



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Decibellas

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1197363

Set out on pages

3 & 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 in, any material respect:

- 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

23 January 2025

Name:

Dr A W Dowen

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

Address:

17 Brookside

Ashton Hayes

Chester CH3 8BZ



Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.





## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/01/2024

To

Period end date  
31/12/2024

### 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 £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members subscriptions	12,650	-	-	12,650	12,495
Gift Aid	2,743	-	-	2,743	-
Dresses	390	-	-	390	520
Sundry	140	-	-	140	200
Interest received	12	57	-	69	55
Grants and donations	667	-	-	667	395
Performance choir	420	-	-	420	200
July concert	3,111	-	-	3,111	3,292
Christmas concert	3,939	-	-	3,939	3,795
Money from members - Christmas party & Tour	1,537	18,522	-	20,059	27,919
Items bought and returned	-	-	-	-	13
Paid into restricted account in error	-	10	-	10	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>25,608</b>	<b>18,589</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,197</b>	<b>48,883</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
sale of sheet music	101	-	-	101	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>25,709</b>	<b>18,589</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,298</b>	<b>48,883</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Music Director & Accompanist	11,350	-	-	11,350	9,410
Room Hire	1,950	-	-	1,950	1,512
Costs of concerts	2,502	-	-	2,502	2,935
Concert ticket refunds	140	-	-	140	-
Cost of other events	1,093	-	-	1,093	1,379
Charitable grants	500	-	-	500	4,500
Insurance	183	-	-	183	176
Computer security & websites, zoom	409	-	-	409	401
Sheet music	3,471	-	-	3,471	1,954
Bank charges	66	-	-	66	69
Payment for Christmas party	1,377	-	-	1,377	1,594
Items bought then returned	-	-	-	-	13
Performance choir costs	85	-	-	85	-
riser storage	259	-	-	259	-
Sundry	204	-	-	204	959
refunds to members	360	-	-	360	-
Tour payments on behalf of members	18,815	-	-	18,815	24,480
Tour funded by choir	1,186	-	-	1,186	1,020
Members Tour money returned	1,262	-	-	1,262	1,200
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>45,213</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,213</b>	<b>51,602</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>45,213</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,213</b>	<b>51,602</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 19,504</b>	<b>18,589</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 915</b>	<b>- 2,719</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>19,991</b>	<b>- 19,991</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>6,191</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,452</b>	<b>12,171</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,679</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,537</b>	<b>9,452</b>

CCXX R1 accounts (SS)

23/01/2025



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

### Categories

#### B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash at Bank (current a/c)	6,079.00	-	-
Music deposit account	-	1,520	-
Deposit account	599.62	-	-
Tour account (members' money)	-	338	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,679</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

#### B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

#### B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

#### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Risers for performance	unrestricted	-	-
Sheet music	unrestricted	-	-
Keyboard	unrestricted	-	-
Amp	unrestricted	-	-
Curtains for risers	unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

#### B5 Liabilities


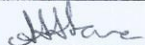
Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Tour account (members' money)	restricted	338	
Music deposits	restricted	1,520	on return of music
		-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	J MASON	23/1/25
 2	A J MORAN	23/01/2025

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)





Section A

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CCXX R1 accounts (SS)

23/01/2025



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

### Categories

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(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

#### B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

#### B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

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Sheet music	unrestricted	-	-
Keyboard	unrestricted	-	-
Amp	unrestricted	-	-
Curtains for risers	unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

#### B5 Liabilities


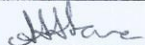
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		-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	J MASON	23/1/25
 2	A J MORAN	23/01/2025

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)





# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	01 01 2024	To	31 12 2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Decibellas

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1197363

Charity's principal address

7 Goosebrook Close

Comberbach

Northwich, Cheshire

Postcode

CW9 6BX

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Joan Mason	Chair		
2	Gwyneth Struthers	Secretary	01.01.24 – 07.03.24	
3	Jaki King	Secretary	07.03.24 – 31.12.24	
4	Amanda Moran	Treasurer		
5	Deborah Jowett	Vice Chair	01.01.24 – 07.03.24	
6	Anne Pover	Vice Chair	07.03.24 – 31.12.24	
7	Jacqueline Turner	Music Librarian	01.01.24 – 07.03.24	
8	Rosie Hudson	Music Librarian	07.03.24 – 31.12.24	
9	Helen Arnold	Fundraising & Sponsorship		
10	Elizabeth Robertson	Events		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year



### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or reappointed at the Annual General Meeting held in the spring term for a two year term of office

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The choir was granted charity status on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Membership of the choir is open to all adults who sing soprano or alto and are able to attend rehearsals in Tarporley, Cheshire.

The choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- To promote the enjoyment of music through public concerts
- To use music to improve people's wellbeing
- To support other charitable organisations through the provision of grant funding



**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

The choir held a number of public performances during 2024:

- Three performances in churches in Sicily
- A summer concert in St Boniface Church, Bunbury, in July
- A Light up a Life service at St Luke’s Hospice, Winsford
- A performance at an event organised by our lead sponsor, Clear Cut Financial Planning
- A Christmas concert at St Boniface Church, Bunbury
- Carol singing at The Rising Sun, Bunbury.

Decibellas continued to provide training and support to an up-and-coming Music Director, Olivia Westhead, engaging her to attend choir rehearsals under the guidance of our Music Director Marcus Williams. She continues to work with the choir and conducts specific pieces at our concerts and competitions.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

In February 2024, the choir competed at the Mrs Sunderland music festival in Huddersfield, receiving excellent feedback.

In April 2024 the choir visited Sicily and gave three well-attended performances in local churches.

In July and December 2024, we held concerts in our local venue, St Boniface Church, Bunbury, each of which attracted audiences of over 200.

Decibellas raised over £4,000 from ticket sales and sponsorship from its two concerts in 2024. With the proceeds, the committee invited a small number of local charities working to provide support for those living with dementia and their carers, to submit applications for a small grant. Only one of the charities submitted a grant request for £500, which was awarded in full. The charity Decibellas supported was:

Dementia Together Wirral – a charity providing social support and friendship to those people living with dementia and their carers and former carers.

Decibellas' members had also invited Older People Active Lives (OPAL) and Snow Angels (CIC) to hold bucket collections at the July and December concerts, respectively. At the July concert OPAL raised £970 towards their carers and dementia service; and in December Snow Angels, who are a Chester-based social enterprise which supports older people to continue to live independently and keep well, raised £920.



## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was £8.5k of which £6.7k is unrestricted.  
£1.5k represents members music deposits which are refunded when they leave and return their music to the choir. This sum is shown as restricted funds.  
Around £0.3k of funds are amounts deposited by members held for their use in funding a future choir tour. This money is also shown as restricted funds.  
The balance is retained for working capital and unforeseen circumstances.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our main source of funds is membership subscriptions, which are used to fund the cost of rehearsals – rent of rehearsal room and payment to the Musical Director and Accompanist, and also to purchase new music to expand the choir's repertoire.

We also raised money through our July and Christmas concerts (through ticket sales and sponsorship) which enabled us to share our pleasure in singing with local audiences and to award grants to nominated charities.

## Section F

## Other optional information

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## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Joan Mason	Amanda Moran
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date		