

**Vox Urbane**  
**(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

## **Vox Urbane CIO**

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**Vox Urbane CIO**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>Trustees</b>	Noel Williams Chair Poppy Kemp Helen Kihmm-von Preyss
<b>Charity number</b>	1199588
<b>Registered office</b>	145 Marsala Road London SE13 7AE
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Bridget Kennedy ACA (ICAEW)
<b>Bankers</b>	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

## **Vox Urbane CIO**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The trustees present their report together with the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Vox Urbane is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission. The charity number, principal addresses and details of professional advisors are included in the administrative information on page 3.

#### **Constitution, objectives and activities**

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO adopted 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The charity's objects are, for the public benefit, to:

To promote, maintain, improve and advance the education of the public in the arts, and in particular (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing), the arts of choral and orchestral music, by:

- a. The presentation of concerts, recitals, recordings, lectures and workshops of high artistic merit;
- b. Training a culturally diverse community of children and young people in the art of choral and orchestral music, with a particular but not exclusive focus on those who are under-represented in the sphere;
- c. The provision of education programmes, and encouraging programmes of classical music within schools.

#### **Organisational structure**

The charity is managed by the trustees who are appointed by existing trustees.

All trustees receive an induction pack containing the charity's key documents and attend at least one meeting a year. Throughout the year, trustees receive regular updates on the activities of the charity. Trustees are also strongly encouraged to visit the projects themselves.

#### **Achievements and performances**

Vox Urbane was set up after initial meetings with prospective Trustees at the end of 2021 and registered as a CIO on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Since then, a team of 16+ professional singers has been auditioned and appointed. Together these singers form the body of the professional vocal ensemble. Additionally, Vox Next Gen, a young artist training and mentoring initiative, has been created. Nine young singers have been selected to take part, in its first year of existence and successful rehearsals and performances have been held with these aspiring young singers. Finally, Vox Roots, our education and outreach in schools has begun with workshops and performances already successfully executed and future projects currently being planned.

#### **A summary of key events**

The Vox Urbane launch concert which took place at Asylum Chapel Peckham on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 sold out. Vox Urbane received a four star review in the *Guardian*, a lengthy and excellent review in *Musical America*, profile pieces on BBC Radio 3 In Tune, Times Radio, and coverage in several

influential classical music blogs and listings. The concert also included a first performance by Vox Next Gen which also gained an excellent reception in the national and international press. A second concert took place in June 2023 at St Paul's, Knightsbridge which was a collaboration with Stanford University Chamber Chorale. This concert attracted a diverse audience and was the first step in building a relationship with this US ensemble and wider institution. Funding for these two concerts was provided by private donations.

Vox Roots: the first workshop and performance with Vox Roots education and outreach was sponsored by Citi bank through their Citi Community Day. This included a collaborative workshop with members of Vox Urbane, children from Mossbourne Riverside Academy and Citi Choir. This culminated in a combined performance in the offices of Citi bank in Canary Wharf.

Vox Urbane is unique in the UK in its embodiment of diversity within the professional line up of musicians. In this first year we have established the ensemble as one to watch in both choral and contemporary music circles. The professional singer's and audience response to this speaks for itself:

*'I Just wanted to say thank you again for including me in the Vox Urbane launch. It was an honour to be part of it. The sound of the choirs was really superb, and the Next Gen singers in particular were so impressive. I wish I could have been in a choir like that when I was their age. What a wonderful launch of your new venture.'*

*'I think the project you are doing is so important, and it's exactly the context in which I would like my work to be heard.'*

Audience member and composer

*'Thank you so much for yesterday - it is so wonderful to be a part of this group. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole week and as the youngest member of the group, I learnt so much from all the seasoned pros who were very encouraging and set a really good standard for me to aim.'*

Singer

*'Just a quick note to say CONGRATS for an amazing launch last night, from where I was standing it couldn't have gone better and you should both be extremely proud!'*

Singer

*'Thank you so much for inviting us to the launch concert last Sunday, we all enjoyed it immensely. The singing was stunning, and Helen brilliantly articulated your mission, especially how you are looking to inspire and nurture the next generation of singers of diversity.'*

*'There were many musical highlights for us, but in particular we'd call out the Poulenc with its amazing soprano top note, Turtle Dove with that great young tenor solo, the alto solo in Run Away, and the final performances of Room for'*

*All and One, both of which exemplify your mission so well. The variety of the music, the involvement of the composers, and the atmospheric venue all added to make it a remarkable occasion. We really enjoyed meeting the singers and trustees, and were very impressed with your Next Gen cohort who all showed remarkable maturity and presence.'*

Audience members

*'I just wanted to say that I found Sunday's concert hugely uplifting. There was a really positive atmosphere in the chapel which seemed to be coming from both the singers and the audience. The fact that there's a mission behind the group made the performance more meaningful.*

*I found myself getting quite emotional during the Next Gen set, especially that lad who sang the solo in The Turtle Dove - he has such an emotive voice.*

*And thanks so much to you both for your tireless efforts in getting this much needed group up and running. I really hope it has a significant impact.'*

Singer

*'Thank you so much for an incredible few days of music making.*

*It's so exciting to be a part of this movement and I feel really humbled to be involved. So glad to read a positive review and with thanks for stepping forward and making this (much needed) move.'*

Singer

*'Thank you so much for having me in that. It was really transformative for me (as you could probably tell from my emotional state afterwards!)*

*It made me realise for years I have felt like a trans visitor in a cisnormative industry, slightly out of place, slightly apologetic, misunderstood. And on Sunday, I felt like I was welcoming an audience to my/our space, which was just such a powerful, emotional and wonderful feeling. It felt like the time I first went to a trans pride event, the feeling of "yes, this is how it should feel". Thank you for setting up this group, what you're doing is amazing. And thank you for helping me on my personal journey, and for generally being wonderful people'*

Singer

*'What a special evening in Peckham on Sunday. I've been reliving it over the past few days - the positive welcome and energy in the room, the fantastic programme and singing, with control and finesse but something visceral, grounded, warm and*

*colourful. I particularly loved how varied the repertoire was, the message it carried and its distance from church music, which was refreshing to say the least. And the Next Gen group was in a way the most powerful part of it. In a time of uncertainty for choral music, it was encouraging to see what the future could look like and I can't wait to see where you take things from here.'*

Audience member and arts industry professional

*'Congratulations again on your wonderful launch concert for Vox Urbane last week! You picked such a great venue, the acoustics were so impressive and of course all the singers were extraordinary. (The soloist in the Next Gen singers, was that Olisaemeka Aghadiuno? He was incredible – what a voice!!)*

*Your passion for the project and Helen's beautiful speech came across so well. I came away really moved by the whole thing.'*

Audience member and composer

#### **Future Plans**

**Vox Urbane:** a 2024 Inaugural London Season of concerts with world premiere works commissioned from Shiva Feshareki alongside further new music commissions. Venues to include Kings Place, St John's at Hackney, Stanley Halls, and Embassy Gardens.

**Vox Next Gen:** the group will perform in a series of fundraising carol concerts in London and Kent in December 2023. Money raised will be used to help fund an immersive residential course and mini tour in France for all of the Vox Next Gen young artists, scheduled to take place in summer 2024.

**Vox Roots:** ongoing workshops in Mossbourne Federation primary schools are already taking place, and will soon include 2 further primary schools in Hackney and Newham with additional funding granted from the Old Possum's Practical Trust. It is hoped these four schools will also feature in the planning for the Vox Urbane Autumn 2024 London concert season and tour.

## **Vox Urbane CIO**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (cont'd)**

#### **Financial review**

Total income for the year amounted to £31,909. The trustees' charitable activities of promoting and enhancing charitable work amounted to £29,542. This results in a surplus for the year of £2,367.

The trustees' policy is to retain a level of reserves which will provide a stable base for its continuing activities while at the same time ensuring that funds are not accumulated.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The trustees believe that by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

#### **Trustees**

The following trustees have held office during the year:

Noel Williams – Chair

Poppy Kemp

Helen Kihmm-von Preyss

#### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Account Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable organisation for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting and Reporting by Charities – the Charities SORP);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.



**Vox Urbane CIO**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (cont'd)**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable organisation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable organisation and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

As permitted by section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, the CIO has prepared receipts and payments accounts, since its gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Approved by the trustees on 10th November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Poppy Kemp

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 11-12.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matter 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.

Signed :



Name:

Bridget Kennedy

Professional  
Qualification:

ACA (ICAEW)

Address:

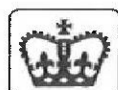
Hazelwoods,  
West Walberton Lane,  
Walberton,  
Arundel,  
West Sussex  
BN18 0QS

Date:

22 November 2023

Vox Urbane CIO

Receipts and payments accounts  
For the year ended 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments  
accounts

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Vox Urbane	No 1199588
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For the period from	Period start date 8th July 2022	To	Period end date 7th July 2023
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Section A Receipts and  
payments

	Unrestr cted funds to the nearest £	Restri cted funds to the nearest £	Endow ment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	28,489		-	28,489	-
Specialised Travel concert contribution		1,000	-	1,000	-
Citi Group workshop fee	-	1,200	-	1,200	-
Ticket sales	1,220	-	-	1,220	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>29,709</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,909</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>29,709</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,909</b>	<b>-</b>

A3 Payments

Musicians' fees and expenses	15,446	1,450	-	16,896	-
Venue costs for concerts and auditions	1,560	750	-	2,310	-
PR for launch concert	4,320	-	-	4,320	-
Catering for launch concert	4,600	-	-	4,600	-
Other event costs	540	-	-	540	-
Music hire and concert equipment	453	-	-	453	-
All other expenses (website, email, memberships and subscriptions)	423	-	-	423	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>27,342</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,542</b>	<b>-</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>27,342</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,542</b>	<b>-</b>
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<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at bank	2,367	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

		(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details				
			-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
				-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Music folders, scores and concerts equipment	Unrestricted funds		-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
				-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
			POPPY KEMP	19/11/25	

**Notes:**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012 require the following information to be given by way of note:

a) particulars of any guarantee given by the CIO, where any potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities. **There are none.**

b) particulars of any debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO. **There is no debt outstanding.**