

THE OXFORD BACH CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 233688

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1964-06-19

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

Contact

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Witney
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Website <http://www.oxfordbachchoir.org>

Activities

Objects: THE PRACTICE OF MUSIC OF EXCELLENCE OF ALL TIMES WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO THE WORKS OF J S BACH IN ORDER TO FOSTER THE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF SUCH MUSIC BY MEANS OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCE.

Activities: The practice of music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performance.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bracknell Forest
- Buckinghamshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Slough
- West Berkshire
- Windsor And Maidenhead
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£117,088	£97,129	-	-
2024-07-31	£168,328	£898,080	-	-
2023-07-31	£129,640	£132,686	-	-
2022-07-31	£91,927	£116,658	-	-
2021-07-31	£43,736	£30,284	-	-
2020-07-31	£103,497	£68,449	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Andrew Timothy Frawley	Chair	2019-11-26
Alan Marsh		2024-11-04
Dr Isabel Shield Fenton		2022-04-25
ELIZABETH JEAN STOCK		2017-11-06
Isabel Anne Lloyd-Jones		2025-11-03
Lucy Jane Driver		2023-11-06
Marion Elizabeth Richards		2025-11-03
Ruth Patricia Fitter		2023-11-06

Accounts

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

Registered Charity No: 233688

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

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OXFORD BACH CHOIR
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CHARITY INFORMATION

Patron	The Right Honourable Lord Patten of Barnes CH
President	Sir Roger Norrington CBE (deceased 18 July 2025)
Vice Presidents	Libby Burgess Nicholas Cleobury Adrian Partington Christopher Robinson CVO CBE Professor Mark Wildman James Gilchrist Roderick Williams OBE Howard Goodall CBE
President of the Friends	Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB
Musical Director	Benjamin Nicholas
Accompanist	Francois Cloete

Members of Council

Officers and Trustees:

Chair	Andrew Frawley
Vice Chair	Liz Stock (elected 4 th November 2024)
General Secretary	Vanessa Moir (resigned 4 th November 2024) Rebecca Faull (elected 4 th November 2024 /resigned 3 rd November 2025) Catriona Marshall (co-opted 23 rd March 2026)
Treasurer	Tony Blakeborough (resigned 3 rd November 2025) Marion Richards (elected 3 rd November 2025)
Artistic Administrator	Lucy Driver
Assistant Artistic Administrator	Hannah Rabey (resigned 25 th September 2024) Alan Marsh (elected 4 th November 2024)
Membership Secretary	Ruth Fitter
Marketing Manager	Ian Wylie (resigned 4 th November 2024) Isabel Lloyd-Jones (co-opted 11 th February 2025/elected 3 rd November 2025)
Chair of Council	Isabel Fenton
Other Council Members:	
Friends' Secretary	Stuart Packford
Scores Librarian	Richard Stone
Scores Secretary	Camilla Ip
Voice Rep: Soprano	Diana Reynolds
Voice Rep: Alto	Penny Dwyer

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Other Council Members (continued):

Voice Rep: Tenor	Mike Fooks
Voice Rep: Bass	Robert Aitken
Student/U30s Representatives	vacant
Internet Secretary	Isabel Fenton
Rehearsal Administrator	vacant
Bulletin Secretary	Marco Mazzorana
Programme Secretary	Philippa Logan
Chair of Programming Committee	Peter Gilliver
Concert Manager	Elizabeth Kyberd
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Lane
Box Office Administrator	Gillian Beattie
Outreach Coordinator	Roger Parry

Principal Address

4 The Butts
Standlake
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX29 7RS

Charity Registration Number

233688

Independent Examiner

Caroline Webster FCA
UHY Ross Brooke Ltd
Suite I
Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Principal Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Skipton Building Society
The Bailey
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1DNk

Barclays Bank UK PLC
1 Churchill Place
London
EH14 5HP

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Membership

The membership of the choir during the 2024-2025 season was 150, including 18 members recruited during the season. 147 members took part in the December concert, 76 in 'Carols for All', 132 sang in the March Concert and 126 in the June concert.

Achievements and Performances

Our 2024–2025 season began at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, on Saturday 7 December 2024, with a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, to a sold-out audience. We were joined by the London Mozart Players and a wonderful line-up of soloists: Daisy Bevan (soprano), Emma Roberts (alto), Sebastian Hill (tenor) and James Geidt (bass). The concert was conducted by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas.

The annual Carols for All concert at the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 21 December 2024 was, as always, ably conducted and controlled by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were once again delighted to be joined by the singers and instrumentalists of the Oxfordshire County Music Service, whose performances were most professional, and delighted the audience. The OBC choir sang a number of well-known and a few lesser-known carols. The audience was able to join in with a good number of carols, including our now “traditional” version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, which most definitely requires audience participation! We were also delighted to welcome Andrew Lumsden (formerly organist and Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral) to play the organ for the concert.

The concert on 16 March 2025 was again at the Sheldonian Theatre, this time with a performance of Elgar's monumental oratorio, *The Apostles*. This concert formed the first part of a two year Elgar Project for the choir, which will continue with *The Kingdom* in March 2026. Due to the extraordinarily large forces required for *The Apostles*, additional funding was required to perform it. This came in the form of a number of very generous donations from members, Friends, local organisations and other donors. We are also grateful for support from The Elgar Society for an Elgar in Performance Grant. Special thanks to Dr Peter Gilliver and Dr Robin Darwall-Smith for leading the fundraising efforts. The concert was a fantastic success, with the vivid and dramatic music brought to life by the Philharmonia Orchestra under the baton of our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were joined by 6 brilliant soloists: Liz Watts (soprano), Jess Dandy (alto), Ed Lyon (tenor), James Geidt (bass/Peter), Ashley Riches (bass/Jesus) and James Platt (bass/Judas).

The final concert of the season once again took place in the Sheldonian Theatre on 21 June 2025, and was a departure from some of our other recent concerts. We performed a concert of unaccompanied choral works from across six centuries. Bookended by Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, the concert also included works by John Tavener, Stanford, Bruckner, McDowall and Shaw. Sandwiched in the middle was J.S. Bach's motet *Lobet den Herrn*. We also presented gifts and card to our accompanist, François Cloete, who was leaving Oxford to take up a new post at Westminster Abbey. We have been extraordinarily fortunate to have worked with François over the last few years, and we are sure he will go on to great things.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR (cont'd)

Joy of Singing

The Choir's Outreach work has continued to go from strength to strength. In 2024–25, our Schools' Choral Programme worked with four schools: Europa School, Gosford Hill School, Fitzharrys School, and Cheney School.

The work involved three music professionals: Ben Nicholas, Music Director of Oxford Bach Choir, Rachel Bowen our Choral Animateur, and Francois Cloete who accompanied at workshops and concerts.

- Workshops for music teachers were delivered
- Choral workshops were held involving all the school choirs in each term.
- A very successful end of season concert was held at the University Church, Oxford in June 2025, in which the students sang to a packed audience of parents and carers. In all some 75 students were involved in the concert.
- Feedback was collected from participating students at all three schools, which will help the Choir's Outreach Board shape the future offering for the Schools' Choral Programme

We continue to fundraise to provide funds for this outreach work, and particular thanks goes to the choir members who ran the Town and Gown 10k in May and to all those who supported them, as well as the generous individuals and charitable trusts that have donated to the project.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the choir's professional team for their work this season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; accompanist François Cloete; and choral animateur Rachel Bowen for her work on our Schools' Choral Programme. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways. Additionally, we thank Terry Stock for coordinating concert stewards and for organising refreshments at Saturday rehearsals and on concert days.

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and, in particular, to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre and The Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy for their help over the past year with concert and rehearsal venues. We also thank George Sawyer at the Oxford Playhouse/Tickets Oxford, for working with us to promote our concerts and sell tickets.

Sir Roger Norrington CBE

And finally, the Choir was saddened to learn of the death of our President, Sir Roger Norrington CBE in July 2025. Sir Roger was born in Oxford and had been President of the Oxford Bach Choir since 2000. It was agreed that the first concert of the 2025/26 season would be dedicated to his memory.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st July 2025.

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

The Choir is administered by an elected Council of Trustees and Members recruited from the membership of the Choir. A third of the Trustees must stand for re-election annually at the AGM with no Trustee serving for more than 6 consecutive years. Other Council Members are elected annually at the AGM.

Review of the Development, Activities and Achievements of the Charity

During the season, the choir performed three major concerts and the annual 'Carols For All' Concert as well as continuing to develop its Outreach activities with the 'Joy of Singing' School's Choral Programme. Further details are included in the 'Review of the Year.' The Choir continues to welcome and support full time students by waiving subscriptions and providing free music.

Reserves

The surplus for the year ended 31st July 2025 was £19,959 resulting in accumulated funds as at 31st July 2025 of £217,164 of which £105,656 was held in restricted funds.

The Trustees have determined that an appropriate level of reserves held in the Unrestricted General Funds should be equivalent to at least 12 months' expenditure.

Risks

The trustees have taken steps to identify the major risks to which the charity is exposed. The primary financial risks, namely unexpected concert cancellation and public liability are covered by an annual third-party insurance policy.

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 Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont'd)

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- State whether applicable 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 the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Andrew Frawley

7th May 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OXFORD BACH CHOIR

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 st July 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.



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Abingdon
OX14 1SY

10/05/2026

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted General	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Subscriptions	2	49,238	-	49,238	50,518
Donations and Grants	3	1,223	18,421	19,644	65,123
Concert Income (net)	4	35,036	-	35,036	39,510
Music sales and hire		2,944	-	2,944	2,338
Fundraising (net)	5	2,032	3,501	5,533	7,798
Interest	6	1,564	3,129	4,693	3,041
Total Income		92,037	25,051	117,088	168,328
Expenditure:					
Concert and Rehearsal expenditure	4	(85,172)	-	(85,172)	(78,381)
Music costs		(2,855)	-	(2,855)	(2,082)
Total Concert and Rehearsal Expenditure		(88,027)	-	(88,027)	(80,463)
Website and IT		(468)	-	(468)	(362)
Bank charges and other costs		(1,101)	-	(1,101)	(1,222)
Examiner's fee		(900)	-	(900)	(720)
Making Music including insurance		(1,090)	-	(1,090)	(1,011)
Auditions & reassessments		(600)	-	(600)	(650)
Season and recruitment publicity		(537)	-	(537)	(685)
Receptions & season preview		(397)	-	(397)	(468)
Outreach expenses	7	-	(3,879)	(3,879)	(3,917)
Sundry expenses		(130)	-	(130)	(310)
Total Administration Expenditure		(5,223)	(3,879)	(9,102)	(9,345)
Total Expenditure		(93,250)	(3,879)	(97,129)	(89,808)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(1,213)	21,172	19,959	78,520
Transfer between funds		18,464	(18,464)	-	-
Net movement in funds		17,251	2,708	19,959	78,520
Total funds brought forward		94,257	102,948	197,205	118,685
Total funds carried forward	14	111,508	105,656	217,164	197,205

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these accounts

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Debtors	10	1,655		6,925	
Prepayments	11	2,639		1,575	
Cash at Bank		215,615		190,920	
Total Current Assets		219,909		199,420	
 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(2,745)		(2,215)	
 Net current assets			217,164		197,205
 Net assets			217,164		197,205
 Accumulated funds					
Unrestricted general funds	13		111,508		94,257
Restricted funds	13		105,656		102,948
Total charity funds	14		217,164		197,205

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by



A Frawley

7th May 2026

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019) — (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Income and expenditure and expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis and classified under headings that aggregate to specific categories.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

Voluntary income including donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Member and Friends subscription income is recognised on an accruals basis according to the period to which it relates.

Concert income represents the gross receipts from ticket sales, net of commission costs. A breakdown of the income and expenditure for each concert is shown in the notes to the accounts.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT so irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Fixed assets and Stock

The charity does not hold any fixed assets or stock.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking into account any trade discounts offered.

Cash at bank

The charity's cash at bank is all held in instant access accounts.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The charity has four restricted funds:

The Outreach Fund funds the annual costs of the choir's 'Joy of Singing' project with local schools;

The Elgar Project Fund holds funds raised to put on performances of the *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom* in the 24/25 and 25/26 seasons respectively;

The Concerts and Development fund is used to pay for increases in venue costs and development work to seek additional sources of income for the choir;

The 125th Anniversary Outreach Fund which was set up to accept donations and legacies to support the choir's outreach activities in the longer term. The capital on the fund can only be drawn down by specific decision of the Trustees.

The General Fund holds the unrestricted income and capital expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Allocation of bank interest across funds

The Choir has six bank accounts, of which the Skipton and the CAF Gold accounts are high-interest accounts. Whilst there is no direct link between the location of funds and particular bank accounts, there is an assumption that the Restricted funds would receive the benefit of the two high interest accounts in preference to the General fund. The method adopted is to calculate the 'mean' (the average of the opening and closing balances) in each of the two high interest accounts and the 'mean' value of the Restricted funds (again averaging the opening and closing values without the addition of interest). Interest is then allocated according to the proportions of the high interest accounts which would have been occupied by the Restricted funds. This interest is then allocated to the individual funds in proportion to their 'mean' value. The balance of the interest goes to the General Fund.

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

2 Subscriptions	2025	2024
Members	38,511	39,462
Friends	2,763	3,144
Gift Aid on subscriptions	7,964	7,912
	49,238	50,518

3 Donations and Grants	Unrestricted General	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Members /Friends/Individuals inc Gift Aid	423	-	423	414
Charities	800	-	800	-
Major Donors to 125 Outreach Fund	-	10,980	10,980	10,000
Other Donors to 125 Outreach Fund	-	669	669	1,736
Grant for Concert and Development Fund	-	-	-	12,000
Donation to Elgar Project Fund	-	1,000	1,000	24,500
Major Donors to Outreach Fund	-	5,772	5,772	16,473
	1,223	18,421	19,644	65,123

4 Concert Income and Expenditure	Messiah Dec-24	Carols Dec-24	Elgar Mar-25	Spem Jun-25	Total 2025
Box Office Income	10,802	8,540	9,093	7,439	35,874
Box Office Commission	(1,410)	(1,045)	(1,151)	(890)	(4,496)
Programme Sales	596	-	730	734	2,060
Programme Advertising	354	-	669	575	1,598
Concert Income (net)	10,342	7,495	9,341	7,858	35,036
Professional musicians	(11,178)	(1,055)	(36,031)	(1,225)	(49,489)
Venue & other concert costs	(2,993)	(2,824)	(3,153)	(3,782)	(12,752)
PRS fees	(690)	(358)	-	(483)	(1,531)
Cost of programmes	(177)	(110)	(288)	(157)	(732)
Concert publicity	(1,633)	(805)	(1,192)	(852)	(4,482)
Concert Expenditure	(16,671)	(5,152)	(40,664)	(6,499)	(68,986)
Professional musicians	(2,765)	(680)	(2,520)	(2,445)	(8,410)
Venue hire	(2,432)	(960)	(2,192)	(2,192)	(7,776)
Rehearsal Expenditure	(5,197)	(1,640)	(4,712)	(4,637)	(16,186)
Concert and Rehearsal Expenditure	(21,868)	(6,792)	(45,376)	(11,136)	(85,172)
Net Concert Income/(Expenditure)	(11,526)	703	(36,035)	(3,278)	(50,136)

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

5 Fundraising	Unrestricted General	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Gross Income				
Refreshments	1,285	-	1,285	1,356
100 Club	-	552	552	-
125 Outreach Fundraising	-	3,165	3,165	2,822
Event Choir	850	-	850	800
Come & Sing	-	-	-	7,091
Purchase commission	64	-	64	62
Total	2,199	3,717	5,916	12,131
Expenditure				
Refreshments	(88)	-	(88)	(211)
100 Club	-	-	-	-
125 Outreach Fundraising	-	(216)	(216)	(360)
Event Choir	(79)	-	(79)	(300)
Come & Sing	-	-	-	(3,462)
Purchase commission	-	-	-	-
Total	(167)	(216)	(383)	(4,333)
Net Income				
Refreshments	1,197	-	1,197	1,145
100 Club	-	552	552	-
125 Outreach Fundraising	-	2,949	2,949	2,462
Event Choir	771	-	771	500
Come & Sing	-	-	-	3,629
Purchase commission	64	-	64	62
Fundraising Income (net)	2,032	3,501	5,533	7,798
6 Interest Income				
Skipton	-	2,660	2,660	1,442
CAF Gold	1,239	469	1,708	1,386
All Other accounts	325	-	325	214
Total	1,564	3,129	4,693	3,041
7 Outreach Expenditure				
Professional Musicians		(2,240)	(2,240)	(2,623)
Venue hire		(1,308)	(1,308)	(985)
Music		(331)	(331)	(309)
Total		(3,879)	(3,879)	(3,917)

8 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any reimbursement for expenses

The total employee benefits of the trustees were £nil (2024: £nil)

9 Staff numbers

No staff were employed by the charity in the year (2024: £nil)

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

10 Debtors	2025	2024
Gift Aid Claims	1,105	4,112
Programme Advertising	550	340
Grant to Outreach Fund	-	2,473
	1,655	6,925

11 Prepayments	2025	2024
Prepaid insurance	239	235
Prepaid venue costs	2,400	1,000
Prepaid publicity costs	-	340
	2,639	1,575

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
Trade creditors	(1,119)	(1,383)
Deferred income	(1,626)	(832)
	(2,745)	(2,215)

13 Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1st August 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer of Funds	Balance at 31st July 2025
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	94,257	92,037	(93,250)	18,464	111,508
Restricted Funds					
Outreach Fund	17,162	6,323	(3,879)	-	19,606
Elgar Project Fund	25,228	1,540	-	(16,000)	10,768
Concerts and Development Fund	9,751	260	-	(2,464)	7,547
125 Outreach Fund	50,807	16,928	-	-	67,735
	197,205	117,088	(97,129)	-	217,164

	Balance at 1st August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer of Funds	Balance at 31st July 2024
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	79,394	99,458	(83,088)	(1,507)	94,257
Restricted Funds					
Outreach Fund	4,606	16,473	(3,917)	-	17,162
Elgar Project Fund	-	24,864	-	364	25,228
Concerts and Development Fund	-	12,193	(2,442)	-	9,751
125 Outreach Fund	34,685	15,340	(361)	1,143	50,807
	118,685	168,328	(89,808)	-	197,205

14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Current Assets	114,253	105,656	219,909
Current Liabilities	(2,745)	-	(2,745)
Balance at 31st July 2025	111,508	105,656	217,164

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

15 Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions that require disclosure in the accounts.

16 Independent Examiner's Fee

The independent examiner's fee for 2025 was £900 (2024: £720)

17 Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

18 Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted General	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Income:			
Subscriptions	50,518	-	50,518
Donations and Grants	414	64,709	65,123
Concert Income (net)	39,510	-	39,510
Music sales and hire	2,338	-	2,338
Fundraising (net)	5,337	2,461	7,798
Interest	1,341	1,700	3,041
Total Income	99,458	68,870	168,328
Expenditure:			
Concert and Rehearsal expenditure	(75,939)	(2,442)	(78,381)
Music costs	(2,082)	-	(2,082)
Total Concert and Rehearsal Expenditure	(78,021)	(2,442)	(80,463)
Website and IT	(362)	-	(362)
Bank charges and other costs	(861)	(361)	(1,222)
Examiner's fee	(720)	-	(720)
Making Music including insurance	(1,011)	-	(1,011)
Auditions & reassessments	(650)	-	(650)
Season and recruitment publicity	(685)	-	(685)
Receptions & season preview	(468)	-	(468)
Outreach expenditure	-	(3,917)	(3,917)
Sundry expenses	(310)	-	(310)
Total Administration Expenditure	(5,067)	(4,278)	(9,345)
Total Expenditure	(83,088)	(6,720)	(89,808)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	16,370	62,150	78,520
Transfer between funds	(1,507)	1,507	-
Net movement in funds	14,863	63,657	78,520
Total funds brought forward	79,394	39,291	118,685
Total funds carried forward	94,257	102,948	197,205

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2023–2024

Patron	The Rt. Hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH
President	Sir Roger Norrington CBE
Vice-Presidents	Libby Burgess (appointed 13.05.2024) Nicholas Cleobury Adrian Partington Christopher Robinson CBE CVO Professor Mark Wildman James Gilchrist Roderick Williams OBE Howard Goodall CBE
President of the Friends	Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB
Music Director	Benjamin Nicholas
Accompanists	Daniel Greenway, François Cloete

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2023–2024

Officers and Trustees

Chair	Andrew Frawley
General Secretary	Vanessa Moir
Artistic Administrator	Lucy Driver
Membership Secretary	Ruth Fitter
Treasurer	Tony Blakeborough
Marketing Manager	Ian Wylie
Development Officer	<i>vacant</i>
Assistant Artistic Administrator	Hannah Rabey (resigned 25.09.2024)

Trustee

Chair of Council	Isabel Fenton
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Officers

Vice-Chair	Liz Stock
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Other Council Members

Friends' Secretary	Stuart Packford
Scores Librarian	Richard Stone
Scores Secretary	Camilla Ip
Voice Rep: Soprano	Diana Reynolds
Voice Rep: Alto	Claire Jarvis
Voice Rep: Tenor	Mike Fooks
Voice Rep: Bass	Robert Aitken
Student/U30s Representatives	Caroline Harbison (resigned 31.03.2024) and Rebecca Faull
Internet Secretary	Isabel Fenton

Rehearsal Administrator	Alan Marsh
Bulletin Secretary	Marco Mazzorana
Programme Secretary	Philippa Logan
Chair of Programming Committee	Peter Gilliver
Concert Manager	Elizabeth Kyberd
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Lane
Box Office Administrator	Gillian Beattie
Outreach Coordinator	Roger Parry

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

Membership

The membership of the choir during the 2023-24 season fluctuated around 165, including 37 members recruited during the season. 138 members took part in the December concert, 72 in 'Carols for All', 141 in the March concert and 135 in the June concert.

Achievements and Performances

Saturday 2 December 2023

Our 2023-2024 season began at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, on Saturday 2 December 2023. The programme was Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (performed with organ, harp and percussion) and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* (performed with two pianos and percussion). Bernstein made various arrangements of *Chichester Psalms* including this one for organ, harp and percussion and, likewise, Carl Orff scored *Carmina Burana* for two pianos and percussion. We were lucky to engage excellent soloists: Libby Burgess (piano), Robert Quinney (piano, organ), Catrin Meek (harp), plus a large number of percussionists who certainly worked extremely hard! We were very pleased to have an amazing line-up of soloists; Ailish Tynan (soprano), Simon Ponsford (countertenor), Jack Lee (bass) and we welcomed Didrik Tarras-Wahlberg, music scholar at Radley College, and Yoav Gal, chorister at New College, to sing the treble solos in *Chichester Psalms*. For *Carmina Burana*, we were also joined by students from Europa School and the Swan School. The concert was conducted by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas.

We were extremely pleased to welcome back Libby Burgess. Libby is a former OBC accompanist and also directed the choir for a term in 2018. In addition, we were delighted to that she has become one of OBC's Vice Presidents, together with recently appointed Vice President, Howard Goodall.

Saturday 16 December 2023

The annual Carols for All concert at the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 16 December 2023, was ably conducted and controlled by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were once again delighted to be joined by the singers and instrumentalists of the Oxfordshire County Music Service, whose performances were most professional, and delighted the audience. The OBC choir sang a number of well-known and a few lesser-known carols. The audience was able to join in with a good number of carols, including our now "traditional" version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, which most definitely requires audience participation! We were also delighted that Benjamin Sheen (Sub Organist at Christ Church Cathedral, and former Oxford Bach Choir accompanist) accompanied the Choir on the organ for a number of the pieces.

Saturday 9 March 2024

The concert on 9 March 2024 was again at the Sheldonian Theatre, and consisted of one work; J S Bach's *St John Passion*. This performance marked the 300th anniversary of its first performance in Leipzig. This is the tenth time OBC has sung this work, and we were joined for this performance by the period ensemble, Instruments of Time and Truth, as well as by wonderful soloists; Zoë Brookshaw (soprano), Lucy Gibbs (alto), Edmund Saddington (baritone), Tom Herring (bass, Christus) and Ruairi Bowen (tenor, Evangelist); all under the baton of our music director, Benjamin Nicholas.

Saturday 11 May 2024

We were thrilled to host a singing day with Sir John Rutter, which took place in the wonderful, new Olivier Hall at St Edward's School. Sir John is well known as a composer and as a leader of these singing days all over the world. It was attended by over 300 singers from around the UK and abroad, all of whom enjoyed the day enormously, singing through a number of Sir John's works and enjoying a number of his anecdotes!

OBC was praised for its organisation of the day, and Sir John offered to come back to lead another singing day, which we will organise in due course. Our excellent rehearsal accompanist, Daniel Greenway, accompanied the singing day and was praised by Sir John for his accompanying.

Saturday 15 June 2024

The final concert of the season once again took place in the Sheldonian Theatre on 15 June 2024, and, in performing Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, we marked the 150th anniversary of its first performance. This popular work is most theatrical, which is not surprising since its composer was better known for writing operas. We were delighted to be joined by the City of London Sinfonia as well as four great soloists, Katherine Crompton (soprano), Jess Dandy (mezzo-soprano), Alexey Dolgov (tenor) and Thomas Humphreys (bass), again, all under the baton of our music director, Benjamin Nicholas.

Once again we were very pleased to see that for this season, all our concerts were sold out!

Outreach

The Choir's Outreach work has continued to go from strength to strength. In 2023-24, our Schools' Choral Programme worked with four schools: Europa School, Gosford Hill School, The Swan School, Unicorn School.

The work has involved three music professionals: Ben Nicholas, Music Director of Oxford Bach Choir, Rachel Bowen our Choral Animateur, and Francois Cloete who accompanied on the piano at the concert.

- Unicorn School participated in the Christmas Term but was unable to continue its involvement in the Easter and Summer Terms as they struggled to involve sufficient students. The other three schools were involved throughout.
- The work involved running two workshops for music teachers (September 23 and January 24)
- Two choral workshops were held which involved all the school choirs rehearsing together (November 23 and March 24)
- We held sessions with each school choir separately in the Christmas and Summer terms
- 95 students conducted by Rachel sang in a special concert celebrating 100 years of OUP Music and the launch of Carols for Choirs 6 at Merton College in November 2023. They sang a piece by Bob Chilcott in the presence of the composer, as well as other notable figures in British choral music, including Sir John Rutter and David Hill - Musical Director, London Bach Choir.
- The students sang with the Oxford Bach Choir at its performance of Carmina Burana in December 2023. It was great to have the students singing with us
- A very successful end of season concert was held at the University Church, Oxford on 18 June 2024, in which the students sang to a packed audience of parents and carers. In all some 75 students were involved in the concert.

We continue to fundraise to provide funds for this outreach work, and particular thanks goes to the choir members who ran the Town and Gown 10k in May and to all those who supported them, as well as the generous individuals and charitable trusts that have donated to the project.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the choir's professional team for their work this season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; accompanists Daniel Greenway and François Cloete; choral animateur Rachel Bowen for her work on our Schools' Choral Programme. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways. Additionally, we thank Terry Stock for coordinating concert stewards and for organising refreshments at Saturday rehearsals and on concert days.

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and in particular to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre and The Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy for their help over the past year with concert and rehearsal venues. We also thank George Sawyer at the Oxford Playhouse/Tickets Oxford, for working with us to promote our concerts and sell tickets.

Andrew Frawley

Chair, on behalf of the Trustees of the Oxford Bach Choir – 28 October 2024

Oxford Bach Choir AGM 2024

Financial Report for year 1/8/23 to 31/7/24

The choir has had a very successful year. The choir put on a full programme of four concerts in the Sheldonian Theatre. All concerts sold out, which is not only a testament to the success of the publicity team but also provided a healthy income for the choir.

Fundraising for our outreach work, *The Joy of Singing*, has been very successful and there has been substantial progress with the 125th Anniversary Outreach Appeal building an endowment fund to support some of the future costs of our outreach activity. The Appeal is doing well but still has some way to go to achieve the necessary target.

The Programming Committee had proposed the choir perform Elgar's twinned works, *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom*. In combination these works require significantly higher resources than are usually allocated to concerts, so it was agreed to initiate the *Elgar Project* to raise extra funds to perform these works. The fundraising has been extremely successful, and both works are in the programme - *The Apostles* in March 2025 and *The Kingdom* in 2026.

At the beginning of the year, the choir was notified of a significant increase in cost of our main concert venue. This provided additional impetus to raise money. Proceeds of this effort have been placed in a newly created Concerts and Development Fund to defray the increased venue costs over the next few years and to support work to extend the choir's sources of income.

The choir also held a Come and Sing day led by Sir John Rutter, which raised just over £3,600 for the choir.

The choir received many donations over the year. The Trustees offer grateful thanks and appreciation to all those charities, organisations and individuals that contributed to the fundraising. We have had five major donations from charities and organisations, the Middleway Trust, the OBC Support Trust and the University of Oxford's Van Houten Fund. Two other major donors wish to remain anonymous.

Significant funds were also raised by the sponsorship of OBC members running in the Oxford 10k. We are grateful for the efforts of the runners and their sponsors.

Detailed income and expenditure report

The attached accounts for the year show that the choir's overall income rose to £168,328 from £129,640 the previous year. Overall expenditure fell to £89,808 from £132,686, which resulted in a net income of £78,520 compared to last year's loss of £3,046. The significant proportion of the income, however, has gone into restricted and designated funds.

Choir income

Following a period of rapid inflation of costs, membership subscription rates were increased by 5% last year. The income from members and Friends (including Gift Aid) has accordingly risen to £50,518 from £45,901 in the previous year.

The choir received several large donations from charitable and commercial organisations. Donations from the Oxford University Van Houten Fund and the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust totalling £5,473 were made to fund the *Joy of Singing* outreach activity along with a

further £8,000 from a charity which wishes to remain anonymous. There was another charitable transfer (again with a request of anonymity) of £10,000 which joins the £4,200 raised by the 10k and other events to boost the 125 Outreach Fund significantly.

As a result of excellent publicity and the efforts of members, all concerts sold out. Ticket sales increased to £41,883 from £35,644 last year, but all this year's concerts were in the Sheldonian Theatre with its larger capacity and ticket income. Fundraising activities were boosted this year by the Come and Sing day making up for a fall in other fundraising areas.

Programme sales remained roughly constant, but the advertising income fell. Production costs were reduced, nevertheless the surplus fell to £1,027 from £1,596 the previous year.

Choir Expenditure

The concert expenditure over the season of £75,573 was significantly higher than last year's £66,282. This was partly due to inflation but also all concerts were at the Sheldonian, which is a more expensive venue than St John the Evangelist's where we held one concert last year. Publicity has been more targeted this year which has reduced costs to £2,082 from £2,820 the previous year. The general running costs of the choir have remained constant, and the cost of the outreach programme slightly reduced as we had to pay lower travel expenses last year.

Overall expenditure is much lower at £89,808 compared with £132,686 last year. However, last year's figure was greatly increased by the transfer of the Martin Peters fund (£50,000) to the OBC Support Trust.

Risks

This year we have sold out all our concerts, but this has not always been the case. The Outreach activities have increased the expenditure of the choir in turn increasing the demands on fundraising activity. The choir is aware there will be increased venue costs over the next few years.

The Trustees have considered the future funding of the *Joy of Singing* activity and have updated the fund target. Through its fundraising efforts this year, the choir has reserves to run the *Joy of Singing* activity and cover, through the Costs and Development Fund, the effect of concert cost increases for the next three years or so. With this cover in place the choir can now put all its fundraising activities into increasing the 125 Outreach Appeal to the updated level, which it is estimated will take about 3 to 4 years. At the same time the sources of income must be increased so that the concert cost increases can be covered by fundraising when the 125 Appeal Fund has reached the necessary value.

Reserve policy

The Charity Commission expects trustees to publish their reserve policy to comply with legislation. This includes stating the level of reserves held and why they are held.

Reserves are required to cover the Choir's liabilities if income is insufficient to cover overall costs and to enable the Choir to plan its future activities, normally up to two years ahead. However, the fundraising effort needed to build the 125 Appeal fund to the required level means we must look forward three to four years.

Reserves are also required by way of contingency to cover the financial impact of unexpected uninsurable events outside the Choir's control which might seriously impact on the Choir's revenues.

It is the policy of the Choir to hold general funds, the free reserves of the choir. The General Fund on 31 July 2024 stands at £95,699, increased from £79,394 in 2023. A general rule is that these must be maintained at a level which equates to no less than six months expenditure, but the choir has at times in the past taken the view it should be 12 months. Following the recent period of high inflation, it would be wise to be cautious and err towards the higher figure. The budgeted expenditure for the current year is £87k.

The choir holds considerable amounts in its designated funds. To preserve their value these have been held in high interest accounts and the interest added to the funds. In the longer term the Trustees will continue to maintain the value of its reserves through prudent financial management. It is currently considering the options on how and where to set up the endowment for the 125 Outreach Appeal fund.

Risk management

The reserves in the General Fund exceed the planned expenditure in the 2024-25 season and so meet the Charity Commission recommendation.

The Trustees continue to monitor the adequacy of the reserves. The Trustees insure against most unexpected events that could result in concert cancellations. The Trustees will continue to ensure that any contracts for future choir activities minimise any risk to the choir, whilst ensuring its support to the musical landscape and its musicians.

A Blakeborough
Treasurer, Oxford Bach Choir
24th April 2025

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
OXFORD BACH CHOIR**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Caroline Webster FCA
UHY Ross Brooke

Suite I
Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Date 02/05/2025

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	39,462.00	35,923.00
Friends	3,144.00	2,520.00
Gift Aid on subscriptions	7,912.17	7,458.00
<i>Total - subscriptions</i>	<u>50,518.17</u>	<u>45,901.00</u>
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
Members, friends and other individuals	413.50	368.00
Elgar project	24,863.95	
Concert & development project	12,193.40	
Outreach 125 Appeal		
<i>Major donors</i>	10,000.00	25,000.00
<i>Fundraising (net)</i>	5,340.44	8,311.44
Outreach fund		
<i>Charities</i>	14,000.00	10,478.00
<i>Van Houten fund</i>	2,473.10	
<i>Total - donations & grants</i>	<u>69,284.39</u>	<u>44,157.44</u>
CONCERTS		
Box office income		
<i>December concert</i>	11,034.00	10,549.63
<i>Carol concert</i>	8,483.00	8,152.21
<i>March concert</i>	11,148.00	11,052.23
<i>June concert</i>	11,218.50	5,889.95
	<u>41,883.50</u>	<u>35,644.02</u>
Box office commission		
<i>December concert</i>	(1,403.11)	(1,362.74)
<i>Carol concert</i>	(1,042.56)	(1,046.84)
<i>March concert</i>	(1,404.84)	(1,419.67)
<i>June concert</i>	(1,395.63)	(696.34)
	<u>(5,246.14)</u>	<u>(4,525.59)</u>
Programme sales		
<i>December concert</i>	606.00	496.24
<i>Carol concert</i>	0.00	0.00
<i>March concert</i>	723.70	508.00
<i>June concert</i>	686.00	195.00
	<u>2,015.70</u>	<u>1,199.24</u>
Programme advertisements	857.00	1,484.00
<i>Total - concerts</i>	<u>39,510.06</u>	<u>33,801.67</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	2,337.55	2,934.00
Interest on General and Outreach funds	1,340.83	415.55
Fund raising activities		
<i>Catering (net)</i>	1,145.44	1,204.05
<i>100 Club (net)</i>	0.00	449.00
<i>Event Choir</i>	500.00	675.00
<i>Come & Sing (net)</i>	3,629.37	
<i>Purchase commission</i>	62.39	102.06
<i>Total - other income</i>	<u>9,015.58</u>	<u>5,779.66</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>168,328.20</u>	<u>129,639.77</u>

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)**EXPENDITURE**

	2024	2023
	£	£
CONCERTS & REHEARSALS		
Professional expenses	53,222.54	49,709.74
Venue and staging costs, including instrument hire	21,772.36	15,485.43
PRS payments	684.90	1,470.14
Cost of programmes	899.91	1,087.28
Concert publicity and choir recruitment	3,856.40	4,783.16
Cost of music	2,082.13	2,820.47
Total - concert and rehearsals	82,518.24	75,356.22
ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH		
Administration and training, including web site	1,583.44	2,216.91
Making music, including insurance	1,011.33	825.64
Receptions & season preview	468.26	322.10
Miscellaneous	310.20	70.00
Outreach	3,916.75	3,894.87
Transfer of Martin Peters bequest to OBC Support Trust	0.00	50,000.00
Total - administration and outreach	7,289.98	57,329.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	89,808.22	132,685.74
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	78,519.98	(3,045.97)
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	118,685.26	121,731.22
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	197,205.24	118,685.26

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2024

MONETARY ASSETS**BANK AND CASH BALANCES**

	2024	2023
	£	£
CASH AT BANK: CAF/CASH	82,500.13	92,426.70
CASH AT BUILDING SOCIETY: SKIPTON	63,442.73	
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS		
Current account	13,645.77	18,282.33
Business Premium Account	11,330.88	5,672.92
	24,976.65	23,955.25

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**ASSETS**

Prepaid expenses	1,575.00	2,411.33
Advertising income	340.00	54.00
Van Houten grant	2,473.10	2,478.00
Gift aid received after year end	4,111.86	0.00
	8,499.96	4,943.33

LIABILITIES

(Subscription received in advance)	(462.00)	(616.00)
(Prepaid programme advertising)	(108.00)	
(Publicity and programme costs)	0.00	(535.20)
(Scores income received in advance)	(262.00)	(960.50)
(Come and Sing)	(862.85)	
(Commission & musicians fees)	(450.00)	(450.00)
(Other expenditure due)	(159.38)	(178.33)
	(2,214.23)	(2,640.03)

197,205.24 118,685.25

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
FUND		
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	94,256.50	79,394.45
Restricted Fund - Outreach Fund	17,162.38	4,606.03
Restricted Fund - Elgar project	25,227.90	0.00
Restricted Fund - Concerts & Development	9,751.40	0.00
Restricted Fund - 125 outreach appeal	50,807.06	34,684.78
	197,205.24	118,685.26

Analysis of Fund Movements

FUND	Balance b/fwd (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfers (£)	Balance c/fwd (£)
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	79,394.45	99,457.31	(83,088.17)	(1,507.09)	94,256.50
Restricted Fund - Outreach Fund	4,606.03	16,473.10	(3,916.75)		17,162.38
Restricted Fund - Elgar project	0.00	24,863.95		363.95	25,227.90
Restricted Fund - Concerts & Development	0.00	12,193.40	(2,442.00)		9,751.40
Restricted Fund - 125 Outreach Appeal	34,684.78	15,340.44	(361.30)	1,143.14	50,807.06
Totals	118,685.26	168,328.20	(89,808.22)	0.00	197,205.24

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

A Frawley

Chair

DR ANDREW T. FRAWLEY

1st May 2025

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2022–2023

Patron	The Rt. Hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH
President	Sir Roger Norrington CBE
Vice-Presidents	Nicholas Cleobury Adrian Partington Christopher Robinson CBE, CVO Professor Mark Wildman James Gilchrist Roderick Williams OBE
President of the Friends	Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB
Music Director	Benjamin Nicholas
Vocal Coach	Carys Lane
Accompanists	Daniel Greenway, François Cloete

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2022–2023

Officers and Trustees

Chair	Andrew Frawley
Vice-Chair	Liz Stock
General Secretary	Christine Cunningham (resigned 26.06.2023)
Artistic Administrator	Jennifer Thompson
Membership Secretary	Pia Key
Treasurer	Tony Blakeborough
Marketing Manager	Ian Wylie
Development Officer	<i>vacant</i>
Assistant Artistic Administrator	Hannah Rabey

Trustee

Chair of Council	Isabel Fenton
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Other Council Members

Friends' Secretary	Stuart Packford
Scores Librarian	Richard Stone
Scores Secretary	Vanessa Moir
Voice Rep: Soprano	Diana Reynolds
Voice Rep: Alto	Alison Langton (died 22.03.2023)
Voice Rep: Tenor	Mike Fooks
Voice Rep: Bass	Robert Aitken
Student/U30s Representatives	Caroline Harbison and Rebecca Faull
Internet Secretary	Isabel Fenton

Rehearsal Administrator	Alan Marsh
Bulletin Secretary	Marco Mazzorana
Programme Secretary	Philippa Logan
Chair of Programming Committee	Peter Gilliver
Concert Manager	Elizabeth Kyberd
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Lane
Box Office Administrator	Gillian Beattie
Outreach Coordinator	Roger Parry (co-opted 15.11.2022)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

Membership

The total membership of the choir during the 2022-23 season was 172, including those with part-year membership or on 'sabbatical'. There were 22 in the under 30s membership category and a further 25 were full-time students. We had 42 new members (from 59 auditions) joining during the course of the year.

125 members took part in the December concert, 54 in 'Carols for All', 122 in the March concert and 103 in the June concert. 2 visiting tenors from Zagreb joined us for *Missa Solemnis* in March.

Achievements and Performances

Concert Season

The year 2022 saw the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams (RVW) – one of England's most celebrated composers who had a close association with the Oxford Bach Choir in the past.

Our 2022-2023 concert season started at the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 3 December 2022, as we marked this 150th anniversary with an all-RVW concert, which was conducted by our music director, Benjamin Nicholas. The choir sang RVW's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and *Sancta Civitas* (which was reported to be the favourite of RVW's major choral works and for which the Choir gave the first performance in 1926 in the presence of RVW himself.). We were lucky to engage the outstanding Philharmonia Orchestra who also treated us to the beautiful *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*. Our soloists were Katherine Crompton (s), Ruairi Bowen (t) and Gareth Brynmor John (b). For our performance of *Sancta Civitas*, we were also joined by the excellent Merton College Girl Choristers. Professor Daniel Grimley, Professor of Music and Head of Humanities, University of Oxford, gave a short, most interesting introduction to Vaughan Williams, in particular to *Sancta Civitas*.

Our Carols for All concert at the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 17 December 2022, was ably conducted and controlled by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were once again delighted to be joined by the singers and instrumentalists of the Oxfordshire County Music Service, whose performances were most professional, and delighted the audience. The choir sang a number of well-known and a few lesser-known carols, as well as some items from *Messiah*. The audience was able to join in with a good number of carols, including our now "traditional" version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which most definitely requires audience participation! We were also delighted that Benjamin Sheen (Sub Organist at Christ Church Cathedral, and former Oxford Bach Choir accompanist) accompanied the Choir on the organ and piano for a number of the pieces.

Charity No: 233688

Our concert on 12 March 2023 was again at the Sheldonian Theatre and consisted of only one work - Beethoven's mighty *Missa Solemnis*. This concert was conducted by our music director Benjamin Nicholas and enabled us to work with the London Mozart Players, a splendid orchestra with whom we have worked many times before. We had originally programmed *Missa Solemnis* for performance in March 2020, but we had to cancel it on the day of the concert due to Covid, so we were all very pleased to have been able to perform it this year, and with almost the same band of musicians who would have performed in 2020. Our soloists were Claire Rutter (s), Susanna Spicer (a), Justin Lavender (t) and Mark Stone (b).

The last concert of the season was held on Saturday 17 June 2023 at St John the Evangelist Church, Iffley Road and again was conducted by our music director, Benjamin Nicholas. This was mainly an unaccompanied programme but some accompaniment was given on the chamber organ played by Francois Cloete, one of our first class choir accompanists. The challenging programme consisted of Vaughan Williams: *Mass in G Minor*; Domenico Scarlatti: *Stabat Mater* and J S Bach: *Komm, Jesu Komm*. Our soloists were Aine Smith (s), Lucy Gibbs (a), Sebastian Hill (t) and Thomas Herring (b).

We were very pleased to see that all our concerts in the season were sold out!

In addition to our main concerts, the Choir was honoured to be invited to sing at a memorial service for Priscilla Tolkien, long-time Vice President of the Oxford Bach Choir. A choir of approximately 30 members sang four pieces, including Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* accompanied by a string quartet and joined by a professional soprano. In addition to OBC's contribution, there were readings and musical performances by other organisations Priscilla had been involved with.

Outreach activities

In 2022-23 we continued our outreach work with the launch of the Oxford Bach Choir Schools' Choral Programme to bring the Joy of Singing to secondary school students in Oxfordshire. It involved working with 100 students in 4 secondary schools: Cheney School, Europa School UK, Matthew Arnold School and The Swan School.

The first event was a workshop for the school choir leaders. This was led by Benjamin Nicholas, Oxford Bach Choir's Music Director, and Rachel Bowen, our Choral Animateur. Part of the time was spent observing a rehearsal of the Merton Girl Choristers so that the school choir leaders could see good practice and pick up some new ideas and repertoire for 'warm ups' for singing sessions in their schools. This was followed by Rachel sharing some new repertoire that the teachers could try out.

Two choral workshops, led by our Choral Animateur, were held in November 2022 and March 2023 at the Centre for Music (Oxfordshire County Music Service), with students from all 4 schools participating. Some members of OBC attended to support these workshops.

In the summer term 2023, our Music Director and Choral Animateur visited schools individually to prepare the students for the end of year concert, which was held in June 2023 at SJE Arts, Oxford. The concert involved the students singing four pieces, a small OBC choir singing some pieces, and the students and OBC joining forces to sing movements from Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The concert was performed to a full house, comprising parents/grandparents and carers, school staff as well as OBC members and Friends, and was very well received.

2022-23 also saw our fundraising activities swing into action. Funds were raised from OBC members running the Oxford Town and Gown run, a clarinet recital given by an OBC member, individual donations and support from charitable trusts and Oxford colleges. We are very grateful to all those who supported our outreach work this year.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the choir's professional team for their work this season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; accompanists Daniel Greenway and François Cloete; choral animateur Rachel Bowen for her work on our Schools' Choral Programme. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways. Additionally, we thank Terry Stock for coordinating concert stewards and for organising refreshments at Saturday rehearsals and on concert days.

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and in particular to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre and The Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy for their help over the past year with concert and rehearsal venues. We also thank George Sawyer at the Oxford Playhouse/Tickets Oxford, for working with us to promote our concerts and sell tickets.

Finally, the Choir was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of choir member Alison Langton in March 2023. As well as singing in the choir for a number of years, Alison had served on the Choir's Council as the Rehearsal Administrator and Alto Voice Rep. Members remember Alison as wonderfully kind and generous person with so much time for everyone.

Andrew Frawley

Chair, on behalf of the Trustees of the Oxford Bach Choir – 23 October 2023

Financial Report for year 1/8/22 to 31/7/23

This year, the first full year after Covid restrictions had been lifted, the choir put on a full concert programme of a large concert requiring a full orchestra, the usual *Carols for All Concert*, a concert with a smaller orchestra (all these held in the Sheldonian Theatre), and a summer concert held at St John The Evangelist's Church, which was without orchestra.

This year also marked the first full year of fundraising for our 125th Anniversary Outreach Appeal to provide an endowment fund to support the choir's outreach activity, *The Joy of Singing*, which promotes choral singing in local schools.

1. Choir income & expenditure

The choir's overall income rose to £129,640 from the previous year's figure of £91,927. Overall expenditure also rose to £132,686 from £116,658, which resulted in a net expenditure (i.e. a loss) of £3,046 - much smaller than that in the previous year, which was £24,731. These figures are, however, significantly affected by large movements of cash into and out of choir funds.

Choir income

Subscription income from members and Friends (including Gift Aid) fell slightly to £45,901 from £46,353 in the previous year. Most of this reduction was in the Gift Aid figure, as in the previous year the choir had reclaimed a backlog of Gift Aid.

The choir received one large donation from a charity, which when combined with smaller donations from local charities and members raised £33,148 for the Outreach Appeal. There was one unrestricted bequest of £5,000. Donations from the Oxford University Van Houten Fund and the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust totalling £5,478 were given to fund the *Joy of Singing* outreach activity. We are extremely grateful for all these donations given to support the choir and its outreach activities.

As a result of excellent publicity and the efforts of choir members, all our concerts sold out. Ticket sales total was slightly lower at £35,644 from £37,946, but the all the previous year's concerts were in the Sheldonian Theatre, which has a larger capacity. Fund raising activities were curtailed this year by the desire to put most of our fundraising efforts into the Outreach Appeal. Nevertheless, choir members raised almost as much as the previous year, but that had been reduced because of lingering Covid restrictions. The choir would normally hope to raise a larger sum to reduce membership subscriptions.

Programmes sales were down this year, but the increased advertising income and reduced productions costs increased the surplus to £1,596, compared to £1,463 the previous year.

Choir Expenditure

The expenditure over the season was significantly higher than it would normally be, but this is almost all due to the transfer of a large bequest to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. The bequest, made some years ago, was made up to the original sum of £50,000 and transferred to the Trust. The aim is that the funds be invested, and a proportion of the income returned to support the choir's outreach activities.

The costs of the concerts and rehearsals dropped to £75,356 this year from the very large costs incurred in the previous, 125th Anniversary year when they were £111,137. The costs of the *Missa Solemnis* concert were defrayed by an earlier generous anonymous donation of £5,000. After the concert income is taken off the net cost of the concerts and rehearsals in this year was £41,555,

much smaller than the previous year's £64,696. The net cost this year is equivalent to the subscription income.

The general running costs of the choir have been kept constant, and the cost of the outreach programme increased in line with the increased activity.

2. Reserves Policy and risk management

The Charity Commission expects trustees to publish their reserve policy to comply with legislation. This includes stating the level of reserves held and why they are held. The Choir's budgeted costs are expected to exceed anticipated subscription and concert revenues. The Choir therefore relies on donations and fundraising activities to fill the gap. The Outreach activities have increased the expenditure of the choir in turn increasing the demands on fundraising activity, especially whilst the choir raises money for the Outreach Appeal. Recently, the choir has become aware of a significant increase in the cost venue hire. In the coming year the effect is reasonably small, but it is likely to be much more significant in later years.

Reserve policy

Reserves are required to cover the Choir's liabilities if donations and sponsorship are insufficient to cover overall costs, and to enable the Choir to plan its future activities, normally up to two years ahead. Reserves are also required by way of contingency to cover the financial impact of unexpected events outside the Choir's control which might seriously impact on the Choir's revenues. For example, the short notice cancellation of a concert or the more extended cessation of the choir due to significant unexpected events such as occurred due to Covid restrictions. In future any uncertainties in both membership subscription income and box office revenue should not cause significant cashflow difficulties. It is the policy of the Choir to hold unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the choir. These must be maintained at a level which equates to no less than six months expenditure. In the current climate of high inflation, the Trustees are expecting significant increases in costs. It is likely that we will have to draw on our reserves in the 2023-24 season, so a larger figure is appropriate this year. Holding sufficient funds will cover the expected short-term increases in the running costs of the Choir, whilst in the longer term the Trustees are seeking to maintain, and if possible build on, the value of its reserves through prudent financial management. It is considered that the minimum level of reserves for this purpose is £53,000.

Risk management

As a result of transferring the bequest to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust, the level of unrestricted reserves on 31 July 2023 was much lower than the previous year standing at £84,000 (2022: £120,359), of which £4,606 was designated. This is considered to be adequate. The Trustees continue to monitor the adequacy of the reserves. The Trustees insure against most unexpected events that could result in concert cancellations. However, the insurance policy did not cover all costs incurred due to the Covid pandemic, which was considered to be a force majeure event. The Trustees will continue to ensure that any contracts for future choir activities minimise any risk to the choir, whilst ensuring its support to the musical landscape and its musicians.

A Blakeborough

Treasurer, Oxford Bach Choir – 25 October 2023

Financial Statements
Oxford Bach Choir
Charity number: 0233688
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

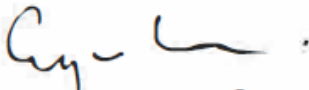
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.



George Style ACA Cooper Parry Advisory Limited
3 Danebrook Court
Langford Lane
Kidlington
Oxford
OX5 1LQ

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	35,923.00	35,664.00
Friends	2,520.00	2,690.00
Refund of tax on subscriptions	7,458.00	7,998.58
Total - subscriptions	45,901.00	46,352.58
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
Members, friends and other	368.00	200.00
125 Outreach appeal	25,000.00	
Major donors	8,311.44	1,373.34
Fundraising (net)	5,000.00	
Bequests	2,478.00	
Oxford University Van Houten fund: Outreach	3,000.00	2,378.00
Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust: Outreach	3,000.00	2,378.00
Total - donations & grants	44,157.44	3,951.34
CONCERTS		
<i>Box office income:</i>		
December concert	10,549.63	10,498.00
Carol concert	8,152.21	7,639.00
March concert	11,052.23	9,580.30
June concert	5,889.95	10,228.51
	35,644.02	37,945.81
<i>Box office commission:</i>		
December concert	(1,362.74)	(1,361.12)
Carol concert	(1,046.84)	(973.63)
March concert	(1,419.67)	(1,118.72)
June concert	(696.34)	(1,211.75)
	(4,525.59)	(4,665.22)
<i>Programme Sales:</i>		
December concert	496.24	537.00
Carol concert	0.00	0.00
March concert	508.00	472.10
June concert	195.00	1,053.00
	1,199.24	2,062.10
Programme Advertisements	1,484.00	1,098.00
Total - concerts	33,801.67	36,440.69
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	2,934.00	2,685.25
Interest earned	415.55	24.83
<i>Fund raising activities:</i>		
Catering (net)	1,204.05	788.13
100 Club (net)	449.00	766.00
Event Choir	675.00	0.00
Wine Tasting		336.54
Purchase commission (e.g. EasyFundraising)	102.06	21.43
Broadcast fee	0.00	560.00
Total - other income	5,779.66	5,182.18
TOTAL INCOME	129,639.77	91,926.79

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (continued)

EXPENDITURE	2023 £	2022 £
CONCERTS & REHEARSALS		
Professional expenses	49,709.74	76,319.45
Venue and staging costs, including instrument hire	15,485.43	16,722.27
PRS payments	1,470.14	1,492.18
Cost of streaming concert		396.00
Cost of programmes	1,087.28	1,696.94
Concert advertising, recruitment and publicity	4,783.16	5,789.42
Cost of music	2,820.47	2,670.98
125 Commission	0.00	6,050.00
Total - concert and rehearsals	75,356.22	111,137.24
ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH		
Administration and training, including web site	2,216.91	2,166.54
Making music, including insurance	825.64	914.70
After show party, Friends reception & season preview	322.10	78.52
Miscellaneous, including Zoom costs	70.00	264.29
Outreach	3,894.87	2,096.60
Transfer of Martin Peters bequest to OBC Support Trust	50,000.00	
Total - administration and outreach	57,329.52	5,520.65
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	132,685.74	116,657.89
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(3,045.97)	(24,731.10)
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	121,731.22	146,462.32
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	118,685.26	121,731.22

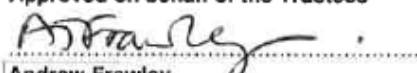
OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2023

MONETARY ASSETS		2023	2022
		£	£
BANK AND CASH BALANCES			
INVESTMENT: CAFKASH		92,426.70	101,150.06
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS			
Current account	18,282.33		18,282.33
Business Premium Account	5,672.92		5,079.47
		<u>23,955.25</u>	<u>23,361.8</u>
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
Assets:			
Prepaid expenses	2,411.33		3,422.26
Easy funding receivable	0.00		21.43
Advertising income	54.00		247.00
Van Houten grant	2,478.00		
Broadcast fee	0.00		560.00
Donation promised	0.00		100.00
Gift aid received after year end	0.00		250.00
		<u>4,943.33</u>	<u>4,600.69</u>
Liabilities:			
(Donation received in advance)			(5,000.00)
(Subscription received in advance)	(616.00)		(362.00)
(Publicity and programme costs)	(535.20)		0.00
(Estimated PRS due)	0.00		(500.00)
(Scores income received in advance)	(960.50)		(1,102.00)
(Commission & musicians fees)	(450.00)		(300.00)
(Other expenditure due)	(78.33)		(117.33)
		<u>(2,640.03)</u>	<u>(7,381.33)</u>
		118,685.25	121,731.22
Accumulated funds			
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund		79,394.45	65,632.49
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest		0.00	46,702.49
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund		4,606.03	3,022.90
Designated fund - Missa Solemnis concert		0.00	5,000.00
Restricted Fund - 125 outreach appeal		34,684.78	1,373.34
		<u>118,685.26</u>	<u>121,731.22</u>

Analysis of Fund Movements	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	65,632.49	90,850.33	(78,790.87)	1,702.49	79,394.45
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Fund	46,702.49		(50,000.00)	3,297.51	0.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund	3,022.90	5,478.00	(3,894.87)		4,606.03
Designated fund - Missa Solemnis concert	5,000.00			(5,000.00)	0.00
Restricted Fund - 125 Outreach Appeal	1,373.34	33,311.44			34,684.78
	<u>121,731.22</u>	<u>129,639.77</u>	<u>(132,685.74)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>118,685.25</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees


Andrew Frawley
Chairman

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2021–2022

Patron	The Rt. Hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH
President	Sir Roger Norrington CBE
Vice-Presidents	Nicholas Cleobury Adrian Partington Christopher Robinson CBE, CVO Priscilla Tolkien (died February 2022) Professor Mark Wildman James Gilchrist Roderick Williams OBE Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB
President of the Friends	
Music Director	Benjamin Nicholas
Vocal Coach	Carys Lane
Accompanists	Daniel Greenway, Stephen Clarke

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2021–2022

Officers and Trustees

Chair	Andrew Frawley
Vice-Chair	Liz Stock
General Secretary	Christine Cunningham
Artistic Administrator	Jennifer Thompson
Membership Secretary	Pia Key
Treasurer	Tony Blakeborough
Marketing Manager	Ian Wylie
Development Officer	Roger Parry
Assistant Artistic Administrator	Hannah Rabey (co-opted 16.11.2021)

Trustee

Chair of Council	Charlotte Pascoe (elected 23.11.2021, resigned 05.04.2022); Isabel Fenton (elected 25.04.2022)
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Other Council Members

Friends' Secretary	Michael St John Parker
Scores Librarian	Richard Stone
Scores Secretary	Vanessa Moir (co-opted 28.11.2021)
Voice Rep: Soprano	Diana Reynolds
Voice Rep: Alto	Alison Langton
Voice Rep: Tenor	Hugh Mackay (until 21.12.2021); Mike Fooks (co-opted 17.02.2022)
Voice Rep: Bass	Robert Aitken
Student Representative	Marin Vukšić

Internet Secretary	Isabel Fenton
Rehearsal Administrator	Alan Marsh (co-opted 28.03.2022)
Bulletin Secretary	Charlotte Pascoe (until 05.04.2022) Marco Mazzorana (co-opted 05.05.2022)
Programme Secretary	Philippa Logan
Chair of Programming Committee	Robin Darwall-Smith
Concert Manager	Elizabeth Kyberd (co-opted 28.11.2021)
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Lane
Box Office Administrator	Rachel Crowther & Richard Fleming (both resigned 15.08.2022)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

Membership

The total number of members in the choir during the 2021-22 season was 163 members, including 18 under 30s and 18 students. We had 60 new members join during the course of the year.

125 members took part in the December concert, 54 in the 'Carols for All' concert, 103 in the March concert and 109 in the June concert.

Achievements and Performances

Concert Season

Oxford Bach Choir belatedly celebrated its 125th anniversary in the 2021-2022 season, and it was wonderful to be able to look forward to a season of performing to a live audience again after an absence of two years. Rehearsing on Zoom, which we did for some while, was not the same, although it did keep choir members in touch with one another and, at least, doing some singing.

When Covid measures allowed choirs to sing together again in a limited way, we were able to have a few rehearsals in preparation for a concert of French choral music on Sunday 19 September 2021 at the Sheldonian Theatre. This was the first in our 125th Anniversary season. The concert of Duruflé's *Requiem* and Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* was streamed and thus reached a worldwide audience. In the interim, some further Covid measures were relaxed and we were also allowed a small in-person audience in the Sheldonian. The concert was conducted by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas, with soloists Robert Quinney (organ), Rebecca McNaught (cello), Lila Chrisp (s) and Ben Davies (b). The concert included Alice Oswald, Oxford Professor of Poetry, reading a sonnet by John Donne, and reflecting on the impact of the pandemic. We chose to dedicate this concert to the memory of all those who have died of Covid and lost loved ones, and also to celebrate the work of Oxford's scientists and healthcare professionals. We raised over £1600 for the Oxford Hospitals Charity from donations by audience members.

The first main concert of our anniversary season was Bach's wonderful **Christmas Oratorio** which we performed in the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 4 December 2021, conducted by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. It was fitting that our first major concert was the work which Oxford Bach Choir first performed 125 years ago, almost to the day. Bach wrote six cantatas to celebrate the whole period of Christmastide and we performed all six, in German, in one night. We were delighted to work once again with period orchestra, Florilegium, together with wonderful soloists Aoife Miskelly (s), Helen Charlston (a), Nick Pritchard (t) and Peter Harvey (b).

Charity No: 233688

Our **Carols for All concert** at the Sheldonian theatre on Saturday 18 December 2021, was ably conducted and controlled by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were once again delighted to be joined by the singers and instrumentalists of the Oxfordshire County Music Service, whose performances were most professional, and delighted the audience. The choir sang a number of well known and a few not so well known carols, and the audience was able to join in with a good number, including our now “traditional” version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which most definitely requires audience participation! We were also delighted that Benjamin Sheen (Sub-Organist at Christ Church Cathedral, and former Oxford Bach Choir accompanist) accompanied the Choir on the organ and piano for a number of pieces. The concert was recorded by BBC Radio Oxford and was broadcast on Christmas Day.

Our March 2022 concert, conducted by our Music Director Benjamin Nicholas, took place in the Sheldonian Theatre on Sunday 13 March, and saw us working with the excellent City of London Sinfonia. The war in Ukraine had recently started, so the concert began with the Ukrainian National Anthem. The choir sang Vaughan Williams’ *Serenade to Music* and Rossini’s *Stabat Mater*. The orchestra also treated us to a splendid performance of Mendelssohn’s *Hebrides Overture*, which was inspired by the composer’s visit to Fingal’s Cave. Our soloists were Hye-Youn Lee (s), Jess Dandy (a), Luciano Botelho (t) and William Thomas (b). In his 150th birthday year, it was fitting that we sang the *Serenade to Music* since we had all been deprived of much live music in the preceding two years.

The last concert of the season was our 125th Anniversary Gala Concert, which took place in Oxford Town Hall on Sunday 19 June 2022, conducted by our Music Director, Benjamin Nicholas. We were delighted to be joined by the Philharmonia Orchestra and four wonderful soloists: Claire Rutter (s), Hilary Summers (a), Luis Gomes (t) and James Rutherford (b). Before this concert, we were entertained with a short history of the choir, given by the choir’s historian and archivist, Dr Robin Darwall-Smith. It was very good to see some of our previous conductors - Nicholas Cleobury, David Lowe and Christopher Robinson - in the audience for this special event.

The concert opened with a world premiere of *To Spring*, by Alissa Firsova, which set words by William Blake, and was commissioned by Oxford Bach Choir for our 125th Anniversary. The concert was completed with Poulenc’s setting of the *Gloria*, one of his most celebrated works, and Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, which combined choir, orchestra and soloists in its final movement – a setting of Schiller’s *Ode to Joy* – again we thought fitting as it was joyful to be able to sing again, especially to a capacity audience.

Community and partnership

Following the restrictions we faced in 2020-21, it was simply wonderful to be singing again this season! In December 2021 we partnered with Oxfordshire County Music Service to create our popular Carols for All concert held in the Sheldonian Theatre, and which was broadcast on BBC Radio Oxford on Christmas Day.

Development - Schools Outreach Project.

We recruited a choral animateur to start a new choir at Bartholomew School, Eynsham. Some 20 students mainly in years 7-9 joined and rehearsed weekly. The choir’s first public performance was at a school concert in March 2022 and was very well received. In April, Oxfordshire County Music Service took over the running of the choir. The remaining part of the season focussed on evolving our outreach work and recruiting schools to our new programme for 22-23. The outreach work was led by our Outreach Project Board made up of some Trustees, our Music Director and in consultation with the Head of Vocal Studies at the Oxfordshire County Music Service.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the choir’s professional team for the season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; Dan Greenway and Stephen Clarke for their skilled accompanying; Carys Lane for vocal coaching. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways. Additionally, we thank Terry Stock for coordinating concert stewards and for organising refreshments at Saturday rehearsals and on concert days.

Charity No: 233688

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and in particular to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre and The Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy for their help over the past year with concert and rehearsal venues. We also thank George Sawyer at the Oxford Playhouse/Tickets Oxford, for working with us to promote our concerts and sell tickets.

Finally, the Choir would also like to record its sadness at the death of Priscilla Tolkien in February 2022, at the age of 92. Priscilla was a long-time supporter of the Oxford Bach Choir, initially joining as an undergraduate. After nearly 50 years of singing with the Choir she retired in 1996, but continued to support the Choir as a Vice President until her death. She regularly attended our concerts right up to the pandemic in 2020, and could always be found in the front row providing enthusiastic encouragement. We thank Priscilla for her many years of service to the Choir.

Andrew Frawley

Chair, on behalf of the Trustees of the Oxford Bach Choir – 7 November 2022

Treasurer's Report 2021-2022 (financial year 01/08/2021–31/07/2022)

Despite the difficulties of continued Covid restrictions for parts of the year, the choir has succeeded in putting on a full season of excellent concerts. After being in partial suspended animation for almost two years the running costs of the choir had changed, which made an accurate budget for this year difficult to construct. The outcome is that the choir has had to dig into its reserves to fund the season. Some of this was expected, but other areas represent significant increases in the running costs of the choir.

1. Choir income & expenditure

The choir put on a full programme of concerts this year. As a result, choir income increased from the previous year's artificially low figure of £43,735 to £91,927 and expenditure rose from £30,283 to £116,658. The result is that the choir had a net expenditure (i.e. a loss) of £24,731, whereas the previous year there was a net income of £13,452. Most of this can be explained by the resumption of the concerts, but the change was amplified because in the previous year the choir received a donation of £10,000 to support concert costs which was spent in this year.

Choir income

With the return to normal activities, albeit constrained by Covid regulations, subscription income rose from £18,106 to £38,354. Ticket sales totalled £37,946 and the choir received Gift Aid on subscriptions of £7,999, although some of this was from previous tax years. Fund raising activities returned but were curtailed by the continuing Covid restrictions. The sale of programmes and the associated advertising income raised £1,463 after production costs accounted for. The choir was grateful to receive a donation of £2,378 from the OBC Support Trust for our Outreach activities, and £1,373 from public donation and fundraising efforts to be invested specifically into the choir's 125 Outreach Fund.

Choir Expenditure

The expenditure over the season was higher than it would normally be. Analyses of the main income and costs for our concerts are given in the table below. These figures are the total costs for the concerts. Some of the income and expenditure occurred in previous financial years.

Concert	Bach £	Carols £	Rossini/RVW £	125 £
Income				
Ticket sales (less costs)	9,167	6,625	8,486	9,046
Donation				10,000
Total	9,167	6,625	8,486	19,046
Expenditure				
Professional costs	17,406	4,046	18,900	35,320
Venue hire and other direct costs	2,245	3,107	3,634	6,596
Sum of direct costs	19,651	7,153	22,534	41,916
Rehearsal costs	3,682	1,688	4,063	4,270
Concert costs (less income)	14,166	2,215	18,111	27,140

The costs were higher than usual because the season included the delayed celebratory 125th anniversary concert, where the choir wanted to mark the occasion with a comparatively expensive programme including a specially commissioned work. The choir is grateful to have received a donation in 2020 to support the additional costs arising from the commission. The costs for this concert were also higher than planned since the orchestra that was originally booked pulled out and a replacement had to be found at short notice and greater expense.

The general running costs of the choir have also increased in line with underlying inflation. However, there has been a significant increase of costs associated with ticket sales and rehearsal venues. Previously, tickets were sold through the choir by the good efforts of a choir member at minor financial expense. However, we now use Tickets Oxford which charges a commission and transaction costs. Ticket prices

were increased in the year to mitigate this but did not fully compensate for the increase in costs to the choir of around £4,500. Rehearsal venue charges rose by over 10% within the year.

2. Reserves Policy and risk management

The Charity Commission expects trustees to publish their reserve policy to comply with legislation. This includes stating the level of reserves held and why they are held. The Choir's budgeted costs are expected to exceed anticipated subscription and concert revenues. The Choir therefore relies on donations and fundraising activities to fill the gap.

Reserve policy

Reserves are required to cover the Choir's liabilities if donations and sponsorship are insufficient to cover overall costs, and to enable the Choir to plan its future activities, normally up to two years ahead. Reserves are also required by way of contingency to cover the financial impact of unexpected events outside the Choir's control which might seriously impact on the Choir's revenues. For example, the short notice cancellation of a concert or the more extended cessation of the choir due to significant unexpected events such as has occurred due to Covid restrictions. Fortunately, when Covid struck the Choir's reserves were found to be adequate. In future any uncertainties in both membership subscription income and box office revenue should not cause significant cashflow difficulties. It is the policy of the Choir to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the choir, which must be maintained at a level which equates to no less than six months unrestricted expenditure. Sufficient funds will thus be provided to cover the running costs of the Choir, whilst seeking to maintain, and if possible build on, its reserves through prudent financial management. It is considered that the minimum level of reserves for this purpose would be £40,000.

Risk management

The level of unrestricted reserves on 31 July 2022 was £120,359 (2021: £146,462), of which £54,725 was designated. This is considered to be adequate. The Trustees continue to monitor the adequacy of the reserves. The Trustees insure against most unexpected events that could result in concert cancellations. However, the insurance policy did not cover all costs incurred due to the Covid pandemic, which was considered to be a force majeure event. The Trustees will aim to ensure that any contracts for future choir activities minimise any risk to the choir, whilst ensuring its support to the musical landscape and its musicians.

A Blakeborough
Treasurer, Oxford Bach Choir
24 October 2022

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July
2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.

Jodie McDermott ACCA
Haines Watts Oxford LLP
Chartered Accountants
3 Danebrook Court
Langford Lane
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 1LQ

17 March 2023

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OXFORD BACH CHOIR									
Charity number 0233688									
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2022									
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE									
-continued									
EXPENDITURE									
Professional expenses									
Venue and staging costs, including instrument hire									
Cost of streaming concert									
Cost of programmes and tickets									
Advertisements and publicity									
Cost of music									
125 Commission									
Administration and training, including web site									
Making music, including insurance									
After show party and Friends reception									
Miscellaneous, including Zoom costs									
PRS payments									
Outreach									
TOTAL EXPENDITURE									
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR									
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD									
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD									
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2022									
MONETARY ASSETS									
BANK AND CASH BALANCES									
INVESTMENT: CAFCASH									
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS									
Current account									
Business Premium Account									
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES									
Assets:									
Prepaid expenses									
Easy funding receivable									
Advertising income									
Broadcast fee									
Donation promised									
Gift aid received after year end									
Liabilities:									
(Donation received in advance)									
(Subscription received in advance)									
(Concert costs committed)									
(Estimated PRS fees due)									
(Scores income received in advance)									
(Honarium)									
(Other charges due)									
Accumulated funds									
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund									
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest									
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund									
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund									
Designated Fund - Missa Solemnis Concert									
Restricted Fund - 125 Outreach Appeal									

Analysis of Fund Movements		Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
		£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund		87,018.33	88,175.45	(114,561.29)	5,000.00	65,632.49
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Fund		46,702.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,702.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund		10,000.00	0.00	0.00	(10,000.00)	0.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund		2,741.50	2,378.00	(2,096.60)	0.00	3,022.90
Designated Fund - Missa Solemnis Concert		0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Restricted Fund - 125 Outreach Appeal		0.00	1,373.34	0.00	0.00	1,373.34
		146,462.32	91,926.79	(116,657.89)	0.00	121,731.22
Approved on behalf of the Trustees						
Andrew Frawley						
Chair						
15 February 2023						

THE OXFORD BACH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 233688

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020-2021

Patron	The Rt. Hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH
President	Sir Roger Norrington CBE
Vice-Presidents	Nicholas Cleobury Adrian Partington Christopher Robinson CBE, CVO Priscilla Tolkien Professor Mark Wildman James Gilchrist Roderick Williams OBE
President of the Friends	Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB
Music Director	Benjamin Nicholas
Vocal Coach	Carys Lane
Accompanists	Simon Hogan, Stephen Clarke

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2020-2021

Officers and Trustees

Chair	Peter Gilliver (resigned July 2021)
Vice-Chair	Liz Stock (acting Chair July 2021)
General Secretary	Christine Cunningham
Artistic Administrator	Jennifer Thompson
Membership Secretary	Pia Key
Treasurer	Richard Disney
Marketing Manager	Ian Wylie
Development Officer	Roger Parry

Trustee

Chair of Council	Andrew Frawley
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Other Council Members

Friends' Secretary	Michael St John Parker
Scores Librarian	Richard Stone
Voice Rep: Soprano	Isobel Birse
Voice Rep: Alto	Alison Langton
Voice Rep: Tenor	Hugh Mackay
Voice Rep: Bass	Andrew Frawley
Student Representatives	Emily Yeoman, Marin Vukšić
Internet Secretary	Isabel Fenton

Rehearsal Administrator
Bulletin Secretary
Programme Secretary
Chair of Programming
Committee

Tony Blakeborough
Charlotte Pascoe
Philippa Logan
Robin Darwall-Smith

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

Membership

The total number of members in the 2020-21 season was 138, 11 of whom were new to the choir, and including 8 students and 14 non-students aged under 30.

56 members sang in the Carol concert and 55 (including 4 new recruits) sang in the rescheduled concert of French music in September.

Achievements and Performances

Concert Season

Since the cancellation of our concert in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the choir has had little or no time to be able to rehearse in person or perform concerts. Concerts scheduled for the rest of 2020 and up to September 2021 were also a casualty of the virus.

We were able to return to rehearsals in person for two weeks in September 2020, before we learned that a further lockdown was looming. These rehearsals were held in small, socially distanced groups on Mondays and Wednesdays, with several members attending on Zoom. We are grateful to those who enabled us to begin these rehearsals, including the venue of Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford.

However, after the second lockdown, there was a window of opportunity where the restrictions were relaxed a little and 60 members were able to rehearse in person for Christmas carols. We were unable to hold our usual Carols for All concert, but we were able to record carols with BBC Radio Oxford, which were broadcast on Christmas Day. We were joined by Merton College Girl Choristers for some of the carols and our accompanist for the broadcast was Simon Hogan. We were grateful to the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre, where we were able to rehearse and to record the carols for broadcast on Saturday 21 December.

The Trustees kept in touch with the members via a weekly email bulletin. The Trustees also sent a questionnaire for members to complete in June 2020 as to a possible way forward and set up a small working party of OBC Trustees, whose remit was to discuss various ways in which the singing could continue, either in person or via Zoom. We are grateful to Chair of

Council Andrew Frawley, for formulating this questionnaire, which showed an overwhelming desire amongst members to return to singing, somehow.

Over summer 2020, we arranged two Zoom 'socials' which were 'attended' by around 100 choir members. The second social was also attended by our Vice President, Roderick Williams, who was interviewed by Benjamin Nicholas. Roderick Williams spoke entertainingly about a singer's life in lockdown and the joy of returning to live events.

During the third lockdown early in 2021, choirs continued to be unable to rehearse in person due to DCMS regulations, so rehearsals continued via Zoom. We were able to rehearse some of the repertoire for the concert which we hoped to perform in June 2021, as well as some chorales for the Christmas Oratorio which we are due to perform in December 2021. The June concert was postponed and following the easing of restrictions in July 2021, plans went ahead to reschedule the June concert for 19 September 2021 at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford.

The concert (Durufié Requiem and Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine) was streamed to an audience both in the UK and abroad, and we were also able to have a small audience. The concert was conducted by our music director, Benjamin Nicholas, and streamed by local company, Positive Note. We are grateful to our soloists Robert Quinney (organ), Ben Davies (bass), Lila Chrisp (mezzo) and Rebecca McNaught (cello), who were able to perform with us after several months of not knowing whether the concert would indeed go ahead. This concert was then available on You Tube for several weeks and reached a global audience. We were delighted that Alice Oswald, Oxford Professor of Poetry, was able to record a poem by John Donne, with her interpretation of the work in the context of the pandemic, as a contribution to the concert. The concert was dedicated to those who have died from Covid, the bereaved and those who have been affected by Covid. It was also dedicated to the work of health care professionals and those who were instrumental in developing the Covid vaccine. Although this concert was free to watch, we asked for donations to be made to the Oxford Hospitals Charity and were very happy to hand over the viewers' generous contributions.

Community and partnership

During a normal season, OBC would interact with a variety of groups from the wider Oxford community. However, under lockdown regulations, most activities involving event choirs, audiences, students and school children were not possible, although a small group of 6 from the Choir sang, in masks, at a funeral in June. As mentioned above, contacts were maintained for the most part by electronic means and this was the case for the entire season.

Development - Schools Outreach Project. We recruited a choral animateur to start a new choir at Aureus School Didcot. The work started in November and a Christmas concert was held in December 2020 involving 25 singers performing to 40 residents at a nearby care home in Didcot. During the early months of 2021, rehearsals moved to zoom before returning to in person rehearsals in March 2021 which lasted through to July 2021. In summary, 28 students were involved in the choir and 19 rehearsals held. The choir was very well received, and Aureus has decided to continue the choir in the 21-22 academic year. The outreach work was led by our Outreach Project Board made up of some Trustees, our Music Director and in consultation with the Head of Vocal Studies at the Oxfordshire County Music Service.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the professional team for the season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; Simon Hogan and Stephen Clarke, for their skilled accompaniments. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways.

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and in particular to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre, St John the Evangelist Church and Wesley Memorial Church for their help over the past year.

Christine Cunningham

General Secretary, on behalf of the Trustees of the Oxford Bach Choir – 8 November 2021

Treasurer's Report 2020-2021

Despite the difficulties of being unable to hold in-person rehearsals for most of the year, or any concert with a live audience, the choir has achieved a financially successful year in the constrained circumstances. There are two areas to be highlighted.

1.Reduced income

Choir income reduced by approximately 54% in the year from £103,497 to £43,735. This was accompanied by a reduction in total expenditure of approximately 56% from £68,449 to £30,283. As a result net income reduced from £35,048 to £13,452.

Choir income

A large element of the decrease in income was due to a reduction in subscription rates resulting in a reduction in subscription income from £35,563 to £18,106. Fund raising activities were curtailed by the cessation of Choir activities during lockdown.

The Choir continued to be very fortunate in receiving a generous grant of £15,000 following an application to the Tolkien Trust.

Choir Expenditure

Reduction in Expenditure was mainly due to the cessation of live concert activities necessitated by the Covid pandemic.

The two concerts held in the period were a carol concert, broadcast in December 2020, and the Durufle Requiem concert planned for June 2021 which was streamed live in September 2021. The costs for this concert have been included in the results of the current year since they were scheduled for June as part of the Choir's 2020-21 season.

Analyses of the main income and costs for our concerts are given in the table below:

Concert	Durufle	Carol

	Requiem £	concert £
Professional costs	2,690	900
Venue hire and other direct costs	7,562	1,778
Sum of direct costs	10,252	2,678
Total Rehearsal costs	4,031	4,282
Total Concert costs	14,283	6,960

2. Designated Reserves

During the year the Trustees agreed to set aside to a separate designated fund monies received for the specific purpose of expenditure on choir outreach activities.

3. Reserves Policy and risk management

The charity commission expects trustees to publish their reserve policy so that they can comply with legislation. This includes stating the level of reserves held and why they are held.

The Choir's budgeted costs are expected to exceed anticipated subscription and concert revenues. The Choir therefore relies on donations and fundraising activities to bridge this gap.

Reserve policy

Reserves are required to cover the Choir's liabilities in the event that such donations and sponsorship are insufficient to cover this gap, and to enable it to plan its future activities, normally up to two years ahead. Reserves are also required by way of contingency to cover the financial impact of unexpected events outside the Choir's control which might seriously impact on the Choir's revenues. For example, the short notice cancellation of a concert or the more extended cessation of the choir due to significant unexpected events such as has occurred due to Covid restrictions. Fortunately, where such an event occurred in the current year, reserves were found to be adequate. In future it should be ensured that any uncertainties in both membership subscription income and box office revenue do not create significant cashflow difficulties.

It is the policy of the Choir to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the choir. This must be maintained at a level which equates to no less than six months unrestricted expenditure. Sufficient funds will thus be provided to cover the running costs of the Choir, whilst seeking to maintain, and if possible build on, its Charity No: 233688

reserves through prudent financial management. It is considered that the level of reserves for this purpose would be £35,000.

Risk management

The level of unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2021 was £146,462 (2020: £133,010), of which £59,052 are designated. This is considered to be adequate. The Trustees continue to monitor the adequacy of the reserves.

The Trustees insure against most unexpected events, which may result in concert cancellations. However, the insurance policy did not cover all of the costs incurred due to the Covid pandemic which were considered as due to a force majeure event.

The trustees will aim to ensure that any contracts for future choir activities minimise any risk to the choir, whilst ensuring its support to the musical landscape and its musicians.

Richard Disney

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.

Jodie McDermott ACCA
Haines Watts Oxford LLP
Chartered Accountants
Sterling House
19/23 High Street
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2DH

28 February 2022

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2021

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	16,766.00	35,563.00
Friends	2,095.00	1,865.00
Refund of tax on subscriptions and donations	5,794.20	8,568.00
	24,655.20	45,996.00
DONATIONS		
Colleges	250.00	979.00
Members, friends and other	200.00	66.79
Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust: Outreach	2,350.00	0.00
Tolkien Trust	15,000.00	25,000.00
	17,800.00	26,045.79
CONCERTS		
Box office income:		
December concert	0.00	10,789.08
Carol concert	0.00	9,002.20
March concert	0.00	0.00
March concert donation	0.00	4,792.44
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	24,583.72
Box office commission:		
December concert	0.00	(297.26)
Carol concert	0.00	(340.34)
March concert	0.00	0.00
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	(637.60)
Programme Sales:		
December concert	0.00	702.85
Carol concert	0.00	0.00
March concert	0.00	0.00
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	702.85
Programme Advertisements	0.00	398.00
	0.00	25,046.97
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	764.15	2,026.23
INTEREST EARNED	3.40	70.12
FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES		
Catering (net)	0.00	682.77
100 Club (net)	(307.00)	622.00
Quiz (net)	0.00	88.00
Event Choir	0.00	513.00
CDs	0.00	10.00
Alumni Come & Sing	0.00	300.00
Tallis Come & Sing	0.00	1,295.60
Come and Sing	0.00	0.00
Southmoor (net)	0.00	776.05
Easyfundraising limited	18.17	24.19
Broadcast fee and miscellaneous	802.00	0.00
	513.17	4,311.61
TOTAL INCOME	43,735.92	103,496.72

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2021

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

-continued

	2021	2020
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
Professional expenses	9,067.00	47,646.50
Venue and staging costs, including instrument hire	10,693.22	8,769.43
Cost of streaming concert	3,750.00	0.00
Cost of programmes and tickets	0.00	672.90
Advertisements and publicity	933.18	2,671.15
Cost of music	775.61	1,011.73
Administration and training, including web site	1,199.54	3,898.23
Making music, including insurance	901.00	752.00
After show party and Friends reception	0.00	1,441.44
Miscellaneous, including Zoom costs	1,006.23	702.34
PRS payments	0.00	882.88
Outreach	1,958.10	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	30,283.88	68,448.60
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	13,452.04	35,048.12
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	133,010.28	97,962.16
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	146,462.32	133,010.28

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2021

MONETARY ASSETS

	2021	2020
	£	£
BANK AND CASH BALANCES		
INVESTMENT: CAFCASH	133,666.51	113,270.94
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS		
Current account	18,307.33	18,317.33
Business Premium Account	4,298.73	3,542.92
	22,606.06	21,860.25

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets:	Prepaid expenses	7,965.98	4,564.05
	Easy funding receivable	18.17	0.00
	Tickets sales receivable	0.00	0.00
	Member subscriptions receivable	0.00	34.00
	Gift aid received after year end	0.00	0.00
		7,984.15	4,598.05
Liabilities:	(Donation received in advance)	-5,000.00	(5,000.00)
	(Tickets sold in advance)	0.00	(252.00)
	(Concert costs committed)	-12,744.40	0.00
	(Scores income received in advance)	0.00	0.00
	(Honorarium)	0.00	(1,000.00)
	(Other charges due)	(50.00)	(466.96)
		(17,794.40)	(6,718.96)
		146,462.32	133,010.28

Accumulated funds

Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	87,018.33	73,957.79
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest	46,702.49	49,052.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund	2,741.50	0.00
Restricted Fund	0.00	0.00
	146,462.32	133,010.28

Analysis of Fund Movements

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	73,957.79	43,735.92	(30,283.88)	(391.50)	87,018.33
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Fund	49,052.49	0.00	0.00	(2,350.00)	46,702.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,741.50	2,741.50
Restricted Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	133,010.28	43,735.92	(30,283.88)	0.00	146,462.32

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

Andrew Frawley
Chairman

9th February 2022

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.

Jodie McDermott ACCA
Haines Watts Oxford LLP
Chartered Accountants
Sterling House
19/23 High Street
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2DH

28 February 2022

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2021

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	16,766.00	35,563.00
Friends	2,095.00	1,865.00
Refund of tax on subscriptions and donations	5,794.20	8,568.00
	24,655.20	45,996.00
DONATIONS		
Colleges	250.00	979.00
Members, friends and other	200.00	66.79
Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust: Outreach	2,350.00	0.00
Tolkien Trust	15,000.00	25,000.00
	17,800.00	26,045.79
CONCERTS		
Box office income:		
December concert	0.00	10,789.08
Carol concert	0.00	9,002.20
March concert	0.00	0.00
March concert donation	0.00	4,792.44
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	24,583.72
Box office commission:		
December concert	0.00	(297.26)
Carol concert	0.00	(340.34)
March concert	0.00	0.00
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	(637.60)
Programme Sales:		
December concert	0.00	702.85
Carol concert	0.00	0.00
March concert	0.00	0.00
June concert	0.00	0.00
	0.00	702.85
Programme Advertisements	0.00	398.00
	0.00	25,046.97
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	764.15	2,026.23
INTEREST EARNED	3.40	70.12
FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES		
Catering (net)	0.00	682.77
100 Club (net)	(307.00)	622.00
Quiz (net)	0.00	88.00
Event Choir	0.00	513.00
CDs	0.00	10.00
Alumni Come & Sing	0.00	300.00
Tallis Come & Sing	0.00	1,295.60
Come and Sing	0.00	0.00
Southmoor (net)	0.00	776.05
Easyfundraising limited	18.17	24.19
Broadcast fee and miscellaneous	802.00	0.00
	513.17	4,311.61
TOTAL INCOME	43,735.92	103,496.72

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2021

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

-continued

	2021	2020
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
Professional expenses	9,067.00	47,646.50
Venue and staging costs, including instrument hire	10,693.22	8,769.43
Cost of streaming concert	3,750.00	0.00
Cost of programmes and tickets	0.00	672.90
Advertisements and publicity	933.18	2,671.15
Cost of music	775.61	1,011.73
Administration and training, including web site	1,199.54	3,898.23
Making music, including insurance	901.00	752.00
After show party and Friends reception	0.00	1,441.44
Miscellaneous, including Zoom costs	1,006.23	702.34
PRS payments	0.00	882.88
Outreach	1,958.10	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	30,283.88	68,448.60
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	13,452.04	35,048.12
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	133,010.28	97,962.16
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	146,462.32	133,010.28

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2021

MONETARY ASSETS

	2021	2020
	£	£
BANK AND CASH BALANCES		
INVESTMENT: CAFCASH	133,666.51	113,270.94
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS		
Current account	18,307.33	18,317.33
Business Premium Account	4,298.73	3,542.92
	22,606.06	21,860.25

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets:	Prepaid expenses	7,965.98	4,564.05
	Easy funding receivable	18.17	0.00
	Tickets sales receivable	0.00	0.00
	Member subscriptions receivable	0.00	34.00
	Gift aid received after year end	0.00	0.00
		7,984.15	4,598.05
Liabilities:	(Donation received in advance)	-5,000.00	(5,000.00)
	(Tickets sold in advance)	0.00	(252.00)
	(Concert costs committed)	-12,744.40	0.00
	(Scores income received in advance)	0.00	0.00
	(Honorarium)	0.00	(1,000.00)
	(Other charges due)	(50.00)	(466.96)
		(17,794.40)	(6,718.96)
		146,462.32	133,010.28

Accumulated funds

Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	87,018.33	73,957.79
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest	46,702.49	49,052.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund	2,741.50	0.00
Restricted Fund	0.00	0.00
	146,462.32	133,010.28

Analysis of Fund Movements

	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - General Fund	73,957.79	43,735.92	(30,283.88)	(391.50)	87,018.33
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Fund	49,052.49	0.00	0.00	(2,350.00)	46,702.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Designated Fund - Outreach Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,741.50	2,741.50
Restricted Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	133,010.28	43,735.92	(30,283.88)	0.00	146,462.32

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

Andrew Frawley
Chairman

9th February 2022

THE OXFORD BACH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 233688

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2019-2020

Patron

The Rt. Hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH

President

Sir Roger Norrington CBE

Vice-Presidents

Nicholas Cleobury

Adrian Partington

Christopher Robinson CBE, CVO

Priscilla Tolkien

Professor Mark Wildman

James Gilchrist

Roderick Williams OBE

Sir Jonathan Phillips KCB

President of the Friends

Music Director

Benjamin Nicholas

Vocal Coach

Carys Lane

Accompanists

Alexander Little, Simon Hogan, Stephen Clarke

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2019-2020

Officers and Trustees

Chair

Peter Gilliver

Vice-Chair

Liz Stock

General Secretary

Christine Cunningham

Artistic Administrator

Jennifer Thompson

Assistant Artistic Administrator

Victoria Bass (resigned September 2020)

Membership Secretary

Pia Key

Treasurer

Richard Disney

Marketing Manager

Joyce Martin

Development Officer

Roger Parry

Trustee

Chair of Council

Andrew Frawley (elected by Council 26/11/19)

Other Council Members

Box Office Manager

David Floyd

Friends' Secretary

Ian Duncalf

Scores Librarian

Richard Stone

Scores Secretary

Janet Davies

Voice Rep: Soprano

Isobel Birse

Voice Rep: Alto

Alison Langton

Voice Rep: Tenor

Hugh Mackay

Voice Rep: Bass

Andrew Frawley

Student Representatives

Emily Yeoman, Marin Vukšić

Internet Secretary

Simon Hunt

Rehearsal Administrator

Tony Blakeborough

Bulletin Secretary

Charlotte Pascoe

Programme Secretary

Philippa Logan

Charity No: 233688

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Objectives and activities

The Oxford Bach Choir provides music of excellence of all times, with special regard to the works of J S Bach, in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by public performances, thus providing public benefit to a wide range of people in Oxford and surrounding areas. The Choir offers public access to a high standard of musical performance.

Membership

The total number of members in the 2019-20 season was 159, including 12 students and 17 non-students aged under 30. The number of members singing at each concert were as follows: December (Sheldonian) – 136 plus 6 visiting singers from the Oxford Youth Choir, making 142 in all, and Carols – 69. If the *Missa Solemnis* performance had taken place, there would have been 130 Choir members, plus the bonus of 4 tenors visiting from a prestigious choir in Zagreb, who had recently performed the work. We were also pleased to welcome 40 new members, recruited during the 2019-20 season.

Achievements and Performances

Concert Season

The first concert of the season was Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. The performance took place in the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on Sunday 8 December 2019 at 5.00 pm with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by our music director, Benjamin Nicholas. Elgar's deeply felt and passionate setting of Cardinal Newman's dramatic poem is a much loved choral piece. As well as the excellent orchestra, our distinguished soloists were Ed Lyon (tenor: Gerontius), Kathryn Rudge (mezzo: Angel) and one of our very own Vice Presidents, Roderick Williams (Baritone: Priest/Angel of the Agony).

Our annual *Carols for All* concert took place at the Sheldonian Theatre on Saturday 21 December 2019 and was ably conducted and controlled by Benjamin Nicholas. We were once again delighted to be joined by the Oxfordshire Young Singers, Oxfordshire County Youth Choir, and the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble, from the Oxfordshire County Music Service, whose performances were most professional, and delighted the audience. In addition to the usual selection of well-known carols (for choir, audience or both), we enjoyed another energetic performance of our now 'traditional' version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which most definitely requires audience participation! Seasonal readings were given by Councillor Craig Simmons, Lord Mayor of Oxford, and Angela Turton, Head of Oxfordshire County Music Service. BBC Radio Oxford again asked to record the concert, and it was subsequently transmitted on Christmas Eve and repeated at lunchtime on Christmas Day.

Saturday 14 March 2020 was the day when we were to perform Beethoven's magnificent, titanic *Missa Solemnis*, and was to be our contribution to Oxford's celebrations of Beethoven's 250th birthday. We had secured the services of our old friends the London Mozart Players, plus soloists Katherine Crompton (soprano), Susanna Spicer (mezzo), Justin Lavender (tenor) and Edward Grint (bass). Sadly, due to the coronavirus pandemic, this concert had to be cancelled at the last minute, leading to disappointment of choir, performers and audience alike. We hope to reschedule this concert at some point in the future.

Our annual come and sing event, which usually attracts singers from around the UK, was this year to have been Tallis' monumental *Spem in alium*, and had been scheduled for 20 May 2020. Once again, due to the pandemic, this had to be cancelled but we hope to reschedule this event for late 2021.

Community and partnership

During the season there have been many interactions with the wider Oxford community. OBC was an active participant in the Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership, the Music Hub for Oxfordshire where all

partner representatives involved in educational outreach with children and young people in Oxfordshire can interact.

In September, Liz Stock and Mary Stansfield represented OBC at the Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership Awards night. They presented the OBC-sponsored Martin Peters award, won this year by the Oxfordshire Young Singers.

During the year, OBC attended the Oxford Music Network meetings, liaising with other bodies organising concerts for the people of Oxford.

On Sunday 22 September 2019, OBC was again invited to organise a come & sing workshop as part of the Oxford University Alumni weekend, at Merton College Chapel, Oxford. The work to be studied and performed this year was Fauré's *Requiem* - always a popular choice with singers. Benjamin Nicholas conducted the event, which was well attended by around 100 alumni members, together with a number of OBC singers. After a two hour rehearsal and a lunch break, the sold out performance took place in the Chapel to an enthusiastic audience, and was accompanied on the organ by Alexander Little, with soloists Gillian Beattie, one of OBC's sopranos, and Joe Morford, a bass choral scholar from Merton College.

The Friends of the Oxford Bach Choir are important to the choir and on Monday 23 September 2019, OBC hosted a reception for the Friends, in Merton College Chapel. Benjamin Nicholas gave an overview of the forthcoming season, together with some musical illustrations provided by Benjamin at the Merton organ, and with soloist Lila Chrisp providing a spell binding rendition of the Angel's Farewell, from *The Dream of Gerontius*. Members and Friends were then able to socialise over drinks.

Choir members under Benjamin Nicholas' direction were again asked to perform Christmas carols in the Weston Library as part of the Bodleian Library's contribution to the Oxford Lights Night festivities. The choir's singing appeared to be much appreciated by the informal audience. The Trustees were pleased to receive the Bodleian's invitation and to take part, and our singers enjoyed the occasion.

Since the cancellation of our concert in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the choir has been unable to rehearse or perform concerts. The concert scheduled for June 2020, consisting of works by Bach, Vaughan Williams and Scarlatti, was also a casualty of the virus.

The Trustees kept in touch with the members via a weekly email bulletin and also sent a questionnaire for members to complete as to a possible way forward. The Trustees set up a small working party in order to discuss various ways in which the singing could continue, either in person or via Zoom. We are grateful to Chair of Council Andrew Frawley, for formulating this questionnaire, which showed an overwhelming desire for members to return to singing, somehow.

Over the summer, we arranged two Zoom 'socials' which were 'attended' by around 100 choir members. The second social was also attended by our Vice President, Roderick Williams, who was interviewed by Benjamin Nicholas, and who spoke entertainingly about a singer's life in lockdown and the joy of returning to live events.

Development

Outreach: In 2020 we started a new outreach programme which aims to develop school age children's skills, confidence and enjoyment of singing, with a particular focus on children who would not otherwise sing. The programme has been designed in close collaboration with Oxfordshire County Music Service.

This work will be led and developed by our professional Choral Animator, Elizabeth Leather, who will be working with children in Year 7 at the Aureus School, Didcot. If possible, it is planned that the work will culminate in an end of season concert in partnership with Oxford Bach Choir.

We envisage the growth and development of this programme in future years, and we will be launching a fundraising campaign to enable this to happen.

New Website Development: In November 2019, Trustees agreed to the development of a new website for OBC; one with a contemporary look and which showcased our concerts more prominently and how to buy tickets. Simon Minter of Nineteenpoint, a local Oxford website developer who had done some work for our Marketing Manager's own business took on the project. Trustees approved Simon's initial designs and structure, and the website was projected to launch in November 2020.

Events Choirs: The OBC Events choirs have not received any request since December 2019. These choirs are formed from a number of OBC singers who have expressed an interest in singing at different occasions in order to generate both income and publicity for the choir. We were again invited to sing carols at the Christmas Friends reception at the Ashmolean Museum. The funds generated by the events choirs are an important additional source of revenue and the Trustees thank all members who volunteered their time and voices.

Thanks

The Trustees and Council of the Choir would like to express their thanks to the professional team for the season: Music Director Benjamin Nicholas; vocal coach Carys Lane; our regular accompanist, Alexander Little, as well as Simon Hogan and Stephen Clarke, who helped out when he was unavailable. In addition, Stephen took rehearsals when Ben was away with the Merton Choir. We also thank all our members who give so freely of their time to rehearse, perform and help the Choir in many other ways.

We are grateful to our Friends, supporters and funders, and in particular to the Oxford Bach Choir Support Trust. Thanks go also to Terry Stock for his able organisation of stewarding, and of course to all our stewards. We thank the staff of the Sheldonian Theatre, St John the Evangelist Church, Wesley Memorial Church and Rye St Antony School for their help over the year.

Christine Cunningham

General Secretary, on behalf of the Trustees of the Oxford Bach Choir – 9 November 2020

Treasurer's Report 2019-2020

Financial Review

Total Choir income increased by approximately 14% in the year from £90,958 to £103,497. This was accompanied by a slight rise in total expenditure of approximately 3% from £66,184 to £68,448. As a result, net income increased by a healthy 41% from £24,773 to £35,048.

A large element of this increase was due to an overall increase in income from member subscriptions from £28,808 to £35,563, due to an increase in membership numbers from 144 to 159, together with an increase in member subscription rates.

Due to the cancellation of the March and June 2020 concerts, box office income fell 30% from £35,584 to £24,584. This reduction was offset by the generosity of ticket holders for the Missa Solemnis concert who donated £4,792 to the Choir. This helped offset the costs of the Orchestra and soloists who were paid in full for the cancelled concert.

The Choir continued to be very fortunate in receiving a generous grant of £25,000 following an application to the Tolkien Trust. £10,000 of this amount is for specific use in the Choir's 125th anniversary celebrations and has been placed in a Designated Fund for this purpose.

Fund raising activities were curtailed by the cessation of Choir activities during lockdown. Whilst it increased by a healthy 7% to £4,311, this is an area where there is potential for more focus in future years.

The main cause of the increase in the Choir's expenditure was the increase in direct orchestral and soloist costs by almost £9,000 from £27,000 to £36,000. This was the result of the use of large orchestral forces in the Dream of Gerontius, compared to the smaller forces used in the largely Baroque and Classical repertoire in the previous year. This increase had been highlighted in last year's Treasurer's Report.

Analyses of the main income and costs for our concerts are given in the table below:

Concert	Dream of Gerontius £	Missa Solemnis £	Carol concert £
Ticket sales less commission	10,501		8,662
Donations		4,792	
Orchestra and soloists	(25,570)	(10,926)	-
Piano, organ and Harmonium hire	-	-	(151)
Venue hire	(2,528)	(241)	(1,526)

Conductor's concerts fee	(1,000)	(1,000)	(650)
Publicity share	(480)	(280)	(480)
Programme (net)	(387)	(357)	(156)
Sum of direct costs	(29,965)	(12,804)	(2,963)
Net Concert (Costs) / Income	(19,464)	(8,012)	5,699
Rehearsal costs			
Venue	(2,000)	(1,975)	(640)
Conductor	(1,595)	(1,595)	(560)
Accompanist	(743)	(600)	(200)
Total Rehearsal costs	(4,338)	(4,170)	(1,400)

It should be noted from the above that venue costs for Sunday performances in the Sheldonian are significantly higher than for Saturday performances.

Reserves Policy

It is a requirement that Charities must state the level of reserves held and why they are held.

The Choir's budgeted costs currently exceed anticipated revenues and it relies on donations and fundraising activities to bridge this gap.

Reserves are required to cover the Choir's liabilities in the event that such donations and sponsorship are insufficient to cover this gap, and to enable it to plan its future activities, normally up to two years ahead. Reserves are also required by way of contingency to cover the financial impact of unexpected events outside the Choir's control that might seriously impact the Choir's revenues, for example the short notice cancellation of a concert. Such an event occurred in the current year, which found the reserves to be adequate.

It is the policy of the Choir to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the choir, at a level which equates to no less than six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover the running costs of the Choir, whilst seeking to maintain and, if possible, build on its reserves through prudent financial management, and committing itself fully to its objectives and activities. It considers that the level of reserves for this purpose would be £35,000.

The Trustees insure against most unexpected events, such as concert cancellations. However, the insurance policy did not cover the cancellation of the Missa Solemnis concert due to the Covid pandemic, which was considered a force majeure event.

The level of unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2020 was £133,010, of which £59,052 are designated.

The Trustees continue to monitor the adequacy of the reserves.

Richard Disney

Charity No: 233688

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July 2020

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2020.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.

Rodney Style ACA
Haines Watts Oxford LLP
Chartered Accountants
Sterling House
19/23 High Street
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2DH

7 December 2020

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2020	2019
	£	£
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	35,563.00	28,808.50
Friends	1,865.00	1,985.00
Refund of tax on subscriptions and donations	8,568.00	4,015.16
	<u>45,996.00</u>	<u>34,808.66</u>
DONATIONS		
Colleges	979.00	1,345.00
Members, friends and others	66.79	0.00
Tolkien Trust	25,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>26,045.79</u>	<u>11,345.00</u>
CONCERTS		
Box office income:		
December concert	10,789.08	5,611.50
Carol concert	9,002.20	8,750.00
March concert	0.00	10,844.99
March concert donation	4,792.44	0.00
June concert	0.00	10,377.61
	<u>24,583.72</u>	<u>35,584.10</u>
Box office commission:		
December concert	(297.26)	(171.86)
Carol concert	(340.34)	(653.82)
March concert	0.00	(548.32)
June concert	0.00	(520.80)
	<u>(637.60)</u>	<u>(1,894.80)</u>
Programme Sales:		
December concert	702.85	443.00
Carol concert	0.00	0.00
March concert	0.00	538.00
June concert	0.00	1,092.00
	<u>702.85</u>	<u>2,073.00</u>
Programme Advertisements	<u>398.00</u>	<u>726.00</u>
	25,046.97	36,488.30
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	2,026.23	4,224.00
INTEREST EARNED	70.12	62.71
FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES		
Catering (net)	682.77	425.01
100 Club (net)	622.00	396.00
Quiz (net)	88.00	245.00
Event Choir	513.00	2,705.98
CDs	10.00	90.00
Alumni Come & Sing	300.00	(214.00)
Tallis Come and Sing	1,295.60	0.00
Brian Kay Come and Sing	0.00	(228.17)
Southmoor (net)	776.05	0.00
Easyfundraising limited	24.19	108.09
Parry Talk, Photos, broadcast fee and miscellaneous	0.00	501.55
	<u>4,311.61</u>	<u>4,029.46</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>103,496.72</u>	<u>90,958.13</u>

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
-continued

	2020	2019
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
Professional expenses	47,646.50	41,301.80
Venue and staging costs	8,769.43	13,015.00
Cost of programmes and tickets	672.90	913.90
Advertisements and publicity	2,671.15	3,033.32
Cost of music	1,011.73	3,860.81
Administration and training, including web site	3,898.23	2,254.71
Making music, including insurance	752.00	723.00
After show party and Friends reception	1,441.44	667.65
Miscellaneous	702.34	91.44
PRS payments	882.88	323.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	68,448.60	66,184.85
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	35,048.12	24,773.28
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	97,962.16	73,188.88
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	133,010.28	97,962.16

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2020

MONETARY ASSETS

		2020	2019
	£	£	£
BANK AND CASH BALANCES			
INVESTMENT: CAFCASH		113,270.94	80,666.42
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS			
Current account	18,317.33		
Business Premium Account	3,542.92	21,860.25	21,220.53
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
Assets:			
Prepaid expenses	4,564.05		1,451.75
Contribution due to programme costs	0.00		800.00
Tickets sales receivable	0.00		330.00
Member subscriptions receivable	34.00		258.00
Gift aid received after year end	0.00		64.00
		4,598.05	2,903.75
Liabilities:			
(Donation received in advance)	(5,000.00)		(5,000.00)
(Tickets sold in advance)	(252.00)		(937.54)
(Member subscriptions paid in advance)	0.00		(510.00)
(Scores income received in advance)	0.00		(310.00)
(Honorarium)	(1,000.00)		0.00
(Other charges due)	(466.96)		(71.00)
		(6,718.96)	(6,828.54)
		133,010.28	97,962.16
General Fund		73,957.79	48,909.67
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest		49,052.49	49,052.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund		10,000.00	0.00
		133,010.28	97,962.16

Analysis of Fund Movements	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
	£		£	£	£
General Fund	48,909.67	103,496.72	(68,448.60)	(10,000.00)	73,957.79
Designated Fund - Martin Peters' Bequest	49,052.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,052.49
Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	97,962.16	103,496.72	(68,448.60)	0.00	133,010.28

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

Peter Gilliver
Chairman

24 November 2020

Financial Statements

Oxford Bach Choir

Charity number: 0233688

For the Year Ended 31 July 2020

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE ACCOUNTS OF OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity no: 0233688**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2020.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 matters 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.

Rodney Style ACA
Haines Watts Oxford LLP
Chartered Accountants
Sterling House
19/23 High Street
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2DH

7 December 2020

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (ACCUMULATED FUND)

	2020	2019
	£	£
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	35,563.00	28,808.50
Friends	1,865.00	1,985.00
Refund of tax on subscriptions and donations	8,568.00	4,015.16
	<u>45,996.00</u>	<u>34,808.66</u>
DONATIONS		
Colleges	979.00	1,345.00
Members, friends and others	66.79	0.00
Tolkien Trust	25,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>26,045.79</u>	<u>11,345.00</u>
CONCERTS		
Box office income:		
December concert	10,789.08	5,611.50
Carol concert	9,002.20	8,750.00
March concert	0.00	10,844.99
March concert donation	4,792.44	0.00
June concert	0.00	10,377.61
	<u>24,583.72</u>	<u>35,584.10</u>
Box office commission:		
December concert	(297.26)	(171.86)
Carol concert	(340.34)	(653.82)
March concert	0.00	(548.32)
June concert	0.00	(520.80)
	<u>(637.60)</u>	<u>(1,894.80)</u>
Programme Sales:		
December concert	702.85	443.00
Carol concert	0.00	0.00
March concert	0.00	538.00
June concert	0.00	1,092.00
	<u>702.85</u>	<u>2,073.00</u>
Programme Advertisements	<u>398.00</u>	<u>726.00</u>
	25,046.97	36,488.30
OTHER INCOME		
Music sales and hire	2,026.23	4,224.00
INTEREST EARNED	70.12	62.71
FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES		
Catering (net)	682.77	425.01
100 Club (net)	622.00	396.00
Quiz (net)	88.00	245.00
Event Choir	513.00	2,705.98
CDs	10.00	90.00
Alumni Come & Sing	300.00	(214.00)
Tallis Come and Sing	1,295.60	0.00
Brian Kay Come and Sing	0.00	(228.17)
Southmoor (net)	776.05	0.00
Easyfundraising limited	24.19	108.09
Parry Talk, Photos, broadcast fee and miscellaneous	0.00	501.55
	<u>4,311.61</u>	<u>4,029.46</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>103,496.72</u>	<u>90,958.13</u>

OXFORD BACH CHOIR
Charity number 0233688
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
-continued

	2020	2019
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
Professional expenses	47,646.50	41,301.80
Venue and staging costs	8,769.43	13,015.00
Cost of programmes and tickets	672.90	913.90
Advertisements and publicity	2,671.15	3,033.32
Cost of music	1,011.73	3,860.81
Administration and training, including web site	3,898.23	2,254.71
Making music, including insurance	752.00	723.00
After show party and Friends reception	1,441.44	667.65
Miscellaneous	702.34	91.44
PRS payments	882.88	323.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	68,448.60	66,184.85
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	35,048.12	24,773.28
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	97,962.16	73,188.88
CASH, BANK BALANCES AND OTHER NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	133,010.28	97,962.16

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2020

MONETARY ASSETS

		2020	2019
	£	£	£
BANK AND CASH BALANCES			
INVESTMENT: CAFCASH		113,270.94	80,666.42
CASH AT BANK: BARCLAYS			
Current account	18,317.33		
Business Premium Account	3,542.92	21,860.25	21,220.53
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
Assets:			
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(Other charges due)	(466.96)		(71.00)
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Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund		10,000.00	0.00
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Designated Fund - 125 Anniversary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	97,962.16	103,496.72	(68,448.60)	0.00	133,010.28

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

Peter Gilliver
Chairman

24 November 2020