

Registered Charity Number: 257398

Northampton Philharmonic Choir

**Receipts and Payments Account
And
Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

For Year Ended 31st July 2024



NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

Love Music • Love Friendship • Love Singing



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Founded 1896

Musical Director: Thomas Moore

Trustees' Annual Report to the Charity Commission

1st August 2023 – 31st July 2024

1. The **name** of the Charity (the Choir) is Northampton Philharmonic Choir.
2. The **registered Charity number** is 257398
3. The **Principal Address** for contacting the choir is Karen Booth, Imley Lodge, Broad Lane, Evenley, Brackley, NN13 5SF
4. The **Trustees holding office in the year were:**
 - Susan Amos
 - Karen Booth (Chair)
 - Catherine Brooke (Acting Treasurer)
 - Camilla Haakonsen (Secretary)
 - Margaret Hooper
 - Susan Howes (**Note:** Not active as a trustee since before April 2024 due to ill-health. Has since resigned)
 - Emma Lindsay
 - Zoe Robinson
 - Jillian Sharp
 - Catherine Gunn (**Note:** Stood down as at AGM on 14th November 2023)
5. **Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**
 - Generally Trustees are recruited from within the Choir's membership but the constitution allows a non-member to become a Trustee.
 - All elected members of the Management Committee shall accept responsibility as Trustees of the Choir.
 - The constitution requires that no fewer than 6 but no more than 10 Officers of the Choir, selected by a vote of members at a General Meeting, shall accept responsibility as Trustees.
 - The appointment as a Trustee can only be made by a vote of members at a General Meeting.
6. The **Independent Examiner** for the Choir's accounts is Brenda Peers-Ross
FMAAT ACIE

7. Governance and Management

- The Choir is managed by a General Committee (the Committee), the appointment of whose members is governed by the constitution document dated September 2021
- The Choir's members form the electorate who elect the Committee.

8. Objectives and Activities

The objective of the choir is to bring excellent choral music to diverse audiences of all ages through concerts, collaborations with other music groups, and performances for the local community.

9. Summary of Achievements and Performance in the Year

At the start of the 2023/24 season the Choir welcomed a new Musical Director following the retirement of the previous incumbent. Coming out of the pandemic the Choir suffered a fall in membership and the objective for the period under consideration was to increase both our membership and our audiences. In September we held an Open Rehearsal to encourage potential new members to come and 'try us out', resulting in a number of new members joining the Choir.

During the year we presented three concerts and held a Come & Sing event. The first concert was a performance of Faure's Requiem and Rutter's Feel the Spirit which involved soloists and an orchestra of local professional musicians. The concert was of a very high standard and was well received by the audience. This was followed in December by a traditional Christmas Concert. Both concerts were held in Northampton and attracted increased audience numbers than the Choir has seen in recent years.

A Come and Sing event of Choral Classics was held in March where we were joined by singers from other local choirs and occasional singers who like to attend such events. The aim of this event was singer participation rather than revenue generation and all who attended enjoyed the day.

Our final concert for the year was a performance of Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass and Carter's Benedicite. This was held in St Matthew's Church in Northampton and involved local professional musicians and the school choir from All Saint's CEVA School in Northampton. This was again a performance of a very high standard which was appreciated by the audience, the choirs and the musicians alike, attracting many positive comments.

During the year the Choir actively worked to raise funds to help support our performances. Fundraising initiatives include a regular choir shop, the sale of second-hand books, raffles and a 100 Club. The Choir also participated by volunteering at the Hollowell Steam Rally and in December members sang carols at an event at Smyths Toy Store in Northampton – an event which raised money and also raised the profile of the Choir in the local community.



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10. Reserves Policy

The charity has no specific policy with regards to the level of reserves

11. Annual Accounts

The Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Assets & Liabilities and Independent Examiner's report should all be regarded as part of the Charity's Annual Report.

12. Public Benefit Statement

The charity exists to benefit two sectors of the public, our members and our audiences. The mental and physical benefits of singing are well documented, as are the benefits of learning new skills. The Choir is open to all with an enthusiasm and aptitude for choral singing thereby directly benefitting its members both mentally and physically by providing a regular weekly meeting in which they socialise and improve their skills as musicians.

The public who attend our concerts benefit from the entertainment value of attending live performances of classical music at a reasonable price, which is at the forefront of our activities. Anecdotally we regularly have positive feedback from our audiences who say that they have felt uplifted and less stressed with the pressures of daily life after attending a performance.

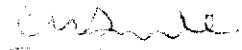
It is our intended policy to offer 20% of our tickets for each concert free to service users of organisations supporting low or no waged people, disabled people, pupils/students and their carers where appropriate.

The Trustees had due regard to the Commissions guidance when exercising any duties to which the guidance is relevant.

13. Information about the Choir

There is a wealth of information about the Choir on its website at

www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk

Signed:  Catherine Brooker
Position: Trustee
Date: 2 October 2024

Signed:
Position:
Date:



Brenda Peers-Ross
29 Drift Road
Selsey
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 0PW

To the Trustees:
NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
Registered Charity Number:2576398

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Responsibilities and basis of report.

I have Independently Examined the Financial Statements on Pages 5 -6, for the financial year ending 31st July 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparations of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's Trustees consider an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

I report on my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission and in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you and the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view', and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

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 material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT ACIE
Date: 6th October 2024

NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	31st July 2024	31st July 2023
Assets		
Bank Balances	£44,696	£24,232
Debtors	£555	-
	<u>£45,251</u>	<u>£24,232</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	-£442	-
	<u>-£442</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Current Assets	£44,809	£24,232
Total Assets	<u>£44,809</u>	<u>£24,232</u>
Funds Held		
General Reserve	<u>£44,809</u>	<u>£24,232</u>

Presented to and approved by the board of Trustees on 16 September 2024,
and signed on their behalf:

Chandra

5 Oct 2024

Catherine Brooke

Trustee

NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	For the year ended	31st July 2024	31st July 2023
RECEIPTS			
Subscriptions	7,400	6,750	
Patrons	2,450	2,170	
Grants, Sponsors & Donations	250	350	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	1,972	1,878	
Music and Folder sales	950	284	
Concert Sales - General	5,495	1,901	
Bank Interest	584	238	
Other		60	
		19,101	13,631
Fund Raising Activity			
Internet Commission	24	149	
CD, Book and Photo sales	88	72	
Drinks	620	470	
100 Club	540	555	
Hollowell Steam Raily Volunteers	300	500	
Raffles	354	257	
Shop	208	165	
Carol Singing at Smyth's	371		
Sale of Produce			
		2,505	2,168
Total Receipts for the Year		21,606	15,799
PAYMENTS			
Rehearsals			
Conductor	4,560	8,303	
Accompanist			
Church Hire	1,400	1,300	
Music and Folder Purchases	734	272	
		6,694	9,875
Administration			
Non concert expenditure	154	177	
Website maintenance	607	619	
Publicity - General	433		
Insurance	104	99	
Professional Memberships	259	200	
Bank Charges	60	60	
		1,617	1,155
Fund Raising			
100 Club Prizes	255	210	
		255	210
Cost of Concerts			
		11,076	5,200
Total Payments for the year		19,642	16,440
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR on normal activity		1,964	(641)
Exceptional Receipt: Legacy from Rosemary Harrison		18,500	
OVERALL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		20,464	(641)
Funds brought forward		24,232	24,873
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		44,696	24,232