



STEEL CITY CHORISTERS

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

23 September 2021 to 31 August 2022

Charity name: Steel City Choristers

Charity registration number: 1195909

Principal address: 2 The Grove, Totley, S17 4AS



Steel City Choristers

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 August 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined accounts for the period between the constitution of the charity on 23 September 2021 and the end of our financial year on 31 August 2022.

Chair's Report

Our new dynamic and innovative charity makes high quality choral music more accessible to children and communities in and around Sheffield. Our choir, rooted in the Anglican choral tradition, offers children aged 6-18 a first-class musical education singing alongside experienced adults. We serve a diverse range of churches and other communities with a focus on those who would not otherwise have access to choral music. We also deliver high quality curriculum-linked singing workshops in schools and communities. We do not charge fees to our choristers, the communities for whom we sing or to schools, so that money is never a barrier to people accessing choral music. Our lean operating model is funded mainly via gifts from our Friends as well as a range of core cost and project grants.

We were founded as a community organisation in 2020, following the sudden closure of the Sheffield Cathedral Choir, and registered as an incorporated charity in September 2021. Growing from our roots in the Church of England, we have been greatly encouraged by the support we have received from across Sheffield and the country for our passion and commitment to sustaining and growing a community of trained choristers, and to making choral music more accessible to churches and other communities in and around Sheffield.

We believe in the power of music to change lives. High quality choral music has a transcendent quality that brings a wide range of benefits to the listener. This is recognised and reflected in many patterns of sacred worship – and we are privileged to be able to share our music as part of the worship in an increasing number of churches. These benefits are also enjoyed by many people in non-religious settings. Wherever we sing, and however people hear us, we know our music can help meet people's emotional and spiritual needs.

We have successfully established and grown our choir in the face and wake of the COVID pandemic and now have a wide range of activities both underway and planned for the future. The quality of our work is endorsed by the backing we have secured from several high profile Patrons and the confidence of both the internationally renowned group, The Sixteen, and English Touring Opera, with whom we have worked and performed in recent months.

We are indebted to Joshua Stephens, our founding Director of Music, for his willingness to innovate and experiment with us as we established our new and creative approach to sustaining and sharing the English choral tradition. He has made a huge contribution to the success of Steel City Choristers over the last year. We were at the same time both saddened and absolutely thrilled by his appointment as sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral. We trust that his experience with Steel City Choristers, which included performing to 600 school children from the deck of a theme park pirate ship and drawing out the similarities between Mr Blue Sky and Byrd's Mass for Four Voices, will shape his approach to demystifying and widening access to choral music throughout the rest of his career at the top echelons of his profession. We wish him every success as he pursues his passion for choral music from within the Church of England.



It is with great excitement that we have entered a new chapter in our story with the appointment in June 2022 of Eleanor Jarvis as our new Director of Music. With a degree from the University of Manchester in music with emphasis on conducting, Eleanor has the skill and experience to help us build on our successes, and move from strength to strength over the years to come. In particular, we are excited about the fit between our vision and values and Eleanor's passion and love of singing and her desire to inspire children and make choral music accessible and inviting. She is young and talented, and will help us continue to sing to a really high standard, while bringing new ideas for our repertoire, and strengthening relationships across our choir community and with churches across the city.

2021-22 has been a year of consolidation. We started the year as a newly constituted charity inheriting the fragments of vision, kernel of community and sporadic activities that it had been possible for our predecessor organisation to establish during the COVID pandemic. We ended the year looking to the future with our new Director of Music and having:

- recruited a range of new children and adult singers;
- developed our work with junior choristers and changing voices;
- embedded a programme of youth work within our choir rehearsals;
- designed and launched our education programme in schools and communities;
- established relationships with a diverse range of churches and other hosts;
- attracted over 40 individuals as Friends of the Choir; and
- secured £15,500 in new grant funding.

A particular highlight, that reflects the essence of our vision for sharing the joys of choral music, has been our innovative Reasons to Sing! project, delivered in partnership with Parson Cross Initiative. We are grateful to the community of Parson Cross for their warm welcome and the enthusiastic way in which they engaged to share and make music with us. The project leaves a legacy not just of video and discussion note resources that introduce people to the joys of choral music and invite them to explore the role that songs play in helping them express their emotions, but also a model for further community engagement, that we hope to secure funding to replicate in 2022-23.

The Trustees are enthused and passionate about their vision to share the joys of choral music and excited by the learning that we are generating about how to do that in an effective and sustainable way. We are grateful to the children and adults who have contributed to the success of Steel City Choristers in 2021-22, and look with confidence and optimism to the future as we serve the children and communities of Sheffield together.

Kate Caroe
Chair of Trustees



Objectives and Activities

Our purposes

The purposes of the charity are:

1. For the public benefit, to advance education and training of children and young people, particularly those living in or educated in Sheffield and the surrounding area, in the subject of music and in particular choral music, primarily but not exclusively by
 - a) creating opportunities for children, young people and adults to sing alongside each other to the highest musical standards; and
 - b) promoting and delivering musical and choral education and training to children and young people, regardless of their socio-economic or ethnic background and irrespective of their prior experience.
2. To advance public education in and appreciation of music and in particular choral music and related activities in all their aspects particularly in Sheffield and the surrounding area, primarily but not exclusively by presenting public performances and producing digital content, particularly for communities that would not otherwise have access to choral music.

Our activities

At the heart of our work is the musical education and training we deliver to children and young people. This includes both our singing workshops in schools and communities and our provision for our choristers.

Steel City Choristers offers an outreach programme that aims to inspire primary age children to sing and join choirs. As well as arranging singing workshops in community settings, we have a growing number of relationships with schools, particularly in more disadvantaged areas of the city. Our singing workshops can be linked to the Key Stage 2 Model Music Curriculum or otherwise tailored to schools' needs. They are of a nature and quality that schools may not have the expertise or capacity to deliver themselves. We leave schools with resources designed for non-music specialists to enable them to follow up on our sessions and continue to help children develop key musical skills. We signpost children to local singing opportunities - including through information about Steel City Choristers and how to arrange an informal audition to join us (see steelcitychoristers.org.uk/join). We delivered a total of ten singing workshops in 2021-22.

Children and young people aged between 6 and 18 who join Steel City Choristers are trained to sing to the highest musical standards alongside experienced adult singers. We recruit choristers openly without prejudice to children's socio-economic and ethnic background and their prior singing experience. We are absolutely committed to the principles of children and adults singing with Steel City Choristers free of any fees or charges and to welcoming children and adult singers of all faiths and none. We help our choristers to understand the music they sing and the contexts and venues in which they sing it, including through the youth work that we integrate into our rehearsals that also helps to build relationships among the choristers.

During term time, Steel City Choristers' regular pattern is to offer our choristers three hours of rehearsal time split across two evenings, with separate specialist provision for our junior choristers to help them develop a firm foundation of musical skills. Our teenage boys with changed voices rehearse for two hours a week during term time, and the Clerks (adult singers) rehearse for 90 minutes each week.



Choristers who have sung with the choir for at least a term and who are aged 9 or over are also eligible to receive 20 minutes of one-to-one singing lessons with our teacher, Mrs Vivien Pike, every two weeks in term time.

As a choir, we prioritise singing for communities that do not have experience of, or would not otherwise have access to, choral music. Our aim is to sing in a diverse range of locations and types of venue across Sheffield. We are passionate about the power of music to change lives and want to take it to where people are so they can benefit from its inspiration and beauty.

Public performances in 2021-22 included:

Date	Venue	Event
19/09/21	Beauchief Abbey	Evensong
19/09/21	St John's, Owlerton	Morning Service
13/11/21	Chesterfield Parish Church	Devotional Requiem for Remembrance
24/11/21	Gulliver's Valley	North Star schools science event
03/12/21	St John's, Owlerton	Sheffield Children's Hospital Snowflake switch on
11/12/21	Moor Market	Carol singing in aid of Sheffield Children's hospital
19/12/21	St John's, Owlerton	Christmas Carol Service
23/01/22	St Matthew's, Carver Street	Mass with members of The Sixteen
06/02/22	Doncaster Minster	Festal Evensong for the Queen's anniversary
02/03/22	St John's, Owlerton	Ash Wednesday Service
23/03/22	MAGNA	GUTS Science event for schools
26/03/22	Cutlers Hall	Service in celebration of a 60th birthday
03/04/22	Firth Hall	St. John Passion with English Touring Opera
07/05/22	Mount Tabor Church	Reasons to Sing! concert
14/05/22	Sheffield Winter Garden	Pop up performance
21/05/22	St Mark's, Broomhill	Evensong
19/06/22	Beauchief Abbey	Evensong
03/07/22	Shrewsbury Almshouses	An ordination anniversary celebration Evensong
10/07/22	Holy Trinity, Millhouses	Evensong

We are also passionate about developing partnerships with local communities to promote awareness and appreciation of choral music. This year, we worked in collaboration with social inclusion charity, Parson Cross Initiative (PXI), on a project called 'Reasons to Sing!' that explored the stories behind people's favourite songs and made connections between these and pieces in the choral repertoire. In line with our core purpose, this helped make choral music more accessible and relevant to people in Parson Cross and beyond. The project, with a significant budget of £11k majority funded by Awards for All, was a major undertaking for the choir in terms of both community engagement and audio and video recording. Details of the project, including six videos each with two themed stories and songs are available at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/reasons.

Following the appointment of Joshua Stephens as sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral, the Trustees launched a national advertising campaign to appoint a new Director of Music. A robust selection process resulted in the appointment of Eleanor Jarvis. Eleanor is a professional musician having graduated in 2022 from the University of Manchester with a Bachelor of Music with emphasis on conducting. She has experience leading a good variety of ensembles, with a grounding in both choral and instrumental conducting. She is also a committed singer, having been a chorister since the age of ten. The Trustees consider it a significant achievement, as a relatively newly established organisation, to have attracted such a talented new Director of Music to lead the choir into the future.



Statement on public benefit

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. This means that we have

- made decisions to ensure our charity's purpose provides benefit
- managed risks of detriment or harm to our charity's beneficiaries
- made decisions about who benefits in ways that are consistent with our purpose
- made decisions to make sure any personal benefits are no more than incidental.

We have exercised our discretion:

- in accordance with our charity's purpose, and not outside of it
- for the public benefit
- with regard to the commission's public benefit guidance where relevant
- in accordance with the general framework for Trustee decision making.

The role of volunteers

Volunteers have played a critical role in the operation and governance of the charity this year, including our:

- **Chaperones:** In line with our safeguarding procedure all choir rehearsals and events in which our choristers are taking part are supervised by at least one chaperone. We ended the year with five chaperones in total, four of whom are parents of choristers.
- **Junior Chorister Lead:** Our ability to provide tailored musical education to our youngest and newest choristers has been critical to nurturing and supporting them to develop a firm foundation of musical skills and progress in time to full participation in the choir. Our Junior Chorister Lead has volunteered her considerable skills and experience free of charge this year.
- **Clerks:** While many adult members of the choir have in the past commanded a salary or financial scholarship for the high quality of their singing, all of them sing with Steel City Choristers as volunteers without payment.
- **Advisors & Patrons:** The advice and support of a range of experienced and accomplished musicians and leaders has been invaluable to the Trustees as they steered the charity through its first year.
- **Trustees:** All Trustees share a passion for seeing choral music more widely sung and appreciated across the city. They bring a diverse range of relevant skills and experience to the leadership of the organisation. All of them volunteer their time to lead and govern the charity.



Achievements and Performance

Establishing a reputation for high quality choral music

The challenge of COVID meant that the choir, which was founded September 2020, did not sing regularly together throughout its first year. Since September 2021 Steel City Choristers has thrived, developing a reputation for quality that has led to us securing over 10,000 online views of our recording of “It’s a Wonderful World” in support of the “Sing the Change!” COP26 project and singing with members of The Sixteen and English Touring Opera..

The high standard of our music making is endorsed by our Patrons.

“The standard of performance is exceptional for such a choir.”

Elizabeth Watts (Patron)

“Steel City Choristers has rapidly developed very high standards. The choir is directed by an exceptional musician who enjoys the trust and respect of all its members. As a result, the musical education given to the choristers is excellent and the choir achieves high standards in a range of repertoire. Equally significant is the evident benefit and fulfilment the choir provides for its audiences, who by intention include many people who have never had the opportunity to appreciate first-hand the beauty of choral music. I commend them without reservation.”

Hilary Davan Wetton (Patron)

Delivering benefits through our singing workshops in schools and communities

Our singing workshops in schools are tailored to their needs, supporting delivery of the Model Music Curriculum. Our community workshops are open to all children aged 6-12. We are giving children the opportunity to sing and encouraging and resourcing teachers to include singing in the school day. As well as providing the basis for a solid musical education, singing has well documented positive effects for mental and physical wellbeing.

Delivering benefits to our choristers and adult singers

Steel City Choristers ended the year with 18 Choristers (singing treble) and three teenage boys with Changing Voices (singing lower parts). We are committed to promoting diversity and continue to seek avenues to pursue this. Mid year, we undertook to understand the diversity of our choristers. We found that:

- 21% were an ethnicity other than White
- 53% were female
- 26% spoke a language other than English at home
- 11% an identified special need (e.g. learning, medical, physical)
- Choristers came from seven different postcode areas across the city.

Our Choristers have shown great commitment and have worked hard throughout the year, thus benefiting hugely from the choral training, the wide variety of performance opportunities and the singing lessons we have provided.

To lower the barriers to joining us, particularly for younger children, this year we have developed a specially tailored programme of music education for our junior choristers. Using songs and musical activities based on the Kodály method delivered by our new specialist Junior Chorister Lead, these sessions are enabling our junior choristers to make rapid progress.



We have developed our provision for our boys with changing voices, so that teenage boys receive a supported transition to sing in their new voice. Each week they rehearse with the full choir and with the adult clerks, and also to enjoy a specially tailored session. All of our children and young people, but particularly our Changing Voices, have benefited from singing alongside our seven adult Clerks (singing lower parts), who act as positive role models.

We offer our choristers singing lessons with our highly experienced singing teacher. This 1:1 vocal coaching is of huge value developing not only the children's voices but their personal confidence - and making a significant impact on the standard to which the whole choir sings. The proportion of choristers accessing regular singing lessons (with our teacher or their own) has grown from 70% to over 90% through the course of the year.

We have developed a programme of youth work activities that are integrated into our rehearsal times. Separate sessions are run for our junior and more experienced choristers. The youth work has allowed the children to relax and have fun together, helping them bond and build friendships. We have also used our youth work sessions to help them reflect on their experience of singing in churches across a wide spectrum of different liturgical, theological and musical traditions. We have also helped them understand the events in the church calendar that we have sung services to celebrate. We have used OutoftheBox stories in our youthwork to create a safe space for open-ended enquiry and wondering, helping the children to dialogue, question and listen well in a playful and curious way.

In addition to the benefit of an intensive and high quality musical education, the benefits of singing with Steel City Choristers include developing teamwork and concentration skills as well as the mental and physical health benefits of singing itself.

Delivering benefits to churches and other communities

Hundreds of people of all ages have benefited from hearing Steel City Choristers sing. At one schools' science event alone we reached over 600 young people, and at each church service we sing we typically reach around 50-100 people. We also reach online audiences through our social media.

For the benefit of churches we have:

- **Promoted choral worship:** Offering choral services to churches of other musical traditions whose music is normally led by a guitar or band, to enable them to experience its beauty and value in worship.
- **Enabled choral worship:** Leading choral services in churches within the liturgical tradition that are unable to maintain their own high quality choir, and so either have less ambitious choral music or routinely have only said services.
- **Enhanced choral worship:** Singing together with other church choirs to enhance their choral services through more ambitious repertoire sung to a higher standard than they could provide on their own, often for public services marking special events.

In addition, this year we have sung for the benefit of:

- school children at two large science events - at one, Professor Brian Cox described our singing as "*absolutely beautiful*" and the host, Ruth Amos - Inventor and YouTuber, said "*After the chaos of everyone arriving, that was exactly what we needed - I feel nice and calm*" giving testimony to the power of high quality choral music to influence the mood of both individuals and large groups; and
- for passers by in the Sheffield Winter Garden and also in the city centre when we collected in aid of the Sheffield Children's Hospital.



The benefits of Reasons to Sing!

Reasons to Sing! was a year-long project delivered in partnership with social inclusion charity, Parson Cross Initiative (PXI) that concluded in May 2022.

Members of the PXI community told us about the songs that mattered the most to them or which evoked particularly strong memories. We matched these songs to six pieces from the traditional English choral repertoire through the themes of comfort, gratitude, loss, love, unity and structure. We arranged their songs to be sung by the choir and then delivered a series of workshops in Parson Cross to enable members of the community to learn to sing their six songs, and to then join with Steel City Choristers to perform them at a community concert, at which the choir also performed their six pieces.

The project benefited disadvantaged, vulnerable, and socially excluded people (including those hit hard by Covid through unemployment and low income) who have limited access to social opportunities and the arts, including choral singing, because of cultural barriers, a lack of disposable income, and a lack of opportunities locally. Being supported to perform with our high quality choir boosted their confidence and helped them believe in their own potential. Videos of people's stories shown at the community concert and the project T-shirts we gave everyone who performed helped build a strong sense of identity and pride in the PXI community. The concert was well attended and a wonderful demonstration of the ability of music to bring people together, including through an opportunity for the audience to join in a rousing encore of the local community anthem, Hi Ho Silver Lining.

The videos and discussion note resources available at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/reasons are a legacy of the project that offers ongoing benefit to the wider public, inviting them to appreciate both the joys and beauty of choral music and the wider role of songs in expressing and processing their emotions.

Performance of fundraising activities

The fundraising objective for 2021-22 was to raise the funding necessary for delivering in-year activity, build a new financial reserve to provide resilience to any future drops in income, and secure as much funding as possible in advance for 2022-23. We proactively sought to raise income from two specific sources - individual donors and grant funders.

We launched a Friends scheme in the run up to Christmas 2021 for individuals who want to follow our story and support our work. In return for a range of benefits including a regular newsletter, reserved seating and invitations to open rehearsals and an annual concert, we invite our friends to support us through a one off or ideally recurring gift, Gift Aided where possible. However, there is no minimum donation, and parents of choristers and those who sing in the choir are strongly encouraged to become Friends but not under any obligation to give. Further details are available at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/friends. By the end of the year we had nearly 50 Friends, with a total of 80% supporting us financially, and half who had committed to regular monthly giving. The total number of supporters signed up by the end of the year to receive our newsletter was over 90.

We secured grants from five funders in 2021-22. Two raised restricted funds totalling £4,000 and three were unrestricted funding for core-costs totalling £11,500. All funding applications were prepared by the Trustees, with no fees paid to professional fundraisers.



Financial Review

We ended 2021-22, having covered our operating costs and established a new reserve of £7,000, with an operating surplus of almost £6,000 to carry forward to 2022-23.

We do not charge fees to the children or adults to sing with us, to the schools or communities for whom we deliver singing workshops, or to the hosts for whom we sing. This means that money is never a barrier to people accessing choral music. Instead, we rely on the generosity of our Friends, many of whom give regularly, as well as a growing number of grant funders who recognise the high quality of our music education and the value of our work to promote and sustain the English choral tradition.

Sources of funds in 2021-22 included:

- £3,971 of unrestricted funds transferred to the charity from our predecessor community organisation, raised mainly via a crowdfunding campaign.
- £10,682 carried forward from restricted grants to our predecessor organisation for the Reasons to Sing! Project, including £9,682 from funding awarded in May 2021 by National Lottery funder, Awards for All, and £1,000 awarded in July 2021 by the Worrall Male Voice Choir Grants Foundation.
- £3,000 of restricted grant funding secured from the Sheffield Town Trust to develop our work with our junior choristers.
- £3,000 of core-costs funding secured from the Sheffield Grammar School Exhibition Foundation in December 2021.
- £3,500 of core-costs funding secured from the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust in March 2022.
- £5,000 of core-costs funding secured from the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation in May 2022.
- £1,000 of restricted funding secured from the Worrall Male Voice Choir Grants Foundation in June 2022 to support our education work in schools and communities
- £4,045 from individual donors, including £3,718 from those signing up to the Friends scheme that we launched in the run up to Christmas 2021 to encourage and enable individuals to give, ideally regularly. Eligible Gift Aid on these donations will be claimed and reflected in our 2022-23 accounts.
- £678 in gifts from organisations for whom we sang.

The Trustees have not identified any risks that could create a financial liability not covered by our insurance, and so defined our need for reserves in relation to a proportion of our annual core costs. The Trustees deem it prudent to maintain a reserve equivalent to approximately six months' core costs. For further details see: steelcitychoristers.org.uk/policies.

The charity does not hold any investments.

The Trustees do not currently have any uncertainty about the charity continuing as a going concern. However, the Trustees anticipate a need for increased expenditure to take full advantage of the growing range of post-COVID opportunities available to expand our work. This will require us to not only maintain and grow our income from Friends and other individual donors, but continue to expand the range of grant funders supporting our work.



Structure, Governance and Management

Steel City Choristers is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation) and governed by a board of Trustees. There are no external persons or bodies entitled to appoint Trustees to the board. All appointments to the board are made by the Trustees on the basis of people's relevant skills and experience.

The charity does not have any employees, but rather engages music professionals on a freelance basis, paying fees for the services they render.

The board of Trustees delegates specific responsibilities to three committees each tasked with leadership in relation to a number of strategic aims:

1. Operations Committee
 - **To Sing:** Provide regular opportunities for choir members to rehearse, receive specialist musical tuition and perform
 - **To Grow:** Recruit new children and adults to sing with us to both grow and diversify our membership and retain those we have
 - **To Safeguard:** Ensure we operate in a safe and lawful manner at all times
2. Partnerships, Projects and Communications Committee
 - **To Reach Out:** Establish relationships with new partners and host communities to diversify those hearing and appreciating our singing
 - **To Innovate:** Design and deliver new and exciting ways to engage schools and children in choral music and present it to audiences who wouldn't otherwise have access to it
 - **To Promote:** Raise public awareness and interest in Steel City Choristers
3. Finance and Governance Committee
 - **To Thrive:** Ensure the sustainability and financial viability of the organisation
 - **To Comply:** Ensure the propriety and efficiency of our organisational governance and reporting

The Trustees and in particular the Chair are advised by the charity's Patrons and Advisors – details of whom are available at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/team/.

The Trustees managing the charity in 2021-22 were:

- Kate Caroe (Chair) – a home educator and founding co-director of OutoftheBox Training, a not-for-profit organisation supporting personal and community wellbeing through the power of story and play.
- Jeremy Dawson (Treasurer) – Professor of health management at the University of Sheffield, Chair of a local orchestra (Hallam Sinfonia), and former Lay Clerk at Sheffield Cathedral.
- Chris Caroe (Secretary) – a civil servant at DfE and former management consultant.
- Tony Laycock - a retired primary school headteacher.
- Yinka Oluwole – a doctor and staff governor at the Sheffield Children's Hospital and Non-Executive Director at Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust.
- Angela Holman – teacher and choir parent (Trustee since April 2022).
- Andrew Watson – former management consultant (Trustee until November 2021).



There are no corporate Trustees.

No Trustees hold title to property belonging to the charity.

There are no funds held as custodian Trustees on behalf of others.

There are no exemptions from disclosure.

The principal risks facing the charity and how these are mitigated are detailed below.

Recruitment risk: that we are unable to sustain the number of children and adults singing that we need to operate a viable choir.

Mitigation: We recruit children to sing in the choir without prejudice to their background or prior experience and do not charge fees, so that money is never a barrier to singing with us. We maximise word of mouth and social media opportunities to encourage children to audition to join us, especially in September at the beginning of the school year. Throughout the year, we highlight the opportunity to sing with Steel City Choristers as we deliver singing workshops in schools and community settings. We encourage boys whose voices change to continue singing with us, including through specialist music training during rehearsal time. We recruit experienced adult singers for the lower parts mainly via word of mouth.

Funding risk: that we are unable to secure the funding we need to sustain our planned activities.

Mitigation: An annual budget is set having regard to the current funds available. Financial controls ensure all expenditure remains within budget. We maintain a financial reserve that provides the resilience we need to continue core operations over a time period in which significant efforts could be made to secure additional funding, should the need arise. Our reserves policy is published at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/policies.

Safeguarding risk: that a safeguarding incident occurs despite the policies and procedures in place to keep everyone safe.

Mitigation: We have a robust safeguarding policy in place that includes the use of trained chaperones for all events involving children, and appropriate checks and training for all adults who are involved with the choir. Our policies and procedures are reviewed at least annually in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Retention risk: that our Director of Music resigns and that we are faced with the cost, disruption and uncertainty of recruiting a replacement.

Mitigation: The Chair of Trustees maintains a regular dialogue with the Director of Music in order to build and sustain a positive and collaborative relationship in which both she and the Trustees feel a strong sense of ownership and pride in relation to the operation and future plans for the choir. The Trustees are committed to offering the Director of Music exciting and vibrant opportunities for creative musical expressions and to supporting her ongoing professional development, backed where appropriate with appropriate funding. The Director of Music has agreed to provide us with 3 months' notice of any intention or plan to step down from her role.

Statement of Financial Activities: Year Ended 31 August 2022

These accounts cover the period from the incorporation of Steel City Choristers as a CIO on 23 September 2021 until the end of our financial year on 31 August 2022.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income			
Assets from predecessor organisation	3,971	10,682	14,653
Donations - Friends	3,718	-	3,718
Donations - Other	1,006	-	1,006
Grants	11,500	4,000	15,500
Contributions for charitable donations	-	913	913
Contributions for other goods/services	612	-	612
Miscellaneous	34	-	34
Total income	20,841	15,595	36,436
Expenditure			
Director of Music fees	1,788	6,294	8,082
Other musician fees	2,084	1,911	3,995
Director of Music recruitment	1,073	-	1,073
Training	659	-	659
Recordings	-	2,700	2,700
Music purchase	938	22	960
Travel	346	-	346
Venue hire	51	602	653
Insurance/subscriptions	383	-	383
DBS checks	13	-	13
Web hosting	85	-	85
Printing, postage, promotional materials	670	240	910
Clothing & storage boxes	97	640	737
Advertising	110	169	279
Social events, food & drink, gifts	1,125	16	1,141
Charitable donations	-	913	913
Total expenditure	9,422	13,507	22,929
Surplus	11,419	2,088	13,507
Balance brought forward from last year	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	11,419	2,088	13,507

Restricted Funds

There were four sources of restricted funds during the 2021-22 financial year:

- Restricted funds transferred to the charity by our predecessor organisation - an unincorporated community organisation that ran the choir prior to our incorporation as a CIO in September 2022. These funds were from two restricted grants for the Reasons to Sing Project, which ran from May 2021 to May 2022, and were spent in full in the 2021-22 financial year:
 - £9,682 from a grant from National Lottery Awards for All; and
 - £1,000 from a grant from the Worrall Male Voice Choir Grants Foundation.
- A grant from Sheffield Town Trust of £3,000 awarded in October 2021 to widen participation in the choir through the development of our provision for junior choristers. £1,088 remains unspent at the end of the 2021-22 financial year and has to be spent by the end of December 2022.
- A grant from the Worrall Male Voice Choir Grants Foundation in July 2022 of £1,000 to support our education work in schools and communities. None of these funds were spent in the 2021-22 financial year. The grant is due to be spent by July 2023.
- A total of £913 was provided in donations by individuals for the specific purpose of enabling Steel City Choristers to make donations to other charities. These were all made during the 2021-22 financial year.

Assets and Liabilities

The only assets held by Steel City Choristers are cash (including reserves). These are summarised as follows:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted cash assets	4,419	-	4,419
Widening participation grant	-	1,088	1,088
School and community work grant	-	1,000	1,000
Reserves	7,000	-	7,000
Total	11,419	2,088	13,507

There are no liabilities and no debtors or creditors.



Payments to Trustees

No payments were made to Trustees in 2021-22 for any work conducted as Trustees or in any other capacity.

A total of £1,680 was paid to four Trustees for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred when these could not be reasonably paid directly from the Steel City Choristers bank account.



Declarations

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Signature

Kate Caroe

Jeremy Dawson

Full Name

Kate Caroe

Jeremy Dawson

Position

Chair

Treasurer

Date

2 November 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of

Steel City Choristers

On accounts for the year
ended

31 August 2022

Charity no.:

1195909

Company no.:

Set out on pages

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 August 2022

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

Name:

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

Address:


Venusia Ltd
Apt 316
Wimbledon Central
21-33 Worple Road
London - SW19 4BJ
Association of International Accountants

Date:

18/10/2022

Venusia Ltd

Apt 316 Wimbledon Central, 21 – 33 Worple Road

London, SW19 4BJ