

THE ATHENAEUM SINGERS
Registered Charity No 1197561

Report of the Trustees for the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023.

Objectives

The purpose of the Charity is to promote, improve, develop, encourage, and maintain education and appreciation of choral singing and of music in all its aspects, by performance at public concerts, recitals, workshops and in any other ways that the Charity through its Executive Committee deem appropriate.

Activities and Achievements

The Charity began the 2022/23 period having appointed a new Musical Director Nigel Edwards, unfortunately he proved not to be a good fit for the choir so an equitable end to his contract with the choir was negotiated. The choir were fortunate that Thomas Mottershead, who had been interviewed for the appointment was able to take up the position after a short interim period. This appointment has proved to be advantageous to the Charity.

Despite a shorter period of rehearsal, the choir's Autumn concert with a programme of choral music by Mozart and Schubert, was acclaimed as a success although audience numbers were still smaller than anticipated.

A Carol Concert for the community was well attended and much appreciated as was the small group of singers from the choir who sang a selection of carols accompanied by the MD at sheltered housing in Warminster.

In March the episode of Escape to the Country that some members of the choir had been involved in was broadcast, helping the choir to further engage with the wider community. The Come and Sing Workshop that month attracted many more singers to join choir members in singing Handel's Messiah Choruses.

The choir's summer concert took place in early June and the music took the listener through the day into the night underneath the stars. The concert included both choral and solo performances as well as instrumentalists. Improved audience numbers and positive feedback were a great encouragement to the choir.

A group of singers visited sheltered housing and a care home in Warminster to sing a selection of choral pieces from the concert. This has resulted in requests for further visits within the community.

Through the continuous review of their Strategic plan, the Executive Committee continue to plan for the long-term future of the Charity, working on ways to retain and increase membership numbers as well as how to ensure and encourage increased audience engagement while continuing to broaden what the Charity can offer the wider community through engagement with other choirs, schools, and community organisations.

The choir continues to improve its communications through its website www.athenaeumsingers.com and Face book page, Instagram, and Twitter as well as in the local community press and media.

Financial Review

This is the first full year Receipts and Payments account since the Charity became a CIO and covers the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023. It shows an overall deficit of £3,984 for the period. The charity's income derives mainly from subscriptions, patron's donations, fund-raising and on occasions concert surpluses. During this accounting year the Charity has had losses both for the Autumn concert where ticket sales and advertising revenue was lower than anticipated and for the in-house Autumn Workshop, needed due to the unexpected change of Musical Director, the lack of any substantial income in both these instances led to a considerable deficit.

In contrast both the Spring Workshop and the Summer concert made profits, ticket sales in both instances being the major contributor.

Expenditure in the year totalled £13,546, the Musical Directors and Accompanists' fees making up more than half of this at £8,340. Music hire and church hire for rehearsals cost a further £2,815, the remaining £2,391 covered the cost of music hire, bank charges and general advertising and expenses.

Policies, reserves, and risks

The Charity has had to use some of its £7000 reserves this year to enable it to continue to put on concerts while audiences are still not back to pre-covid numbers and membership which had decreased steadily rises. The Executive Committee is conscious of the need to explore all avenues to further increase membership and concert audiences, as well as finding other possible income sources including sponsorship and fund-raising opportunities. The annual subscription has been raised for the coming year. Sound financial controls are exercised by the setting of budgets and their stringent review.

Trustees

Trustees are put forward from within the membership of the Athenaeum Singers based on their relevant skills, they form the Executive Committee who are elected annually.

The trustees elected at the last AGM.

Mrs J Adams (Chair)	Mrs A Arthur
Mrs E Light (Vice Chair)	Mr D. Darby
Mrs J Laughher (Treasurer)	Mrs B Luscombe
Mrs J King (Secretary)	Mrs S Peachey
	Mr J Simmons

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Mrs J Adams (Chair)

2/10/2023

THE ATHENAEUM SINGERS
(Registered Charity 1195761)

Receipts and Payments Account for the period ended 31 August 2023

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Receipts		
Event surplus	£926.62	
Summer 2023 (Underneath the Spring Workshop)	£140.61	
Subscriptions	£6,210.00	
Patrons	£470.00	
Gift Aid	£1,216.25	
General Donations to A/S	£37.50	
Choir B&B sales	£341.83	
100 Club Surplus	£169.60	
Bank interest received	£55.49	
General Sponsorship	£0.00	
	<u>£9,567.90</u>	<u>£140.31</u>
Payments		
Event deficit		
Autumn 2022 (Mozart & Schubert)		
Autumn Workshop		
Rehearsal conductors		
Rehearsal accompanists		
Church hire for rehearsals		
Music hire for choir		
General Expenses		
General advertising		
Making Music sub, PRS fee & insurance		
Website maintenance		
Bank charges		
Donations made by A/S		
100 Club prizes		
Asset Purchases		
	<u>£13,545.27</u>	<u>£2,053.20</u>
Operating deficit for the period	<u>-£3,977.37</u>	<u>-£1,917.89</u>
	<u>£9,567.90</u>	<u>£140.31</u>
Operating deficit as above	<u>-£3,977.37</u>	<u>-£1,917.89</u>
Subs relating to 2023/24	<u>£2,475.00</u>	
Sponsorship relating to 2023/24	<u>-£526.63</u>	
Total cash deficit for the period	<u>-£1,849.00</u>	<u>-£1,917.89</u>

Bank accounts	£
Opening balances	£7,000.00
Deposit (Business Money Manager) Account	£833.08
Current (Community) Account	
Cash deficit as above	
	<u>£7,833.08</u>
Closing balances	
Deposit (Business Money Manager) Account	£4,055.49
Business Account	£1,928.59
Less cheques not cashed	£0.00
	<u>£5,984.08</u>

Notes

- 1 At 31st August 2023, in addition to the cash balances shown above, the Charity-owned staging equipment valued at £1,000 and Music Library of £600.
- 2 The 2021/22 figures are for 4 months only since the transfer to the new CIO

Approved and signed by

John Horsey

Chairman

Date 5th September 2023

Janet Lougher

Treasurer

I have examined this account together with the bank statements and documents from which it was prepared and in my opinion is in accordance therewith.

John Horsey

John Horsey FMAAT, PUA

27th September 2023

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