

FESTIVAL VOICES

England & Wales · Charity number 1198403

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-03-28

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

Contact

Address Flat 12 Blake House
Brecknock Road Estate
Brecknock Road
London
N19 5AR

Phone 07763000655

Email info@festivalvoices.com

Website <https://www.festivalvoices.com/>

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE, AND THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART OF MUSIC FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THROUGH: A) THE PERFORMANCE OF HIGH QUALITY, EDUCATIONAL CHORAL PROGRAMMES B) COMMISSIONS AND CROSS-GENRE COLLABORATIONSC) PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE FROM ALL DEMOGRAPHICS

Activities: Festival Voices creates transformative choral experiences for new audiences in unexpected venues. We have appeared at major UK venues and festivals, presenting breathtaking choral works, often reimagined with electronic music, and gaining a reputation as one of the UK's most innovative vocal ensembles.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£42,190	£40,475	-	-
2024-04-05	£1,280	£270	-	-
2022-12-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jack Furness	Chair	2022-03-28
Amanda Macleod		2022-03-28
Douglas Nicolson		2025-08-04
Stephanie Marie Michele Bickel		2025-09-25

FESTIVAL VOICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1198403

Accounts



FESTIVAL VOICES

Festival Voices
Trustees' Report and Accounts
Twelve month period from 6th April 2024 to 5th April 2025
Charity Number 1198403

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Trustees' Report
Receipts and Payments Account
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Trustees' Report

Charity Name: Festival Voices

Charity Registration Number: 1198403

Charity Principal Address: 12 Blake House, London, N19 5AR

Objectives

The charity's principal objective, as laid out in its constitution (approved by the Trustees on 10th January 2022 and registered with the Charity Commission on March 28th 2022) is the advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music for the public benefit through:

- a) the performance of high quality, educational choral programmes
- b) commissions and cross-genre collaborations
- c) participation opportunities for people from all demographics

Review of Activities

The twelve months from April 2024 to April 2025 was an exciting year for Festival Voices, as the charity expanded its activities, built its profile, and increased the number of people it engages. The year included four high-profile projects in partnership with different organisations. For each of these projects, Festival Voices fulfilled a slightly different role in relation to the initiation, organisation and execution of the project. The year's activities have put Festival Voices on a solid grounding to continue growing in the future.

1. Songs of Communion & Mozart Remixed - Bold Tendencies

Invited by Bold Tendencies, the charity delivered a mass choral event in the organisation's iconic repurposed car park in Peckham, bringing together amateur and professional singers in a shared, ambitious performance. Centred on two newly commissioned works, an electronic reimagining of Mozart's *Requiem* by Nico Bentley and *Songs of Communion* by Kristina Arakelyan, the project exemplified Festival Voices' commitment to the advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music for the public benefit. The event combined high-quality, educational choral programmes with commissions and cross-genre collaborations, while offering meaningful participation opportunities for people from all demographics. Alongside a range of guest amateur choirs, the concert marked the first performance of the newly formed Bold Chorus, drawn from local residents and fully integrated into a professional-level production. The resulting concert was Festival Voices at its most impactful: working with a new partner to create bold, forward-thinking work, while widening access to choral music through an inclusive, community-focused approach.

2. Choral Remix - Wilderness Festival & Southbank Centre

In the summer of 2024, Festival Voices presented a programme of unaccompanied choral music with electronics, which featured several new commissions from long-term collaborator Nico Bentley, engaging with music by Caroline Shaw, Thomas Tallis, George Frederick Handel, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and James MacMillan. These events were unticketed, and we estimate that over 200 people experienced the music.

3. Sun Rings - Kings Place

This concert was the opening event for the 2025 “Earth Unwrapped” season at Kings Place. Terry Riley’s large work for string quartet, choir and electronics, *Sun Rings*, was performed to celebrate the composer’s 90th birthday. Led by the Sacconi Quartet, and featuring live visuals, the event was reviewed in *The Guardian* and *The Arts Desk*, Rachel Haliburton writing: “It’s a testament to all the musicians involved that it felt as relevant now as it must have done to audiences who heard it almost quarter of a century ago.”

The project was particularly significant for Festival Voices as it marked the beginning of a new partnership with Kings Place which has been in development in the intervening period.

4. Dixit Dominus Remixed - Doug Varone and Dancers, USA

The American choreographer Doug Varone has continued to use Festival Voices’ remix of Handel’s *Dixit Dominus*, which the charity previously commissioned from Nico Bentley, as the soundtrack for his choreographic work *Restore*.

The Period since April 2025

In the period since April 2025, the Festival Voices team has focused on project and partnership development, and in January 2026 opened the *Memory Unwrapped* season at Kings Place with a festival-style celebration of sound, memory, and connection, entitled *A Night to Remember*. The event was in partnership with Olivia Chaney, Joe Webb, and Ristband Studios. Festival Voices’ section, *Fragmented Recollection*, featured works by Ben Nobuto, Philip Glass, Roger Marsh, Thomas Tallis, and Nico Bentley. Festival Voices also gave the world premiere of a new work from Crystalla Serghiou, entitled *Illuminations* at this event. The event was warmly received and will form the basis of an ongoing partnership with Kings Place.

Kings Place also invited Festival Voices to perform at the Arts Foundation Fellowship Awards in February 2026. This will be followed by two further concerts at the venue in 2026.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Commission, ensuring FV meets its charitable objectives through its work.

Financial Review

The charity received income for the projects it undertook at Bold Tendencies, Wilderness Festival, Southbank Centre and Kings Place. It also received income from a second installment from Doug Varone and Dancers to licence Dixit Dominus Remixed in the period 2024-2026, the first installment of which was paid in the previous financial year. A small additional amount received was donations to support the monthly fee for subscription to our bank's commercial platform. This account has since been switched to a different system that does not require an ongoing fee.

Outgoings during the period were artist fees and project expenses, curation fees for the artistic directors, commissioning, company expenses (including website, email, insurance, and music hire and printing), licensing, banking costs, and marketing and promotional costs (photos).

The charity's unrestricted assets at the end of this report's accounting period were £2724.18.

Reserves Policy

Festival Voices aims to build and then maintain a reserve of £2,000 to provide financial security and cover unforeseen costs. We strive to allocate a portion of funds from each project to build and sustain our reserves. Reserves may be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for purposes that align with Festival Voices' charitable objectives. This may include:

- Supporting new artistic or operational initiatives
- Covering short-term financial shortfalls
- Investing in growth and sustainability of the charity

Decisions on releasing reserves are made collectively by the Board, ensuring responsible financial management. Reserves are reviewed annually as part of financial planning.

Structure, governance and management

Festival Voices is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by constitution. The Trustees are Jack Furness (chair), Amanda MacLeod and Douglas Nicholson. Amanda MacLeod held the position of chair until 14th February 2024 when she stepped down from the role. Jack Furness was appointed new chair on the same date. Jack Halsey was a Trustee until August 4th, when he stepped down from the role and Douglas Nicholson took up the position.

Stephanie Sutton was appointed as a Trustee on 25th September 2025.

The charity's constitution stipulates that there must be at least three charity Trustees and the maximum number of Trustees is twelve. Apart from the first Trustees, every Trustee is to be appointed for a term of five years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the board. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must

have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Festival Voices.

Board meetings in the period were attended by Mr Gregory Batsleer and Mr Oskar McCarthy (Co-Artistic Directors).

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed by 

Name Jack Furness (Chair)

Date 30th January 2026

Statement of financial activity

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
£	£	£	£	£
Total Income	£ 42,190.00	£ -	£ 42,190.00	£ 1,280.00
Total Expenditure	£ (40,475.44)	£ -	£ (40,475.44)	£ (270.38)
Net income/expenditure	£ 1,714.56	£ -	£ 1,714.56	£ 1,009.62
Total funds carried forward	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Last year
£	£	£	£	£
Current assets	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Debtors	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Cash at bank and in hand	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Total current Assets	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Total assets less current liabilities	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total net assets or liabilities	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Funds of the charity	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62

Restricted income funds	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Unrestricted income funds	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62
Total funds	£ 2,724.18	£ -	£ 2,724.18	£ 1,009.62

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed by 

Name Jack Furness (Chair)

Date 30th January 2026

Notes and clarifications

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Festival Voices

I report on the accounts of Festival Voices for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Responsibilities

My examination was conducted in accordance with the Charities Act and the Charity Commission guidance for independent examiners. My responsibility is to state whether, on the basis of the examination carried out, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that in any material respect:

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- or the accounts do not agree with the accounting records;
- or the accounts have not been prepared on the receipts and payments (cash) basis in accordance with the special provisions applicable to charities of this size.

Scope of report

The charity prepares its financial statements on a receipts and payments (cash) basis. I report on those accounts. I have not been instructed to carry out an audit and accordingly I do not express an audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion:

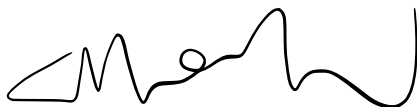
- proper accounting records have been kept by the charity;
- the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records;
- and the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments (cash) basis in accordance with the applicable legal requirements and the Charity Commission guidance for charities of this size.

Additional matters

I have not identified any material expenditure that is inconsistent with the charity's governing document, nor any indications of dishonesty, fraud, money laundering, criminal activity, or conflicts of interest requiring reporting to the Charity Commission or other regulatory bodies.

Conclusion

Based on the procedures performed, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that, in any material respect, the accounts have not been properly prepared on the receipts and payments (cash) basis and do not reflect the charity's financial transactions for the period.



Charlotte Martin, ACA

ICAEW Membership No. 4030291

29 January 2026

FESTIVAL VOICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1198403

Accounts



FESTIVAL VOICES

Festival Voices
Trustees' Report and Accounts
Fifteen month period from 1st January 2023 to 5th April 2024
Charity Number 1198403

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Trustees' Report
Receipts and Payments Account
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Trustees' Report

Charity Name: Festival Voices

Charity Registration Number: 1198403

Charity Principal Address: 12 Blake House, London, N19 5AR

Objectives

The charity's principal objective, as laid out in its constitution (approved by the Trustees on 10th January 2022 and registered with the Charity Commission on March 28th 2022) is the advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music for the public benefit through:

- a) the performance of high quality, educational choral programmes
- b) commissions and cross-genre collaborations
- c) participation opportunities for people from all demographics

Review of Activities

In the fifteen months from January 2023 to April 2024, Festival Voices continued its research and planning activities, leading towards three live and one licensed projects in 2024. The board met at regular intervals throughout this period, with particular focus on getting live events going again for the organisation.

In March 2024, we licensed the performance of FV and Nico Bentley's 'Dixit Dominus Remixed' (the electronic reimagining of Handel's Dixit Dominus that FV performed with Nico Bentley at the 2019 London Handel Festival) to Doug Varone and Dancers in New York for inclusion in their two part dance theatre piece "To My Arms / Restore", touring the US across the next two years. This brought in some initial funds to provide a foundation for FV's ongoing charitable activities in the UK, and provided a useful blueprint for future licensing of FV and its collaborators' creations to third parties.

Throughout the period, the charity was in the research, development, pitching and planning stages for a season of performances across Summer 2024, including appearances at Bold Tendencies in Peckham, Southbank Centre in London, and Wilderness Festival. These events took place after the financial period in question but much of the preparatory work happened within the period.

The performance at Bold Tendencies on 1st June 2024 (after the period in question) involved the premiere of a new choral work by composer Kristina Arakelyan, as well as an electronic remix of Mozart's *Requiem* by electronic music producer and long-term Festival Voices collaborator Nico Bentley. This project allowed us to fulfil our charitable objectives by working with a range of amateur choirs local to Peckham, in an exploration of Songs of Protest, exploring the political and community possibilities of group singing. The choirs included Citizens of the World Choir, London International Gospel Choir, London Gay Men's Chorus, London Youth Choirs and the first appearance of the newly-formed Bold Chorus. The performance at Southbank Centre, in which we premiered Nico

Bentley's remixes of works for a capella choir and soloists, was part of their public programming Sing Out the Summer Festival, unticketed and open to all, affording a first experience of classical choral music to many in the audience.

We opened a bank account in April 2023.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Commission, ensuring FV's meets its charitable objectives through its work.

Financial Review

The charity received its first income as a result of licensing Dixit Dominus Remixed to Doug Varone and Dancers. This income has allowed FV to initiate its reserves policy, which is to hold £1,000 at any time in the bank account.

The additional £280 received was donations to support ongoing monthly banking costs.

Outgoing expenses during the period were a result of banking costs: a) set up costs b) transaction costs c) the monthly fee for subscription to the bank's commercial platform.

The charity's unrestricted assets at the end of this report's accounting period were £1009.62.

Structure, governance and management

Festival Voices is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by constitution. The Trustees are Amanda MacLeod (chair), Jack Furness and Jack Halsey. Bob Riley held the position of chair until 4th May 2023 when he stepped down from the role and resigned as a trustee. Amanda MacLeod was appointed new chair on the same date.

The charity's constitution stipulates that there must be at least three charity Trustees and the maximum number of Trustees is twelve. Apart from the first Trustees, every Trustee is to be appointed for a term of five years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the board. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Festival Voices.

There is public recruitment of trustees planned for the period 2024-2025.

Board meetings in the period were attended by Mr Gregory Batsleer and Mr Oskar McCarthy (Co-Artistic Directors).

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed by 

Name Amanda A MacLeod (Chair)

Date 28th October 2024

Statement of financial activity

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds 2023-24	Restricted funds 2023-24	Total funds 2023-24	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Total Income	1280.00	-	1280.00	-
Total Expenditure	(270.38)	-	(270.38)	-
Net income/expenditure	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Total funds carried forward	1009.62	-	1009.62	-

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds 2023-24	Restricted funds 2023-24	Total 2023-24	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
<i>Total current Assets</i>	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-
<i>Total net assets or liabilities</i>	1009.62	-	1009.62	-

Funds of the charity	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted income funds	1009.62	-	1009.62	-
Total funds	1009.62	-	1009.62	-

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed by 

Name Amanda A MacLeod (Chair)

Date 28th October 2024

Notes and clarifications

FESTIVAL VOICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1198403

Accounts



FESTIVAL VOICES

Festival Voices
Trustees' Report and Accounts
Nine month period from charity registration (28th March 2022) to
end of first financial year (31st December 2022)
Charity Number 1198403

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Trustees' Report
Receipts and Payments Account
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Trustees' Report

Charity Name: Festival Voices

Charity Registration Number: 1198403

Charity Principal Address: 12 Blake House, London, N19 5AR

Objectives

The charity's principal objective, as laid out in its constitution (approved by the Trustees on 10th January 2022 and registered with the Charity Commission on March 28th 2022) is the advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music for the public benefit through:

- a) the performance of high quality, educational choral programmes
- b) commissions and cross-genre collaborations
- c) participation opportunities for people from all demographics

The Trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

Review of Activities

In the period from registering as a CIO (28th March 2022) to 31st December 2022, Festival Voices did not spend or receive any monetary funds, as the charity actively engaged in extensive research and planning activities, focused on developing an artistic and fundraising strategy in line with its objectives. The Trustees along with the Co-Artistic Directors gave their time in-kind to develop future activity for the organisation. The trustees aim to open a bank account in 2023, and start fundraising to enable them to begin output in 2024.

Financial Review

Festival Voices has not received or spent any monetary funds during the period so currently has a balance of £0. The Trustees have discussed the policy for holding reserves from the moment there is financial activity.

Structure, governance and management

Festival Voices is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by constitution. The Trustees are Bob Riley (chair), Amanda MacLeod, Jack Furness and Jack Halsey. For the record, Bob Riley stood down as chair on 4th May 2023 (after the period of this annual statement) and Amanda MacLeod was appointed new chair on the same date, so she is the signatory below.

The charity's constitution stipulates that there must be at least three charity Trustees and the maximum number of Trustees is twelve. Apart from the first Trustees, every Trustee is to be appointed for a term of five years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the board. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Festival Voices.

Board meetings in the period were attended by Mr Gregory Batsleer and Mr Oskar McCarthy (Co-Artistic Directors).

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed 

Name Amanda A MacLeod (Chair)

Date 30th October 2023

Statement of financial activity

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Total Income	-	-	-	n/a
Total Expenditure	-	-	-	n/a
Net income/expenditure	0	0	0	n/a
Total funds carried forward	0	0	0	n/a

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2021	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Debtors	-	-	-	n/a
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	-	n/a
Total current Assets	0	0	0	n/a
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	n/a
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	-	-	-	n/a
Total assets less current liabilities	-	-	-	n/a
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	n/a

Total net assets or liabilities	-	-	-	n/a
Funds of the charity	-	-	-	n/a
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	n/a
Unrestricted income funds	-	-	-	n/a
Total funds	-	-	-	n/a

Signed by 

Amanda A MacLeod (Chair)

Approved by the Trustees on 30th October 2023