



The Gesualdo Six

Charity Number: 1204778

Trustees Report & Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024



The Gesualdo Six

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisors for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Trustees	John Willan (Chair, resigned 21 September 2024) Alice Penney (now Acting Chair) Tim Price (Secretary) Richard Heason <i>Gilly Summers (resigned 10 April 2024)</i>
Charity Registered Number	1204778
Registered Offices	Flat 1, 80 Colney Hatch Lane London N10 1EA



The Gesualdo Six Trustee Report *September 2023 - August 2024*

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Policies & Objectives

The charity was established for the public benefit, to promote and advance education of the public in the art, science, and history of the musical arts in particular but not exclusively by the presentation of concerts and recordings, commissioning new works, providing education projects for people of all ages.

Strategies for achieving objectives

The charity achieves its objectives principally by performing concerts, making recordings, delivering educational workshops and programmes for students, amateurs and emerging professionals, and commissioning new works. The activity of the charity is primarily UK focused, but The Gesualdo Six have a worldwide audience.

The Trustees are committed to the performance and recording of new music and champion the work of upcoming composers, performing it all over the UK and abroad, often bringing it to new audiences for the first time.

The Trustees are committed to supporting the professional development of both The Gesualdo Six, and other emerging ensembles.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In its inaugural year, the Trustee's primary focus has been on laying strong organisational foundations. This has included setting up essential infrastructure such as the bank account, reviewing and refining our Friends scheme, and formulating strategic objectives to guide our future direction. While the emphasis has been on establishing a robust framework rather than on fundraising or major project work, the year has still seen meaningful activity. The Charity has supported several educational initiatives and contributed to the commissioning of new works for The Gesualdo Six, as outlined below.

The Trustees, together with Director of The Gesualdo Six, Owain Park, are enthusiastic about the Charity's potential and look forward to building on this foundation in the years ahead.

EDUCATION

Workshop & Choral Evensong with St Wulfram's Grantham

In January 2024, The Gesualdo Six visited St Wulfram's Church in Grantham to lead a workshop with the church's young choristers in preparation for a broadcast of BBC Choral Evensong. This marked a continuation of an ongoing relationship with St Wulfram's, where the



group has collaborated in previous years. Together with the Youth Choir, they performed works including Orlando Gibbons' *Second Service* and William Smith's set of responses. The workshop also introduced the choristers to contemporary repertoire by composers Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Henrietta Moran, and Kerensa Briggs.

The Gesualdo Six's Renaissance Music Weekend

In July 2024, we organised our *Renaissance Music Weekend* — a two-day workshop dedicated to exploring the vocal richness of Renaissance polyphony. Participants worked closely with all members of The Gesualdo Six, developing their ensemble skills and vocal technique. The weekend included leading a service of Choral Evensong at St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, and culminated in a public concert at St George's Church, Bloomsbury, where participants performed alongside the group. A limited number of bursary places were offered to students and emerging professional singers, ensuring broader access to this opportunity.

COMMISSIONS

The charity supported the commissioning of a new work for The Gesualdo Six's programme *Hear O Heavens*. This project explores the Verse Anthem — a distinguished form of English sacred music that flourished with the rise of the vernacular church tradition. The newly commissioned work was "*A Hymn*", arranged for TTBB and chamber organ by **Anna Semple**.

This composition was premiered on 14 May 2024 at St John's Smith Square (now Sinfonia Smith Square), performed by The Gesualdo Six with Richard Gowers (organ). The programme also featured music by Purcell, Tomkins, Humfrey, and Gibbons.

STRATEGY & ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Since its establishment in September 2023, the Charity's Trustees have held a number of strategic planning meetings with the Director and members of The Gesualdo Six to shape the Charity's long-term vision. These discussions have been productive, laying the groundwork for future activity and culminating in plans for a formal launch event in Autumn 2024.

In April 2024, following the resignation of Trustee Gilly Summers, the Board initiated a recruitment process to fill the vacancy. A skills audit was conducted to assess the current composition of the Board and identify any gaps in expertise. The vacancy was advertised online, and in September 2024, Joel Newsome-Hubbard was appointed as a new Trustee.



The Gesualdo Six
Financial Review
September 2023 - August 2024

Trust Gross Income was under £25k for the year, and therefore an Independent Review was not required by the Charity Commission.

Bank Accounts

The charity set-up their first bank account with Metro Bank in February 2024, and were able to receive donations from this point forward. Consequently, there was minimal fundraising activity in the first year.

At the Trustee meeting held on 5 July 2024, it was agreed that dual authorisation would be required for all transactions involving the Charity's bank account to strengthen financial controls. Consequently, the Trustees approved the opening of a new account with CAF, which was successfully established in September 2024. The existing Metro Bank account has been retained as a secondary, back-up account.

Restricted Funds

The funds related to the Renaissance Music Weekend will be used to pay the ensemble for leading the workshop days, and for the remaining cost of venue hire.



The Gesualdo Six
Structure, Governance and Management
September 2023 - August 2024

Constitution

The charity is registered as a CIO, governed by its constitution. The charity received its charitable status on 19 September 2023. The charity is constituted under its memorandum and articles and is a registered charity, number 1204778.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

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 the CIO. The charity trustees must also consult with the Executive Board before offering any candidate a trusteeship.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustees meet periodically (a minimum of once a quarter) to discuss the matters affecting the charity and to review the financial position of the charity. In addition, the Trustees liaise with the Executive Board (comprising the Director of The Gesualdo Six and the Administrator) about any specific points that they may be interested in. No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present.

During the financial year covered by this annual report, Gilly Summers resigned from the Board of Trustees. The remaining Trustees would like to take this opportunity to offer very grateful thanks to Gilly for contributing to the charity.



Board of Trustees as of May 2025

Acting Chair - Alice Penney

Secretary - Tim Price

Treasurer - Richard Heason

Trustee - Joel Newsome-Hubbard

Trustee - Lizzy Holsgrove

And

Director of The Gesualdo Six - Owain Park

Administrator for The Gesualdo Six - Hannah Pinney-Thomson

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees/Directors

Signature

Full Name

Richard Heason

Position

Trustee and Treasurer

Date

25th June 2025

The Gesualdo Six

Accounts 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

	Restricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Total funds 2024
Income from:				
Donations	£2 500 00		£11 409 81	£13 909 81
Legacies	-		-	-
Charitable activities	£5 512 18		£1 000 00	£6 512 18
Other income	-		-	-
Total Income	£8 012 18		£12 409 81	£20 421 99
Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities	£1 350 00		£4 820 00	£6 170 00
Total Expenditure	£1 350 00		£4 820 00	£6 170 00
Net movement in funds	£6 662 18		£7 589 81	£14 251 99

Income from Donations & Legacies 2023-2024				
	Restricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Total funds 2024
Income from:				
Donations	£2 500 00		£11 409 81	£13 909 81
Legacies	£0 00		£0 00	£0 00
Total Income	£2 500 00		£11 409 81	£13 909 81

Income from Charitable Activities 2023-2024				
	Restricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Total funds 2024
Income from:		£2 024 00		£2 024 00
Workshop Fees	£0 00		£1 000 00	£1 000 00
Renaissance Music Weekend	£5 512 18	£0 00	£0 00	£5 512 18
Total Income	£5 512 18		£1 000 00	£6 512 18

Expenditure Analysis 2023-2024			
	Restricted 2024	Unrestricted 2024	Total funds 2024
Trustee Meetings	£0 00	£320 00	£320 00
Renaissance Music Weekend	£350 00	£0 00	£350 00
Commissions	£1 000 00	£0 00	£1 000 00
Charity Administration	£0 00	£4 500 00	£4 500 00
Total Expenditure	£1 350 00	£4 820 00	£6 170 00



Richard Heason
Trustee and Treasurer
25th June 2025