

PRO MUSICA CHOIR (LEWES) Reg. charity no. 1210879

Annual Report at at 31 August 2025

Charitable objects

TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS FORMS THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND IN SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE.

The charity is managed by a management committee of which three members are trustees:-

Name	Role	Date of appointment	Other trusteeships
Dr David John Nicholson	Chair	12/11/2025	None on record
Susan Elizabeth Broome Wight G.R.S.M C.R.A.M	Trustee	12/11/2025	None on record
MICHAEL JOHN BAKER MA ACMA	Trustee	12/11/2025	None on record

Chairman's report - David Nicholson

Since our last AGM, things have gone well for Pro Musica. Our musical director Sion has continued to inspire us with his energy and enthusiasm. Audience figures have been good for all our concerts, despite competition from other choirs and extreme weather conditions. I refer you to Sion's report for a detailed appreciation of each performance. I am sure that we have all thoroughly enjoyed singing together with Sion's excellent choice of soloists and accompanists. I especially enjoyed the baritone in 'Songs of the fleet' and the alto soloist in our last concert. Notably, the tour to Blois and collaboration with the Honegger choir in Blois cathedral. A special mention must be made here of the excellent rendition given by own soprano Brenda Johnson of Rutter's arrangement of the spiritual 'Steal Away'. (See the 'members' page of the choir website for a live recording). Special thanks must also be made to Sue or 'Madame Presidente' as she was named by Jean Richard of the Honegger choir in Blois, for organising the tour and liaising with Lewes's Twinning Association (Twinning Dave). Choir membership has grown, and I received several enquiries from prospective members at the recent societies fair in the town

hall. The choir has also coped well and benefited from a change of rehearsal venue from St Anne's to Christchurch.

Now it is time for me to thank everyone who has contributed to our continuing success. To Sue, our tireless and meticulous correspondence secretary, who is stepping down from the committee in July. Mike our treasurer, whose financial guidance has been invaluable, he is just about to claim gift aid on our behalf on the membership fees. Peter, for his meticulous minuting of our committee meetings and experience as a trustee. Ruth our new membership secretary. She is also an experienced trustee and full of new ideas for the choir. Chris our librarian, whose work in obtaining and administering the music is invaluable. Our accompanist Adam who regularly shows his skills at the piano.

I must also thank Wendy, she has helped tremendously to make all our concerts run smoothly in her role as a custodian of St. Michael's church and a loyal member of the choir. I must also mention Maggie who made artwork and designed some of our posters. The choir members, without whom none of this would be possible. I want to thank all of you for all your hard work over the past year in support of the choir.

Treasurer's report – Mike Baker

The closing balance on the bank account was £2,840 and PM had roughly broken even in 2025. Please see the accounts as lodged for full details. The Gift Aid claim has been made and is in progress. The membership fee of £70 per term has been preserved for 2026 unchanged.

Director of Music's report – Sion Parry

It has been an inspiring and fulfilling year for Pro Musica Choir, marked by growth, artistic achievement and shared musical joy. Over the past season, we presented four dynamic concerts that showcased the choir's versatility and passion, including a memorable trip to the beautiful town of Blois in the Loire Valley. Each performance reflected the dedication of our singers and the collective spirit that continues to define the choir's identity.

On 7 December 2024, we presented a well-received and musically varied programme, featuring works by MacMillan, Purcell, Stanford, Wood, Handel, Haydn, and Vaughan Williams. The choir performed with confidence and sensitivity throughout. Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet* and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* were particular highlights, with excellent contributions from our baritone soloist. Congregational carols added a warm, seasonal atmosphere, and the overall concert was a fitting and successful celebration of Advent.

Our concert on 5 April 2025 featured Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, performed with organ and piano accompaniment. The choir rose to the challenges of the work, delivering a committed and nuanced performance with clarity, warmth, and energy throughout.

Soloists brought strength and expression to their roles, and the organ and piano accompaniment provided a well-balanced and supportive foundation. This was a rewarding and well-received performance of a unique and demanding work.

In June, our concert in the stunning setting of Blois Cathedral offered a rich and varied programme, combining English Renaissance, Romantic, and 20th-century repertoire.

The choir delivered a refined and expressive performance of Farrant's *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake* and brought clarity and charm to Farmer's *Fair Phyllis*. Schubert's *The Lord is my shepherd* and Stanford's *The Blue Bird* were performed with warmth and sensitivity.

Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* brought contrast and energy to the programme, with the choir and soloist responding with rhythmic vitality and expressive freedom. The *Missa Festiva* by Gretchaninoff was sung with commitment and strength by both choirs (Pro Musica and the Blois Honegger Choir) and the highlight for me was the lyrical and heartfelt performance of Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* sung by both choirs.

This was a successful concert in a resonant and inspiring space, with the choir adapting well to the acoustic and the challenges of an organist who had not learned all of the notes!

Address:

Sherwood
London Road
Sayers Common, Hassocks
BN6 9HX

Phone:

+447980546864

Email:

david@nicholson.force9.co.uk

Website:

ProMusica.org.uk



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Pro Musica Choir (Lewes)

12108799

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/09/2024

To

Period end date
31/08/2025

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	8,360	-	-	8,360	6,275
Ticket Sales	4,290	-	-	4,290	3,765
Music Hire	627	-	-	627	424
Refreshments - Donations	345	-	-	345	438
Other	303	-	-	303	1,535
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,925	-	-	13,925	12,437
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,925	-	-	13,925	12,437
A3 Payments					
Director & Accopanist	6,761	-	-	6,761	6,775
Music Hire	381	-	-	381	584
Church Hire	1,220	-	-	1,220	520
Ticket costs	4,393	-	-	4,393	4,105
Finance charges	126	-	-	126	63
Other	742	-	-	742	971
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	13,623	-	-	13,623	13,018
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,623	-	-	13,623	13,018
Net of receipts/(payments)	302	-	-	302	- 581
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,538	-	-	2,538	-
Cash funds this year end	2,840	-	-	2,840	2,538

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank	2,466	-	-
	Co Operative Bank	374	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,840	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	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	
	Michael Baker	Michael Baker	13/11/2025	