early Music Festival
  - o Building on the earlier performances, five young artists delivered choral workshop to two state primary school in Brighton and Hove
  - o The schools delivered enthusiastic feedback about the students' experience of receiving these choral workshops



### Receipts and payments accounts

<b>For the period from</b>	Period start	<b>To</b>	Period end
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#### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
	4,884	-	-	4,884
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	4,884	-	-	4,884
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	4,884	-	-	4,884
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
	4,851	-	-	4,851
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	4,851	-	-	4,851
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	4,851	-	-	4,851

<i>et of receipts/(payments)</i>	<b>33</b>	-	-	<b>33</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between fun</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year e</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>33</b>	-	-	<b>33</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest	Restricted funds to nearest
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		33	-
		-	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest	Restricted funds to nearest
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

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

Signature

Print Name



**CC16a**



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Date of  
approval
