

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 10571468 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196048

SONORO
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

SONORO

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7 to 11

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

This report serves as both the Trustees Annual Report and the Directors' Report under company law for the Company's financial and operating period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. For the purposes of filing with Companies House and the Charity Commission, the financial statements for the Company are appended to this report.

The Trustees confirm that the Trustees Annual Report and the associated financial statements comply with the statutory requirements currently in force, with the charity's own governing document and in accordance with the financial reporting standards (FRS102) applicable in the UK.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

- a) To advance the education understanding and appreciation of the public in music in general and choral music in particular for the public benefit through the holding of public concerts and events in which people gather to participate in music and by means of broadcasting, producing and/or distributing literature or such other means as the trustees think fit;
- b) To promote the education (including social and physical training) of people of all ages but notably those under the age of 25 years through music in such ways as the charity trustees think fit;
- c) To promote learning for pleasure by people including those not in full time employment through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in music in general and choral music in particular;
- d) To promote research for the public benefit in all aspects of music education and to publish the useful results relating to that subject.

Significant activities

At the heart of Sonoro, and expressing its prime ethos, is its chamber choir, which has attracted attention for its warm tone, rich blend of colours and vibrancy in performance. Its singers are drawn from the pool of the country's finest professional choral talent, who are also independent soloists in their own right.

The choir's unmistakably rich and full sound has been realised by allowing each singer to be free to use all of their voice, matched with careful blending, creating warmth and resonance. 'Sonoro' in Italian means 'sonorous, voices that are rich and full' and Sonoro lives up to that name as a choir with a distinctive and perfectly blended sound.

Having been awarded charitable status from 5 October 2021, bringing the company on par with many of its peers, it took the move to grow its number of trustees to extend and widen the experience of the group in its support of the charity's objectives. The following new trustees were appointed: Elizabeth Neale, solicitor (July 2022), Phiroz Dalal, chartered engineer (November 2022) and Melanie Hancox, English tutor (January 2023). The principal activities described in the next section highlight how the objectives of the charity are being met, notably in the areas of educational outreach with young children and the organisation of events throughout the country.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of the charity the trustees have had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Activities

Compared with the previous year and its challenges presented in the latter stages of the Covid pandemic, this year saw a return to a more 'normal' set of activities.

Continuing its long association with the Wimbledon-based Merton SingFest, a festival drawing on participation by many local choirs and choral groups, Sonoro hosted a workshop for adult singers who then joined up with a parallel event being run for children in an adjoining venue for a final, uplifting finale.

As planned, the Christmas with Sonoro event in 2022 was relocated to a more accessible central London venue, Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. This was a very well-received concert for both its rich, varied and diverse music content and also for readings by special guest, comedian Andy Hamilton. It is planned to hold a concert of a similar nature in an equally accessible venue in 2023.

Sonoro was delighted to be able to continue its close association and collaboration with Merton Music Foundation by visiting a number of primary schools spread over four dates during the year as part of its educational outreach project, Sound Construction. This highly successful project is organised in partnership with Merton Music Foundation and this year was supported again by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund distributed by Merton Giving. As part of its continual development, the team of professional musicians delivering this has been extended with additional singers who can also act as hosts for the sessions. The content has also been expanded to include more collaboration with local artist, Annabel Johnson, as the combination of artwork and singing has proved to be a winning formula with the children. These workshops are at the heart of what Sonoro stands for. Feedback from the schools, largely in the east of the borough of Merton where a low percentage of the community engages regularly (if at all) in arts activities, has been extremely positive with all areas of the project evaluated as "excellent". Children were fully engaged and felt they made a positive and creative contribution.

In the previous year, Sonoro had been successful in applying and being accepted for an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant to programme Choral Inspirations 2 along the same lines as the original Choral Inspirations, in which six contemporary composers are commissioned to write new choral music influenced by or reflecting their interpretation of six existing classical works. The two projects have now resulted in the addition of twelve new choral compositions to the choral repertoire. As part of the project plan, vocal and conducting workshops, singing days and side-by-side performances have taken place across the country in Derbyshire, London, Chester, Reading and Cardiff. The event planned for Newcastle had to be rescheduled to later in 2023 due to national rail strikes.

There are no singers as permanent members of Sonoro's chamber choir. Each project and event is resourced from a list of professional singers that has been drawn up following auditions with the Artistic Directors on a regular basis. Two further audition sessions were arranged in October 2022 with over 150 applicants, although there was only capacity to audition 60. This high level of applicant numbers is a testament to the choir's vocal style and ethos, which is attracting considerable praise amongst singers. It is important to Sonoro that it demonstrates best practice in this process of auditioning and it has received many compliments from applicants on the positive experience they had during the auditions. A further 30 singers have now been added to the list for potential future engagements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

A summary of the financial position of the charity is provided on the balance sheet which forms a part of these accounts.

Reserves policy

The charity has no employees. Any professionals engaged are on an ad hoc project by project basis only. The charity therefore aims to hold sufficient reserves to enable it to meet its financial obligations as they fall due over a three-month period, a duration considered sufficient to allow for a controlled closure of the company, should it be required.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006, and its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted by a special resolution on 21st September 2021 and filed with the Charity Commission.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees have the power to appoint additional trustees, taking into consideration any specialist skills or aptitude that a potential trustee may possess that would benefit or widen the expertise and knowledge area of the trustees.

SONORO (REGISTERED NUMBER: 10571468)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Decision making

The Trustees meet regularly to review the Company's operation, plans and financial status as stated and proposed by the operations team, led by the Artistic Directors, to which the day-to-day management of the Company is delegated.

No Trustee receives any fees, remuneration, financial benefit or benefit-in-kind for holding the role of Trustee and can only claim the reimbursement for any authorised expenses incurred subject to the terms defined in the Company's Articles.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

10571468 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1196048

Registered office

4th Floor Tuition House
27/37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Principal address

18 Bartholomew Close
Haslemere
Surrey
GU27 1EN

Trustees

Peter Hickson (Chair)
Phiroz Dalal (appointed 2/11/22)
Neil Dennis
Melanie Hancox (appointed 4/1/23)
Elizabeth Neale (appointed 13/7/22)
Helen Wills
Claire Jamieson (resigned 8/12/22)

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 12 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Peter Hickson - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SONORO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sonoro ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



Jonathan Askew

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

7 November 2023

SONORO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Grants and donations		19,830	11,791	31,621	58,107
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		7,181	9,794	16,975	12,258
Total		<u>27,011</u>	<u>21,585</u>	<u>48,596</u>	<u>70,365</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		23,248	33,495	56,743	57,229
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		3,763	(11,910)	(8,147)	13,136
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		491	13,598	14,089	953
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>4,254</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>5,942</u>	<u>14,089</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SONORO (REGISTERED NUMBER: 10571468)**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	6	29	-	29	57
Tangible assets	7	632	-	632	294
		<u>661</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>351</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	1,088	-	1,088	-
Cash at bank		10,399	1,688	12,087	19,320
		<u>11,487</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>13,175</u>	<u>19,320</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(7,894)	-	(7,894)	(5,582)
		<u>3,593</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>13,738</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>4,254</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>5,942</u>	<u>14,089</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>4,254</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>5,942</u>	<u>14,089</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>4,254</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>5,942</u>	<u>14,089</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				4,254	491
Restricted funds				1,688	13,598
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>5,942</u>	<u>14,089</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Peter Hickson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SONORO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Charitable activities	<u>3,917</u>

SONORO**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****2. SUPPORT COSTS - continued**

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Governance costs

	2023 Charitable activities £	2022 Total activities £
Accountancy fees	3,261	2,760
Legal fees	656	3,446
	<u>3,917</u>	<u>6,206</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation - owned assets	385	448
Computer software amortisation	28	878
	<u></u>	<u></u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Grants and donations	9,780	48,327	58,107
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	<u>4,758</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>12,258</u>
Total	<u>14,538</u>	<u>55,827</u>	<u>70,365</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	<u>15,000</u>	<u>42,229</u>	<u>57,229</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(462)	13,598	13,136
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	953	-	953
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>491</u>	<u>13,598</u>	<u>14,089</u>

SONORO**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****6. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Computer software £
COST	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	<u>2,635</u>
AMORTISATION	
At 1 April 2022	2,578
Charge for year	28
	<u>2,606</u>
At 31 March 2023	
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>29</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>57</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2022	2,498
Additions	723
	<u>3,221</u>
At 31 March 2023	
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	2,204
Charge for year	385
	<u>2,589</u>
At 31 March 2023	
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>632</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>294</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	<u>1,088</u>	<u>-</u>

SONORO

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,874	2,822
Accrued expenses	6,020	2,760
	<u>7,894</u>	<u>5,582</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	491	3,763	4,254
Restricted funds			
Merton Giving	6,665	(6,636)	29
Choral Inspirations	6,933	(5,274)	1,659
	<u>13,598</u>	<u>(11,910)</u>	<u>1,688</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,089</u>	<u>(8,147)</u>	<u>5,942</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	27,011	(23,248)	3,763
Restricted funds			
Merton Giving	750	(7,386)	(6,636)
Choral Inspirations	20,835	(26,109)	(5,274)
	<u>21,585</u>	<u>(33,495)</u>	<u>(11,910)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>48,596</u>	<u>(56,743)</u>	<u>(8,147)</u>

SONORO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	953	(462)	491
Restricted funds			
Merton Giving	-	6,665	6,665
Choral Inspirations	-	6,933	6,933
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,598</u>	<u>13,598</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>953</u>	<u>13,136</u>	<u>14,089</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,538	(15,000)	(462)
Restricted funds			
Merton Giving	16,850	(10,185)	6,665
Choral Inspirations	38,977	(32,044)	6,933
	<u>55,827</u>	<u>(42,229)</u>	<u>13,598</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>70,365</u>	<u>(57,229)</u>	<u>13,136</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.