

BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 260887

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1970-03-25

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

Contact

Address 91 Woodland Avenue
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 6BJ

Phone 07975571357

Email info@brightonorpheus.org

Website www.brightonorpheus.org

Activities

Objects: A) TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PERFORMANCE OF SACRED AND SECULAR MUSIC AND BY ANY OTHER MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, ANDB) TO ASSIST CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Activities: Rehearsal and performance of sacred and secular musicSupport of other charities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Brighton And Hove
- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£39,785	£30,040	-	-
2024-08-31	£36,271	£24,842	-	-
2023-08-31	£19,958	£36,991	-	-
2022-08-31	£24,280	£33,143	-	-
2021-08-31	£7,971	£1,961	-	-

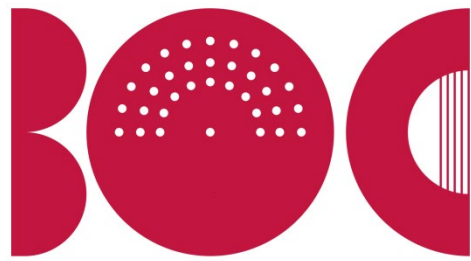
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Hilary Brown	Chair	2022-10-19
Hilary Woodward		2022-10-19
Richard Martini		2024-11-06
Valerie Gray		2022-10-19
Vera Stiefler Johnson		2025-10-22
Vicki Lywood Last		2022-10-19

BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 260887

Accounts



**BRIGHTON
ORPHEUS
CHOIR**

Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration No. 260887

**Trustees Report and Financial Statements for year
ending 31st August 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st
August 2025

Charity Name: Brighton Orpheus Choir
Charity registration number: 260887

Contact address: 91 Woodland Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6BJ

Trustees:

Hilary Brown - Chair (from 18.10.22)
Valerie Gray - Treasurer (from 25.10.23)
Hilary Woodward – Secretary (from 25.10.23)
Vicki Lywood Last (from 19.10.22)
Richard Martini (from 06.11.24)
Elizabeth Whittaker (from 06.11.24)

Independent Examiner:

Steve Brentnall
1 Meadow View Cottages
Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

Choir web site: www.brightonorpheus.org

E-mail: info@brightonorpheus.org

Charity Structure, Governance and Management.

Brighton Orpheus Choir (“the Choir”) is run in accordance with its Constitution, adopted on 19 March 1970 and lodged with the Charity Commission. The Constitution, which is amended from time to time, provides (inter alia):

- The members of the Choir’s Managing Committee (“the Committee”) are the Trustees of the charity and must be members of the Choir.
- The Committee comprises three officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) who are appointed for one year at the AGM.
- The Constitution provides for at least two but no more than six additional members of the Committee. These members are to be appointed at the AGM and hold office for one year.
- All members of the Committee are eligible for re-election annually.
- The Committee has power to co-opt additional members provided that at any one time the total number of Committee members shall not exceed nine.
- Membership of the Choir is open to anyone aged 16 years or above and who is able to pass an audition.

Activities and Objectives

The objects of the Choir shall be:

1. To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by the performance of sacred and secular music and by any other means the Trustees see fit, and
2. to assist charitable institutions.

The Choir achieves the first object through:

- Maintaining an active rehearsal programme that seeks to develop the musical ability and knowledge of all choir members.
- Public performance of musical works to both increase the musical ability of the members and the musical knowledge of the public.

The Choir achieves the second object through:

- Making retiring collections for other charities at the public concerts put on by the Choir.
- Running fund raising events (such as carol singing) for other charities.
- Participating in fund raising events organised by other charities.

The Trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Choir should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

The 2024/25 choir year began on 18th September at The Friends’ Meeting House in Ship Street, which continues to be successful venue due to the support we receive from the Meeting House staff, the availability of a high-quality piano; the location of The

Friends' Meeting House in the centre of Brighton and its proximity to transport links. We attracted some prospective new recruits to our Open Rehearsal.

The Choir rehearsed Finzi's *In terra pax*; Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and some lesser-known carols for a concert on 7th December at St John's Church Knoye Road Brighton. A retiring collection was made for The Martlets Hospice.

The Choir sang at Brighton Station on the 18th December to raise money for The Clock Tower Sanctuary, Brighton. The Choir was conducted by our Musical Director, Nicholas Houghton, with approximately 50 choir members attending. The public were generous with donations and appreciative of our singing. Carol singing is a beneficial way of making the public aware of the Choir and its activities and we had leaflets available to give to interested members of the public. After the carol singing, we went to Redroaster (Dome) Brighton for a meal, which was very enjoyable. We will organise another meal again in December 2025. For our Spring Concert on 29th March, we performed Brahms' *German Requiem* at St John's Church, Knoye Road, Brighton, accompanied by Howard Beach and Nicola Grunberg - piano. The concert was well attended, and we received very positive feedback. A retiring collection was made for The British Red Cross.

Our final concert of the choir year was held on 12th July at St John's Church, Knoye Road. We performed works by Henry Purcell: *Hear My Prayer, O Lord; My Heart Is Inditing* and *Dido and Aeneas*. We were accompanied by The Baroque Players who also performed *Chaconne in G minor*. A retiring collection was made for the charity Food and Friendship, Hove. We were pleased to welcome two of their Trustees to the concert.

Looking back on the achievements of Brighton Orpheus Choir during 2024/25, we have had a successful year. Due to the hard work of Treasurer, Val Gray, and Secretary, Hilary Woodward, we continue to have a carefully worked out budget and spending forecasts and the Constitution and other procedural matters are regularly scrutinised and brought up to date as required. The website, on the Making Music Platform, continues to be a great asset. We continue to sell more of our concert tickets online and we have been able to update photographic images and information easily. Choir members appreciate updates via the website email and are positive about the way the Choir is administered.

Brighton Orpheus Choir is privileged to have Nicola Grunberg as our professional accompanist, and under the leadership of our Musical Director, Nicholas Houghton, the standard of our performances continues to improve.

Financial Review

Building on last year, we have continued to control spending with improved budget planning and review activity to predict and monitor expenditure. Membership subscription continues to be our main source of income. Despite an increase in the membership subscription, membership has remained strong, with 80 paying members. During 2024-25 membership subscription collection was done through a single full payment or 4 monthly standing order payments on a set date from October-January, making the collection process much more manageable and predictable. Tickets were sold only on the website and using card readers/cash on the door, to clarify income streams.

This year, for the first time for at least 4 years, we have been able to avoid spending more than income. Total receipts (excluding external legacies and donations) for 2024-25 was £31,666 and expenditure £30,040 leading to a net surplus of £1,626. This is largely due to the additional amount of tax refund received under the Gift Aid scheme, whereby a total of 62 members had submitted consent forms this year, enabling us to claim a total of £4,394 in refunded tax.

In addition, we were excited to receive an additional unexpected donation of £2,018 from the estate of Laura Josephine Bristol, along with a donation of £5,000 from Barbara Brown and another smaller donation of £100. We are also grateful for the generous grant received from The Postlethwaite Music Foundation for £1,000.

The Bank Balance at year end was £28,391.

The concert accounts continue to present challenges, with staging and venue being considerable fixed costs. This year we produced three concerts, spending £4,552 more than we received, including publicity, music hire and other expenditure. This is due to a more ambitious use of professional solo artists and instrumentalists, providing a richer performance context for our singers and a more dynamic experience for our audiences, made possible by the healthy state of our finances inherited from 2023-24.

We are grateful for the continuing, enthusiastic and painstaking efforts of our members and friends to sell tickets, bringing in essential income to support our concert program.

This year we engaged members of the St. Johns Ambulance who provided First Aid support at our July 2025 concert. This will be a regular event at future concerts, in line with our Accident Prevention and Reporting Policy.

The sale of re-cycled greetings cards to choir members has been re-established, which generates a small amount of further income. We continue to seek additional sources of income through grants and donations, so that the reliance on membership subscriptions is reduced.


Our Independent Examiner is Steve Brentnall, to whom we are very grateful.

Reserves Policy

Our policy is to maintain sufficient reserves in the general fund to cover the expected deficit at any forthcoming public concerts for the current financial year, together with 12 months of salary and rehearsal venue costs, as contingency against unforeseen situations. The policy was reviewed and confirmed by the Trustees on 1st October 2025, set at £15,000, which we do currently have.

Prepared by Hilary Brown.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 1st October 2025

Signed:  Hilary Brown (Chair)

BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR
Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ending 31/8/2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Receipts		
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>		
Member subscriptions	15425	15059
Income tax recovered	4394	1950
Concert income	11179	7427
Legacies and donations	8119	11773
Fundraising	108	0
Other income	560	62
Total Receipts	39785	36271

Payments		
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Concert costs	11055	10054
Conductor	7781	5479
Accompanist	3173	2854
Rehearsal rent	3923	2566
Publicity	1503	1271
Music purchase/Hire	1083	884
Other Expenditure/Admin	630	1195
Transaction/Bank Charges	83	0
Charitable donations	0	0
Making Music Subscriptions and insurance/PRS	809	540
Total payments	30040	24842
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS(-) FOR THE YEAR	9745	11430

Cash Funds 1/9/2024	18646	7216
Cash Funds 31/8/2025	28391	18646

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August

	Unrestricted	Restricted
Assets - Unity Bank Current Account	28391	0

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Trustees

Signed Hilary K. Brown
 Date 9.10.25

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR [Registered Charity No. 260887]**

I report on the accounts of Brighton Orpheus Choir for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on page 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to :-

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed by :-

Steve Brentnall

1 Meadow View Cottages

Town Littleworth

LEWES

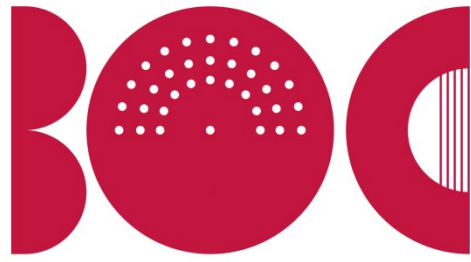
BN8 4TH

Date: 9th October 2025

BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 260887

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**BRIGHTON
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Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration No. 260887

**Trustees Report and Financial Statements for year
ending 31st August 2024**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Charity Name: Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration number: 260887

Contact address: 91 Woodland Ave, Hove,
East Sussex, BN3 6BJ

Trustees:

Hilary Brown - Chair (from 18.10.22)

Sarah Saward – Treasurer (until 25.10.23); Val Gray - Treasurer (from 25.10.23)

Caroline Price – Secretary (until 25.10.23); Hilary Woodward – Secretary (from 25.10.23)

Vicki Lywood Last (from 19.10.22)

Emma Evans (until 24.05.24)

Terry White (until 6.7.24)

Murray Park (until 25.10.23)

Independent Examiner:

Steve Brentnall
1 Meadow View Cottages
Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

Choir web site: www.brightonorpheus.org

E-mail: info@brightonorpheus.org

Charity Structure, Governance and Management

Brighton Orpheus Choir ("the Choir") is run in accordance with its Constitution, adopted at the Choir's AGM on 10th October 2007 and lodged with the Charity Commission. The Constitution, which is amended from time to time, provides (inter alia):

- The members of the Choir's Managing Committee ("the Committee") are the Trustees of the charity and must be members of the Choir.
- The Committee comprises three officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) who are appointed for one year at the AGM
- The Constitution provides for at least two but no more than six additional members of the Committee. These members are to be appointed at the AGM and hold office for one year.
- All members of the committee are eligible for re-election annually.
- The Committee has power to co-opt additional members provided that at any one time the total number of Committee members shall not exceed nine.
- Membership of the Choir is open to anyone aged 16 years or above and who is able to pass an audition.

Activities and Objectives

The objects of the Choir shall be:

1. to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by the performance of sacred and secular music and by any other means the Trustees see fit, and
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The choir achieves the first object through:

- Maintaining an active rehearsal programme that seeks to develop the musical ability and knowledge of all choir members.
- Public performance of musical works to both increase the musical ability of the members and the musical knowledge of the general public.

The choir achieves the second object through:

- Making retiring collections for other charities at the public concerts put on by the choir.
- Running fund raising events (such as carol singing) for other charities.

- Participating in fund raising events organised by other charities. The trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the choir should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

The 2023/24 choir year began on 20th September at The Friends Meeting House in Ship Street. This has become our permanent rehearsal base and has proved a very successful venue due to the support we receive from the Meeting House staff, its location in the centre of Brighton and its proximity to transport links. We attracted many prospective new recruits to our Open Rehearsal – 17 of those became new choir members and the committee felt that the choir was entering a more positive phase with increased numbers and an interesting programme of music to sing in the future, under the leadership of Nicholas Houghton.

The choir rehearsed Verdi's Requiem for a joint concert with Sussex Chorus and Sussex Symphony Orchestra, organised by the Sussex Symphony Orchestra. The concert was held at All Saints Church in Hove on 11th November. Many choir members enjoyed performing in this large event.

Due to the earlier than usual concert date, the choir spent the remaining weeks practising for our carol singing fund raiser for Shelter, at Brighton Station on the 13th of December; conducted by our Musical Director Nicholas Houghton, this was a huge success with approximately 50 choir members attending. The public were generous with donations and appreciative of our singing. Carol singing is a beneficial way of making the public aware of the choir and its activities and we had leaflets available to give to interested members of the public. After the carol singing, we went to Pizza Express for a meal which was very enjoyable, and we will organise another meal again in December 2024.

For our Spring Concert we performed Dvorak's Mass in D and Faure's Requiem at All Saints Church in Hove, accompanied by the organist of All Saints, David Stevens. The concert was well attended, and we received very positive feedback. A retiring collection was made for Lunch Positive, which provides meals and opportunities to socialise for the HIV community in Brighton and Hove. We were pleased to welcome volunteers from Lunch Positive to the concert.

For our final concert of the choir year, we performed at St John's Church Knoyle Rd on 6th July - a concert on the theme of the sea and at an earlier time of 5pm. Refreshments were sold which included homemade cakes donated by choir members. The concert included performances from students from Varndean School Brighton. This is the second time that we have worked with the school and once again it was felt to be a success. These collaborations attract students' friends and family, who might not normally attend our concerts, and we also provide a valuable platform for the students to perform to a wider audience. A retiring collection was made for the RNLI who are celebrating their bicentenary this year. We were pleased to welcome members of the Brighton RNLI Crew who came to help collect donations.

Looking back on the achievements of Brighton Orpheus Choir during the 2023/24 year, we have had a successful year. Thank you for the work of Treasurer Val Gray and Secretary Hilary Woodward. We now have a carefully worked out budget and spending forecasts and the Constitution and other procedural matters have been scrutinised and brought up to date and continue to be monitored. The new website, on the Making Music Platform, is very helpful. We sell more of our concert tickets online; we have been able to update our image using professional photography, and we are able to organise our membership records and communicate with our members and the public more efficiently.

Brighton Orpheus Choir is privileged to have Nicola Grunberg as our professional accompanist, and under the leadership of our Musical Director Nicholas Houghton, the standard of our performances has improved, and our membership has increased.

Financial Review

Spending has been strictly controlled through forward planning to set budgets and monitor spending. In addition, membership has increased, bringing in a larger subscription income. Thus, we have largely been able to avoid spending more than income: Total receipts (excluding legacies) for 2023/24 was £24,498 and expenditure £24,842 leading to net payments of just £344.

We were excited to receive £11,517 from the estate of Laura Josephine Bristol, along with other donations totalling £256.

Balance at year end was £18,646.

During 2023/24 income collection methods were streamlined – subscriptions were paid only by bank transfer or cheque, saving around £150 in third party charges. Tickets were sold only on the web site and using card readers/cash on the door, to clarify income streams.

The concert accounts continue to present challenges, with staging and venue being considerable fixed costs. This year the Winter event was staged by Sussex Symphony Orchestra, avoiding costs and resulting in an unexpected contribution to our funds of £300 from the proceeds. We produced only two concerts ourselves: we managed to almost break even at the Spring concert and made only a small loss on the Summer concert, mainly due to the excellent efforts of all choir members in selling tickets. The donation of homemade cakes for sale at the Summer concert made a very positive impact on our audience and bank balance, we are very grateful to all those who baked, and those who organised and served cakes, and those who ran the bar. The sale of recycled greetings cards to choir members, has been re-established, which generates a small amount of further income. We continue to seek additional sources of income through grants and donations, so that the reliance on membership subscriptions is less.


Our Independent Examiner is Steve Brentnall to whom we are very grateful.

Reserves Policy

Our policy is to maintain sufficient reserves in the general fund to cover the expected deficit at any forthcoming public concerts for the current financial year, together with 12 months of salary and rehearsal venue costs, as contingency against unforeseen situations. Previously the reserve had been set at £10,000. The policy was reviewed and amended by the Trustees on 2nd October 2024, to £15,000, which we do currently have.

Prepared by Hilary Brown.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on: 23.10.2024

Signed:  Hilary Brown (Chair)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR [Registered Charity No. 260887]**

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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Signed by :-

Steve Brentnall

1 Meadow View Cottages

Town Littleworth

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Date *29th Oct 2024*