

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 261522

Details

Other names THE SURBITON ORATORIO SOCIETY

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1970-08-27

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

Contact

Address 39 The Green
Morden
Surrey
SM4 4HJ

Phone 02089422275

Email info@kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk

Website www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ORDER TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN ITS ARTS AND SCIENCES, BY THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Activities: Kingston Choral Society was formed in 1949 and has 120-130 singers. Concerts are usually held in Kingston Parish Church. It performs four concerts a year covering a wide range of music from Bach to Gershwin and often performs with professional orchestras and high calibre soloists. There are occasional workshops and regular social and fundraising events are held.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kingston Upon Thames
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£77,192	£63,117	-	-
2024-07-31	£50,836	£49,252	-	-
2023-07-31	£43,612	£43,071	-	-
2022-07-31	£15,420	£18,434	-	-
2021-07-31	£17,064	£13,799	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Kingsley Norton	Chair	2025-09-25
Jane Harnden		2021-10-14
Jeanette Hull		2023-10-12
Kate Cockle		2021-10-14
PETER WICKENDEN		2024-12-05
Sarah Moreton		2024-10-24

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 261522

Accounts

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2024-31 July 2025

Annual Report and Financial Statements

29 September 2025

Charity Number 261522

CONTENTS

Reference and administrative information	3
Trustees' report	4
Charity Objectives	4
Membership and Funding	4
Fundraising, Grants and Donations	4
Musical Programme during the year	5
Other Musical Activities	6
Social Activities	6
Website Development	6
Documentation & File Sharing	7
Governance	7
Amendment of the Constitution	8
Risk Management	8
Financial Controls	8
Statement of public benefit	9
Financial Review	9
Independent Examiner's report on the financial statements	10
Financial statements	
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Principal Accounting policy	13
Reserves Policy	13
Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner	13
Future Plans	13

Administrative Information

Trustees during the period

Kate Cockle
Jane Harnden
Jeanette Hull
Debbie Lye OBE
Sarah Moreton (from 24 October 2024)
Peter Wickenden (from 5 December 2024)

Executive Officers

Debbie Lye OBE (Chair)
Kate Cockle (Deputy Chair)
Jane Harnden (Treasurer)
Jeanette Hull (Secretary)
Sarah Moreton (Deputy Treasurer)
Peter Wickenden (Member representative)

Registered address

39 The Green
Morden
SM4 4HU

Charity registration number 261522

Independent Examiner Claire Stephenson, 3 Popes Road, Abbots
Langley, Hertfordshire WD5 0EY

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Kingston Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music and Arts Richmond

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives of the Charity

Kingston Choral Society is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, charity number 261522. Its charitable object is "the study and practice of choral music in order to educate the public in its arts and sciences, by the presentation of concerts and other activities".

Objectives during the period were:

- To further build the membership, especially in the lower voice parts
- To generate more income in response to continuing cost increases to enable KCS to continue to provide high quality choral music for audiences within the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK) and beyond
- To supplement fundraising activity and subscriptions with grant income from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust and soloist subsidies from the Josephine Baker Trust
- To complete the review of Governance arrangements, started in 2023-24, culminating in the adoption of a revised Constitution.
- To carry out additional activities to fulfil the Society's public benefit objectives.

Membership and Funding

As a voluntary organisation managed by its members, Kingston Choral Society's main source of income is member subscriptions. The Society claims Gift Aid relief on these where eligible. Further income is generated via grant applications, sundry activities, including the sale and hire of music and concert dress accessories, and fundraising activities, described below. Annual Membership subscriptions remained at £180 or £25 per term for students.

During the period, KCS membership increased from 112 to 126, with a temporary higher figure of 138 during the spring term, when the society ran a successful special 'one term only' membership offer to attract lower voices for the Cadogan Hall 75th Anniversary Concert.

Fundraising, Grants and Donations

Internally, the Society raises funds through activities including raffles, bring and buy, plant and produce sales, a ticketed Come & Sing event, and a Friends Scheme. During the period these activities raised £3053.

The society's fundraising activities were supplemented by grants generated by a successful application to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust and to the Josephine Baker Trust sponsorship scheme to match fund six young soloists for the November performance of *Israel in Egypt*.

The Society drew on the donation of £7,000, received in the 2023-2024 financial year, that was made specifically to enable us to meet the considerably higher costs of staging the March 2025 Brahms and Poulenc concert at Cadogan Hall in central London. In accordance with the donor's wishes, we intend to carry

forward a proportion of that gift to facilitate the re-establishment of the pattern of regular concerts there that applied before the pandemic.

Musical programme during the year 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

The annual concert programme is proposed by Andrew Griffiths, the Musical Director, and within a budget parameter proposed by Trustees in the early spring of each year. The Trustees then seek Committee approval for the programme. The Concert season runs from September to June. Members rehearsed and performed four concerts during the period. The November and March concerts in particular drew larger than expected audiences, and the Society was able to attract soloists and musicians of the highest calibre to perform for the local community.

KCS 2024-2025 Concert Season

16 November 2024 All Saints Church, Kingston *Israel in Egypt*

Handel: *Israel in Egypt*

Soloists: Georgie Malcolm & Harriet Cameron (Sopranos), Alexander Hutton (Countertenor), Dominic Lee (Tenor), Alaric Green & Jacob Harrison (Basses)

Purcell Orchestra

Conductor: Andrew Griffiths

14 December 2024 St Andrew's Church, Surbiton *Christmas Concert*

Bob Chilcott: *Mary Mother*

Carols for Choir & Audience

Organ: Gavin Roberts

Conductor: Andrew Griffiths

29 March 2025 Cadogan Hall *75th Anniversary Concert*

Poulenc: *Gloria*

Brahms: *A German Requiem*

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square

Soloists: Sophie Bevan (Soprano), Roderick Williams (Baritone)

Thames Sinfonia

Conductor: Andrew Griffiths

28 June 2025 St Andrew's Church, Surbiton *Rhymes & Charms*

Kerry Andrew: *Rhymes & Charms for Flyaway Things*

John Rutter: *The Sprig of Thyme*

Madrigal Selection: Gibbons, *The Silver Swan*; Bennet, *All Creatures Now*;

Butler, *The Bee Madrigal*; Josquin, *El Grillo*; Vautor, *Sweet Suffolk Owl*; Anon, *Sumer is icumen in*.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, *Deep River* (Piano)

Florence Price, *Clouds* (Piano)
 Piano: Libby Burgess
 Conductor: Andrew Griffiths

The almost 40 year partnership with the Thames Sinfonia and Purcell Orchestra ended this year. It has been of immense value to be able to source professional musicians through the Society's longstanding relationship with the orchestra fixer Elizabeth Andrews. Fortunately, the KCS Musical Director has identified a professional fixer who has agreed to work with KCS in the same way by securing professional musicians to play in the society's orchestral concerts in the future.

Other musical activities

On 3 April 2025 at St Andrew's Church, Surbiton, KCS Musical Director, Andrew Griffiths, supported by accompanist Gavin Roberts on piano and organ, ran a highly successful *Come & Sing* evening workshop, focusing on Faure's *Requiem* and his *Cantique de Jean Racine*. This fundraising event attracted 115 singers, including 31 non-members. The evening also featured a raffle and a refreshment interval including cakes baked by members, some of which were later sold. The event raised £1,118 for the society.

Alongside the scheduled concerts, the Kingston Choral Society volunteer outreach programme entertained and engaged with audiences from the wider community in fulfilment of our Public Benefit responsibility. The choir's annual carol-singing afternoon in the Bentall Shopping Centre on 30 November 2024 raised a record £600 for the Shooting Star Children's Hospice. In addition, KCS Outreach programme volunteers visited 5 residential homes and day care settings across the borough to entertain visitors and clients on 7 occasions during the period.

Social Activities

The pandemic of 2020-2021 demonstrated the value of the KCS community to its members. The singing is the primary purpose of the choir, but the sense of community, burgeoning friendships and interaction that go with it are an important aspect for our members. The Membership Secretary, Voice Reps and the Trustees are all conscious of this and build opportunities for socialising into choir activities. For example, all new members receive a welcome letter, there is a tea and talk break during every rehearsal, and members are reminded regularly of the opportunity to meet others at a nearby pub after rehearsals. Members also organise annual Choir & Friends walks, and advertise other opportunities to walk with choir colleagues during the year.

Website development

This project was completed and launched for members during the period. Members and external partners have praised the look and navigability of the refurbished website. There is also enhanced security and the benefit of an easily accessible private Members' area.

This project was led by the Society website manager and the Treasurer, supported by the expertise of an IT professional who donated his time and advice to KCS free of charge.

Documentation and file sharing

The current executive team inherited a Dropbox file storage system. This was incomplete, difficult for some members to access on their personal IT systems, posed problems of version control and was difficult to navigate. During the year the Secretary, on behalf of the Committee, explored different options. Informed by that work, Committee agreed to migrate KCS files from Dropbox and personal computers onto Google Drive, and to use Google Drive consistently for file storage and sharing from now on. Although this system is problematic for users who don't have a Gmail account, its functionality in terms of sharing files, and allowing selected users to save and edit documents is good. There is therefore a project afoot to migrate KCS documents into folders, including naming and dating all files and folders in a consistent and transparent way.

Governance

The Trustees form the executive team, and they advise the Committee of 12 (the 6 Trustees plus 6 additional volunteer members), which is the governing body of the Society.

Trustee appointments are proposed and elected by members at the AGM each September/October. Trustees serve for up to five years with their appointments re-approved annually at each AGM during their term of service. As early as possible before a Trustee post (see next paragraph) falls vacant, the position is advertised in the weekly KCS Newsletter. Potential applicants receive a job description, and a summary of Trustee roles and responsibilities, based on Charity Commission Guidance. If there is more than one application for a role, an appointment panel of Trustees and other Committee members select the successful candidate. All Committee appointments are endorsed by the AGM.

The October 2024 AGM agreed to appoint a fifth Trustee. There have traditionally been four Trustees who also carry out the executive roles involved in running the charity. These are: Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The serious illness of the Treasurer throughout the period necessitated the appointment of a Trustee Deputy Treasurer. The Trustees arranged for the current Treasurer's predecessor, a professional accountant, to manage the choir's finances as Acting Treasurer, but she was not able to take on the wider responsibilities of Trusteeship and membership of the executive. The election of a Trustee Deputy Treasurer both enhances financial management and ensures that the executive team of Trustees remains informed about and accountable for financial decision-making. The December 2024 SGM (see below) then elected a sixth Trustee "without portfolio" to represent the Members' perspective, and to provide additional management capacity. For example, assisting the Secretary with the ongoing digital files migration from Dropbox to Google Drive, and working with members to review governance arrangements and role descriptions to ensure that there will be a strong candidate standing for election as Chair at the September AGM.

The Committee endorses and reviews all policies, manages risks, agrees the concert programme, signs off budgets and makes significant decisions, e.g. on musician appointments and remuneration, subscription rates and concert ticket pricing. During the period Committee reviewed and amended the Financial Reserves Policy, the Risk Management Policy and Risk Register, the Concert Policy, the Data Protection Policy, the Music Hire Policy, the Safeguarding Policy and the Choir Code of Conduct Policy, which sets out the Society's expectations of members' behaviours.

The Committee meets termly, at least three times a year, and outside these meetings may occasionally agree decisions via email. A quorum for both meetings and written decisions is 8.

Around a dozen other non-committee helpers contribute by taking responsibility for essential tasks, including website management, social media, internal communication, music purchase and librarianship, liaison with Making Music, ticket sales, member support, drafting programme notes, marketing materials, management of the KCS Friends scheme and outreach activities. All committee members and helpers carry out roles with tasks and responsibilities set out in job descriptions.

Additionally, during the period a Cadogan Hall Organising Committee (CHOC) special project team, worked together to ensure timely and successful delivery of the major investment we made in the March 2025 concert. The CHOC met again to review the experience and the outcomes, which have been recorded for future learning.

Amendment of the Constitution

Following on from the identification of a need to update the constitution during the 2023-24 season, the Committee drafted, amended and reviewed proposals to update it. In September 2024 they agreed to recommend the revised version to members, and Trustees called an SGM for 5 December 2024. 52 members (46% of the membership) attended. The meeting unanimously adopted the amended KCS constitution (last revised in 1993), agreeing that the new version better reflected current practice, notably in the domains of digital communication and recognition of essential policies and controls to underpin the operations of the charity, particularly electronic banking.

Risk Management

Trustees maintain, and the Committee regularly reviews, a risk register to enhance the Society's readiness to respond to potential risks and issues as they arise. The register encompasses four overarching risk areas: Governance, Finance, People and Reputation, and assesses likelihood and impact. Risk mitigation and contingency plans are included.

Financial Controls

Financial controls, which are reviewed regularly by the Trustees, include:

1. Preparation of budgets showing a two-year outlook, which are approved by the Trustees and Committee.

2. Reviews of performance against budget and other financial matters at each committee meeting.
3. Preparation of a forecast, generally at the half-year stage, for review by the Trustees and committee, and agreeing actions to address areas of concern as necessary.
4. All Trustees are advised of payments to be made from the Society's bank account, which also require authorisation by two Trustees.
5. Expenses are only reimbursed where they have been incurred in the course of carrying out agreed choir activities.
6. Capital expenditure and other one-off types of expense must first be agreed by Trustees and Committee.

Public Benefit

In planning activities, the Trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Kingston Choral Society specialises in providing access to high quality choral music to the local community and audiences from further afield. The Society engages with the community in several ways, including through:

- Four annual concerts, usually at venues within the borough, which are preceded by free open rehearsals earlier on the day of the concert;
- Active publicity and marketing campaigns, both online and via leaflets and flyers, which encourage local people to join the choir and to attend our concerts;
- Outreach activities in shopping centres, care settings and other locations;

During the year the charity additionally benefited the public by generating charitable funds from a Christmas Carol public concert held in the Bentall Centre which raised over £600 for Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

Financial Review

The 2024-25 accounts were approved by Members at the AGM on 25 September 2025.

Subscription revenue was £3,530 over budget – largely thanks to members that joining in the Spring term for the Cadogan Hall concert, but also through a growth in annual memberships. The major portion of the additional Gift Aid receipts of £1,818 was attributable to this increase.

Large concerts with a professional orchestra and soloists are part of our charitable purpose and are expected to be loss-making. This is offset slightly by smaller events with only piano and/or organ accompaniment which tend to yield a small profit. This year finances did better than budgeted overall. Strong publicity efforts helped to boost audiences, particularly at Cadogan Hall. Sales of drinks and programmes per head of audience are increasing, helped by the introduction of card readers that allow us to sell multiple items in one go.

The change in environment since the pandemic prompted the Trustees to conduct more detailed analysis of our own finances, including benchmarking

against other choirs. This helped to inform the 2023 subscription fee increase, and a ticket-pricing review last year led to increased concert revenue. The Committee has also focused on trimming costs, striving to get good value without affecting the quality of our activities. The improvement in the Society's financial position enables a more ambitious approach in the coming year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Kingston Choral Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025.

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').

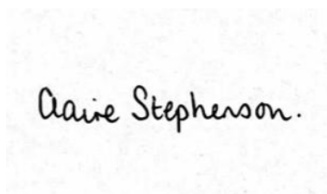
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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.



Claire Stephenson FCA

3 Popes Road
Abbots Langley
Hertfordshire
WD5 0EY

Date 29th August 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

Kingston Choral Society				
Income & Expenditure 2024-25				
			2024-2025	2023-24
Income				
Subscriptions			£22,480	£18,950
Gift Aid Income			£5,970	£4,152
Donations			£3,913	£2,145
Legacies			£0	£0
Gifts			£100	£0
Grant - HRTCT			£2,800	£2,075
Sponsorship			£0	£0
Fundraising	Puddings & Christmas Cards		£72	£158
	Raffles & Sales		£1,059	£1,051
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)		£1,347	£793
	Amazon / Easy Fundraising		£202	£258
	KCS 100 Club		£0	£0
	Friends		£825	£493
Teas / Coffees			£873	£544
Sale & Hire of music			£4,830	£3,464
Notebashers			£182	£158
Sale & Hire of folders			£16	£26
Sale of Ties & Roses			£93	£76
Bank Interest			£841	£707
Gross Concert Income				
	Autumn Concert		£4,939	£4,262
	Christmas Concert		£2,890	£3,256
	Spring Concert		£21,440	£4,760
	Summer Concert		£2,321	£3,408
Other Revenue			£0	£100
Total Incoming Resources			£77,192	£50,836
Cost of Sales / Expenses				
	Musicians fees		£13,794	£12,235
	Room Hire		£4,177	£4,471
	Covid-19 Costs			£0
	Purchase & Hire of Music		£4,069	£2,822
	General Printing / Publicity		£399	£446
	Postage, Printing & Stationery		£5	£7
	Bank Fees		£258	£154
	Gifts		£38	£128
	PRS1		£0	£0
	Insurance		£289	£283
	Honorarium		£110	£110
	Memberships		£547	£343
	Purchase of Ties & Roses		£53	£0
	Assets depreciation		£83	£347
	Other		£0	£0
Concert Costs				
	Autumn Concert		£9,657	£9,363
	Christmas Concert		£1,720	£1,669
	Spring Concert		£25,705	£11,604
	Summer Concert		£1,762	£5,097
	Outreach work			£0
Fundraising	Puddings & Christmas Cards		£37	£49
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)		£415	£124
Total Resources Expended			£63,117	£49,252
General Surplus for the year			£14,075	£1,584

Balance Sheet

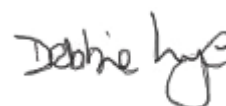
Balance Sheet			
Kingston Choral Society			
As at 31 July 2025			
	Account	31 Jul 2025	31 Jul 2024
Fixed Assets			
	Tangible Assets		
	Office Equipment	331.88	414.88
	Total Tangible Assets	331.88	414.88
Total Fixed Assets		331.88	414.88
Current Assets			
	Cash at bank and in hand		
	Current Account	1,031.45	697.79
	Deposit Account	32,470.91	27,501.06
	Total Cash at bank and in hand	33,502.36	28,198.85
	Accrued Income	4,330.00	22.00
	Petty Cash	225.00	225.00
	Prepayments	1,371.82	4,452.68
Total Current Assets		39,429.18	32,898.53
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	Accruals	1121.61	321.61
	Deferred Income	3,500.00	11,927.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		4621.61	12248.61
	Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	34,807.57	20,649.92
	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	35,139.45	21,064.80
	Net Assets	35,139.45	21,064.80
Capital and Reserves			
	Current Year Earnings	14,074.65	1,583.51
	Retained Earnings	21,064.80	19,481.29
Total Capital and Reserves		35,139.45	21,064.80

Approved by the trustees of Kingston Choral Society

Signed:



Clare Mannall, Acting Treasurer
30/8/25



Debbie Lye OBE, Chair
25/8/25

Principal Accounting Policy

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have set a policy whereby the unrestricted free reserves held by the Society should be sufficient to cover between 3 and 6 months of operating costs. This ensures that undertakings, for example, in the form of contractual commitments to venues and freelance musicians, can be met with confidence. At 31 July 2025, free reserves amounted to £28,839 (2024: £9,515). Restricted reserves consisted of a £2,800 grant from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust for the four concerts in the 2025-2026 season, and a private donation of £3,500 towards the cost of staging a future dated Cadogan Hall concert, and to provide a subsidy for future appearances there.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

The Trustees who were in office on the date of approval of the financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Trustees have taken the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Examiner.

The report and financial statements were approved by the committee via email in September 2025, and recommended to and adopted by Kingston Choral Society Members at the AGM on 25 September 2025.

Future Plans

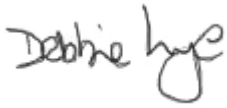
Kingston Choral Society has scheduled a varied programme for 2025-26. The season opens on 22 November, St Cecilia's Day, with an exuberant orchestral concert of musical celebration: Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* and Haydn's *Paukenmesse*. The Christmas concert features The Holy Birth, a choral work by Elgar's contemporary, Herbert Sumsion, alongside traditional carols and well-known songs. On 21 March *Romantic Visions* celebrates great nineteenth century German oeuvres by Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schumann. The June season finale, *Make our Garden Grow* will focus on compositions celebrating the natural world, and depicting the fragile balance of the climate. The programme is set out in a Concert Calendar leaflet which Members disseminate widely across Kingston and neighbouring boroughs.

Over the next period the Society Trustees aim:

- To further build the choir's profile, audiences and membership
- To continue to generate more income sufficient to support high quality music-making
- To keep member subscriptions and ticket prices under review, as advised by the Treasurer
- To extend access to music to new local audiences through an increasingly active outreach programme

- To ensure a smooth transition when the current Chair steps down after five years in September.

Signed on their behalf:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Lye". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Debbie Lye OBE, Chair

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 261522

Accounts

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2023-31 July 2024

Annual Report and Financial Statements

27 September 2024

Charity Number 261522

CONTENTS

Reference and administrative information	3
Trustees' report	4
Charity Objectives	4
Fundraising	4
Activities during the year	5
Governance	7
Risk Management	7
Financial Controls	7
Statement of public benefit	8
Principle Accounting Policy	8
Reserves Policy	8
Accounts	9
Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner	9
Independent Examiner's report on the financial statements	9
Financial statements	
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Financial Review	12
Future Plans	12

Administrative Information

Trustees during the period

Kate Cockle
Anna Cronin (until 19 October 2023)
Jane Harnden
Jeanette Hull (from 19 October 2023)
Debbie Lye OBE

Executive Officers

Debbie Lye OBE (Chair)
Kate Cockle (Deputy Chair)
Jane Harnden (Treasurer)
Jeanette Hull (Secretary)

Registered address

39 The Green
Morden
SM4 4HU

Charity registration number 261522

Independent Examiner Claire Stephenson, 3 Popes Road, Abbots
Langley, Hertfordshire WD5 0EY

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Kingston Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music and Arts Richmond

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives of the Charity

Kingston Choral Society is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, charity number 261522. Its charitable object is "the study and practice of choral music in order to educate the public in its arts and sciences, by the presentation of concerts and other activities".

Objectives during the period were:

- To further build the membership, especially in the lower voice parts
- To review and enhance the functionality and appearance of the website: <http://www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk>
- To generate more income in response to continuing cost increases to enable KCS to continue to provide high quality choral music for audiences within the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK) and beyond
- To supplement fundraising activity and subscriptions with grant income from the Sir George Dyson Trust and the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust
- To review Governance arrangements, ensuring they are fit for purpose
- To carry out additional activities to fulfil the Society's public benefit responsibility.

Fundraising

As a voluntary organisation managed by its members, Kingston Choral Society's main source of income is member subscriptions. The Society claims Gift Aid relief on these where eligible. Further income is generated via grant applications, sundry activities, including the sale and hire of music and concert dress accessories, and fundraising activities, described below. During the period, membership numbers increased by 4 to 112. At the AGM on 12 October 2023 members discussed the committee's proposal to increase the annual membership subscription from £160 to £180 per annum, with effect from Autumn 2023. The motion was approved by a large majority the following week. A second increase, only a year after subscriptions rose from £150, was unavoidable in the light of increasing costs of hiring rehearsal and performance venues, insurance premiums and fair pay awards to the two professional musicians. The Society will not be increasing subscription fees again in the coming year.

Internally, the Society raises funds through activities including raffles, bring and buy and produce sales, ticketed Come & Sing events, quizzes and a Friends Scheme. During the period these activities raised £2,580 net of costs. During the year ending 31 July 2024 fundraising activities were supplemented by external funds generated by a successful application to the Sir George Dyson Trust for a grant of £1,000 towards the performance of *Hierusalem* in November 2023, and two separate awards from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust amounting to £2,125 over the period.

The Society also received several generous individual donations. These included a bequest from the Haworth family, in memory of Marigold, who served as KCS Chair from 2002-2007, and a soprano soloist sponsorship in memory of KCS soprano Michele Barons. These and other donations amounted to £2,145. The choir also received a large donation of £7,000 to enable us to stage a concert at Cadogan Hall in central London in spring 2025 (which appears in the 2023-24 accounts as deferred income).

Activities during the year 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

Each year Andrew Griffiths, the Musical Director, proposes the programme for the following season which is then agreed by the Committee in the early spring of the preceding season. The Concert season runs from September to June. Members rehearsed and performed four concerts during the period. The November concert, which unusually did not feature any established audience favourites, challenged the choir in rehearsals and it was more than usually difficult to sell tickets for it. However, a strong social media marketing campaign, which pulled in visitors from beyond the area with particular interest in George Dyson, and the attendance of composer Cecilia McDowall, both generated additional ticket sales, and the concert loss was lower than expected. It was particularly gratifying for the choir to receive warm and generous feedback from Cecilia McDowall for their performance of the Da Vinci Requiem, both in person and via her social media accounts. The performance of *Elijah* in March attracted a very healthy audience and the summer Purcell Celebration also generated a larger attendance than was achieved in Summer 2023. Throughout the season the Society again secured soloists and musicians of the highest calibre to perform for the local community:

18 November 2023 at 7.30pm

All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1JP

Da Vinci Requiem

Britten: *Te Deum in C*

Grace Williams: *Elegy for Strings (Orchestra)*

Dyson: *Hierusalem*

Cecilia McDowall: *Da Vinci Requiem*

Soloists: Katherine Crompton (soprano), Gareth Brynmor John (baritone).

With Thames Sinfonia

Conductor: Andrew Griffiths

Saturday 16 December 2023 at 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Surbiton KT6 4DS

Ronald Corp: *A Christmas Mass*, Carols for choir & audience

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths

With Gavin Roberts, Organ

25 March 2024 at 7.30pm

All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1JP

Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Soloists: Anita Watson (soprano), Catherine Carby (alto), Tom Elwin (tenor), Felix Gygli (bass). With Thames Sinfonia

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths

22 June 2024 at 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Surbiton KT6 4DS

A Purcell Celebration

Purcell: Anthems *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, Z46: Remember not, Lord, our offences, Z50: My heart is inditing, Z30*

Purcell: *Dido & Aeneas*

Soloists: Rosalind Dobson & Shafali Jalota (soprano), Shakira Tsindos (mezzo soprano) & Emyr Lloyd-Jones (tenor). With The Purcell Players

Conductor, Andrew Griffiths

[Other musical activities](#)

Alongside the scheduled concerts, the Kingston Choral Society volunteer outreach programme engaged audiences from the wider community in fulfilment of our Public Benefit responsibility. Activities included welcoming members of the public to join a 'Choruses and Cake' singing workshop focused on Poulenc's *Gloria* on 21 March 2024, carol-singing to raise a record £550 for the Shooting Star Children's Hospices charity at the Bentall Shopping Centre in December 2023, a carol singing afternoon in John Lewis Kingston, and concerts at care homes and day care settings across the borough.

[Website development](#)

Last year it was agreed that the Society website would benefit from being updated. There were several issues members wished to address:

- The addition of a Donate button to increase income generation capacity;
- The creation of a private password protected members' area to allow the secure sharing of personal data and other sensitive information;
- Improved functionality in terms of archive storage and access;
- A more attractive and contemporary appearance and navigation.

This project was led by the Society website manager and the Treasurer. It could have been a costly and complex exercise. However, the website manager enlisted the expertise of an IT professional who donated his time and advice free of charge. By the end of the reporting year the revamped website was ready to launch.

Governance

The Trustees form the management team, and they advise the Committee of 13 (the Trustees plus 9 additional volunteer members), which is the governing body of the Society.

Trustee appointments are approved by members at the AGM. Trustees serve for up to five years with their appointments re-approved annually at each AGM during their term of service. A few months before a Trustee post falls vacant, the position is advertised in the Choir Newsletter. Potential applicants receive a job description, and a summary of Trustee roles and responsibilities based on Charity Commission Guidance. If there is more than one application for a role, an appointment panel composed of Trustees and other Committee members select the successful candidate. Appointments are endorsed by the AGM.

The Committee endorses and reviews all policies, manages risks, agrees the concert programme, signs off budgets and makes significant decisions, e.g. on subscription rates. During the period the Committee reviewed and amended the Reserves Policy, Financial Controls and the Choir Code of Conduct Policy which sets out the Society's expectations of its members.

The Committee meets three times a year, and additionally agrees specific decisions via email. A quorum for both meetings and written decisions is 8. Around a dozen other non-committee helpers contribute by taking on essential tasks, including social media, internal communication, music librarianship, liaison with Making Music, ticket sales, member support, drafting programme notes, assembling marketing materials, management of the Friends scheme and arranging outreach activities. All committee members and helpers carry out administrative roles with tasks and responsibilities set out in job descriptions.

At the April Committee meeting, members reviewed governance arrangements alongside the 1993 version of the KCS constitution and agreed to amend the latter to take account of developments in electronic communication and banking, and better to reflect administrative practices that have evolved over time. These changes are allowed for within the powers vested in the constitution itself. They will be proposed to members and adopted during the 2024-25 financial year.

At the AGM all members have the opportunity to approve both new appointments and re-appointments to the Committee.

Risk Management

Trustees maintain and invite the Committee to review a risk register and to be ready to respond to potential risks and issues as they arise. The register encompasses four risk areas: Governance, Finance, People and Reputation.

Financial Controls

Financial controls, which are reviewed regularly by the Trustees, include:

1. Preparation of budgets showing a two-year outlook, which are approved by the Trustees and Committee.

2. Reviews of performance against budget and other financial matters at each committee meeting.
3. Preparation of a forecast, generally at the half-year stage, for review by the Trustees and committee, and agreeing actions to address areas of concern as necessary.
4. All Trustees are advised of payments to be made from the Society's bank account, which also require authorisation by two trustees.
5. Expenses are only reimbursed where they have been incurred in the course of carrying out agreed choir activities.
6. Capital expenditure and other one-off types of expense must first be agreed by Trustees and committee.

Public Benefit

In planning activities, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Kingston Choral Society specialises in providing access to high quality choral music to the local community and audiences from further afield. The Society engages with the community in several ways, including through:

- Four annual concerts, usually at venues within the borough, which are preceded by free open rehearsals earlier on the day of the concert;
- Active publicity and marketing campaigns, both online and via leaflets and flyers, which encourage local people to join the choir and to attend our concerts;
- Outreach activities in shopping centres, care settings and other locations;

During the year the charity additionally benefited the public by generating charitable funds from a Christmas Carol public concert held in the Bentall Centre which raised over £550 for Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

Principal Accounting Policy

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted free reserves held by the Society should be sufficient to cover between 3 and 6 months of operating costs. This ensures that commitments made, for example, in the form of contracts with venues and freelance musicians, can be met with confidence. At 31 July 2024, free reserves amounted to £9,515 (2023: £18,821). Restricted reserves consist of a grant from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust towards our concerts in the 2024-25 season and a donation and associated Gift Aid to cover the costs of our Cadogan Hall concert in March 2025. A policy document will be developed and published on our website in the coming year.

Accounts

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

The trustees who were in office on the date of approval of the financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Trustees have taken the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Examiner.

This report and financial statements were approved by the committee by email in August 2024 and were subsequently endorsed by Kingston Choral Society Members at the AGM held on 24 October 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Kingston Choral Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

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').

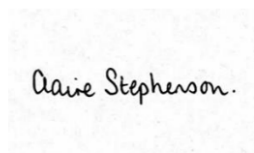
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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.



Claire Stephenson FCA
3 Popes Road
Abbots Langley
Hertfordshire
WD5 0EY

Date 9th September 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

Kingston Choral Society				
Accounts for Choir Year 2023-24				
		TOTAL 2023-24	TOTAL 2022-23	TOTAL 2021-22
Income				
Subscriptions		£18,950	£16,700	£14,800
Gift Aid Income		£4,152	£3,187	£2,958
Donations		£2,145	£375	£991
Legacies		£0	£0	£0
Grant - Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust		£2,075	£2,575	£1,300
Fundraising	Christmas Cards	£158	£264	£78
	Raffles & Sales	£1,051	£1,310	£842
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)	£793	£1,268	£1,001
	Amazon / Easy Fundraising	£258	£378	£236
	KCS 100 Club	£0	£164	£143
	Friends	£493	£171	£0
Teas / Coffees (net of costs)		£544	£390	£183
Sale & Hire of music		£3,464	£3,130	£2,784
Notebashers (net of costs)		£158	£253	£145
Sale & Hire of folders		£26	£52	£94
Sale of Ties & Roses		£76	£62	£27
Bank Interest		£707	£227	£14
Gross Concert Income				
	Autumn Concert	£4,262	£4,721	£3,287
	Christmas Concert	£3,256	£2,204	£0
	Spring Concert	£4,760	£3,882	£3,649
	Summer Concert	£3,408	£2,300	£2,147
Other Revenue		£100	£0	£-49
Total Incoming Resources		£50,836	£43,612	£34,629
Cost of Sales / Expenses				
General				
	Musicians fees	£12,235	£11,990	£11,020
	Room Hire	£4,471	£4,144	£3,966
	Purchase & Hire of Music	£2,822	£2,749	£2,103
	General Printing / Publicity	£446	£321	£258
	Postage, Printing & Stationery	£7	£9	£11
	Bank Fees	£154	£158	£153
	Gifts	£128	£56	£128
	PRS ¹	£0	£19	£0
	Insurance	£283	£269	£257
	Honorarium	£110	£110	£110
	Memberships	£343	£320	£345
	Purchase of Ties & Roses	£0	£0	£0
	Other (assets disposal)	£347	£0	£0
Concert Costs				
	Autumn Concert	£9,363	£9,460	£7,535
	Christmas Concert	£1,669	£1,465	£876
	Spring Concert	£11,604	£9,728	£9,238
	Summer Concert	£5,097	£1,653	£1,560
	Outreach events	£0	£108	£0
Fundraising				
	Christmas Cards	£49	£128	£0
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)	£124	£386	£83
Total Resources Expended		£49,252	£43,071	£37,643
General Surplus for the year		£1,584	£541	£-3,014
Balance Brought forward at 1/8/23		£19,481	£18,940	£21,954
		£21,065	£19,481	£18,940

¹ PRS accruals are included in individual concert accounts.

Balance Sheet

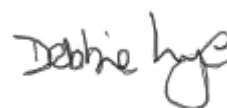
Kingston Choral Society					
As at 31.07.24					
Assets	as at 31.07.24	as at 31.07.23	as at 31.07.22	as at 31.07.21	as at 31.07.20
Bank					
Current Account	£698	£700	£700	£700	£700
Deposit Account	£27,501	£20,120	£16,016	£23,023	£18,937
KCS100 Club	£0	£0	£0	£79	£500
Total Bank	£28,199	£20,820	£16,716	£23,802	£20,137
Current Assets					
Accounts Receivable	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Accrued Income	£22	£0	£3,118	£100	£162
100 Club Loan	£0	£0	£0	£0	£40
Petty Cash	£225	£225	£237	£177	£177
Debtors and prepayments	£4,453	£995	£802	£372	£1,022
Total Current Assets	£4,700	£1,220	£4,157	£649	£1,400
Fixed Assets					
Office Equipment	£415	£347	£347	£347	£347
Total Fixed Assets	£415	£347	£347	£347	£347
Total Assets	£33,314	£22,387	£21,220	£24,797	£21,884
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Deferred Income	£11,927	£2,568	£1,490	£0	£387
Accruals	£322	£338	£789	£2,844	£2,808
Total Current Liabilities	£12,249	£2,906	£2,279	£2,844	£3,195
Total Liabilities	£12,249	£2,906	£2,279	£2,844	£3,195
Net Assets	£21,065	£19,481	£18,940	£21,954	£18,689
Equity					
Restricted Funds - HRTCT grant	£2,800.00	£1,200	£1,200		
- Cadogan Hall donation	£8,750.00				
Unrestricted Funds	£9,515	£18,281	£17,740	£21,954	£18,689
Total Equity	£21,065	£19,481	£18,940	£21,954	£18,689

Approved by the Trustees of Kingston Choral Society



Jane Harnden, Treasurer

Date: 29/8/24



Debbie Lye, Chair

Date: 31/8/24

Financial Review

The 2023-24 accounts were approved at the AGM in October 2024.

Subscription revenues rose by 13.5% due to the increased rate and small growth in membership mentioned above. Having raised £2,000 in donations towards our spring concert, we excluded this event from our annual grant application to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Trust and took the opportunity to bring this and future years' applications in line with our financial year. The donations also boosted our Gift Aid and interest income. Fund-raising was lower than in 2022-23 due to the closure of Amazon Smile and no online quiz, in which interest waned post-pandemic. Our Friends scheme continued to grow slowly.

Large concerts with orchestra and soloists are part of our charitable aim and expected to be loss-making, offset slightly by smaller events with only keyboard accompaniment. Following a review of ticket price structures, including comparison with those at other local choral events, the committee approved an increase in prices and a revision to our concessions policy. We now offer free tickets for accompanied children under 18. In place of our previous small concession for all aged over 60, we have introduced a more generous discount for full-time students and people receiving means-tested benefits. At £13,068, the net loss on our concert account was higher than in the previous year as we held our first concert with a full orchestra since before the pandemic. However, the loss was £1,000 better than budgeted, thanks to a combination of higher ticket sales and lower costs in some areas.

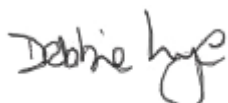
Future Plans

Kingston Choral Society has scheduled an exciting programme for the 2024-25 season which marks 75 years since the choir was first established as Surbiton Oratorio Society to sing Handel's Messiah in March 1950. The season will open with Handel's Israel in Egypt – a first performance by the choir. The Anniversary itself will be marked by a performance of Brahms' Requiem and Poulenc's Gloria at Cadogan Hall with celebrated soloists Sophie Bevan and Roderick Williams. Christmas and June concerts will feature works by living composers alongside traditional carols and madrigals. The programme is set out in a Concert Calendar leaflet to be disseminated across Kingston and the wider locality.

Over the next period the Society Trustees aim to:

- Further build the choir's profile and membership
- Continue to generate more income from fundraising, the Friends scheme and other donations, and advertising
- Build on an active outreach programme
- Amend the KCS governing document to make it fit for purpose and current practice, for example, use of electronic communication, virtual meetings and online banking, using powers vested within the Constitution.

Signed on their behalf:



Debbie Lye OBE, Chair

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 261522

Accounts

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2022-31 July 2023

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 September 2023

Charity Number 261522

CONTENTS

Reference and administrative information	3
Trustees' report	4
Charity Objectives	4
Fundraising	4
Activities during the year	4
Risk Management	6
Financial Controls	6
Statement of public benefit	7
Financial Review	7
Independent Examiner's report on the financial statements	8
Financial statements	
Statement of financial activities	9
Balance sheet	10
Principal accounting policy	11
Reserves Policy	11
Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner	11
Future	11

Administrative Information

Trustees during the period

Kate Cockle
Anna Cronin
Jane Harnden
Debbie Lye OBE

Executive Officers

Debbie Lye OBE (Chair)
Kate Cockle (Deputy Chair)
Jane Harnden (Treasurer)
Jeanette Hull (Secretary)

Registered address

39 The Green
Morden
SM4 4HU

Charity registration number 261522

Independent Examiner Claire Stephenson, 3 Popes Road, Abbots
Langley, Hertfordshire WD5 0EY

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Kingston Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music and Arts Richmond

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives of the Charity

Kingston Choral Society is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, charity number 261522. Its charitable object is "the study and practice of choral music in order to educate the public in its arts and sciences, by the presentation of concerts and other activities".

Objectives during the period were:

- To increase membership, which had fallen from over 130 to 95 over the period of the pandemic
- To generate sufficient income to enable us to continue to provide high quality choral music for audiences within the borough and beyond
- To carry out additional activities to fulfil the Society's public benefit responsibility.

Fundraising

As a voluntary organisation managed by its members, Kingston Choral Society's main source of income is member subscriptions. The Society claims Gift Aid relief on these where eligible. Further income is generated via grant applications, sundry activities, including the sale and hire of music and concert dress accessories, and fundraising activities, described below. During the period, membership numbers increased from 98 to 110. At the AGM on 12 October 2022 members voted to increase the annual membership subscription from £150 to £160 per annum, with effect from Autumn 2022, to reflect the increased costs of hiring rehearsal and performance venues and paying our two professional musicians, as well as reduced income due to a drop in membership numbers following the Covid pandemic.

Internally, the Society raises funds through activities including raffles, bring and buy and produce sales, ticketed Come & Sing events, quizzes and a Friends Scheme. During the period these activities raised £3,177. The Society also received donations worth £375. During the year ending 31 July 2023 these activities were supplemented by external funds generated by successful grant applications to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust amounting to £2,575.

Activities during the year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023

The annual concert programme is proposed by Andrew Griffiths, the Musical Director, and agreed by Trustees in the early spring of each year. The Concert season runs from September to June. Members rehearsed and performed four concerts during the period. The November and March concerts in particular attracted larger than expected audiences and the Society was able to attract soloists and musicians of the highest calibre to perform for the local community:

19 November 2022

Venetian Vespers for the Ascension

Soprano : Helen Ashby, Kate Ashby
 Alto : Emma Ashby, Cara Curran
 Tenor : Jonathan Hanley, Benedict Hymas
 Bass : James Arthur, Jimmy Holliday

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths
 With the Monteverdi String Orchestra and English Cornet & Sackbut Ensemble
 Eligio Quinteiro, Lute
 Gavin Roberts, Organ

All Saints Kingston

17 December 2022

Make We Merry
 David Bednall: Make We Merry!

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths
 With Gavin Roberts, Organ

St Andrew's Church, Surbiton

25 March 2023

Haydn : Insanae et vanae curae
 Gatti (after Haydn) : Creation Mass
 Mozart : Mass in C Minor
 Soprano : Ffion Edwards
 Alto : Gillian Ramm
 Tenor : Phillip Costovski
 Bass : Jack Holton

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths
 With the Thames Sinfonia

All Saints Kingston

24 June 2023

This Shining Night

Samuel Barber : Sure on this Shining Night
 Morten Lauridsen : Sure on this Shining Night
 Bob Chilcott : Canticles of Light
 Schubert : Four Partsongs
 Schubert Piano pieces

Conducted by Andrew Griffiths
 With Gavin Roberts, Piano

St Andrew's Church, Surbiton

In addition to the scheduled concerts, the Kingston Choral Society outreach programme engaged audiences from the wider community in fulfilment of our Public Benefit responsibility. Activities included carol-singing to raise funds for charity at the Bentall Shopping Centre in December 2022, and afternoon concerts at care homes and day care settings in the borough.

Governance

The Trustees form the management team, and they advise the Committee of 13 (the Trustees plus 9 additional volunteer members), which is the governing body of the Society.

Trustee appointments are approved by members at the AGM. Trustees serve for up to five years with their appointments re-approved annually at each AGM during their term of service. A few months before a Trustee post falls vacant, the position is advertised in the Choir Newsletter. Potential applicants receive a job description, and a summary of Trustee roles and responsibilities based on Charity Commission Guidance. If there is more than one application for a role, an appointment panel composed of Trustees and other Committee members select the successful candidate. Appointments are endorsed by the AGM.

The Committee endorses and reviews all policies, manages risks, agrees the concert programme, signs off budgets and makes significant decisions, e.g. on subscription rates. The Committee meets three times a year, and additionally agrees specific decisions via email. A quorum for both meetings and written decisions is 8. Around a dozen other non-committee helpers contribute by taking on essential tasks, including social media, internal communication, music librarianship, liaison with Making Music, ticket sales, member support, drafting programme notes, assembling marketing materials, management of the Friends scheme and arranging outreach activities. All committee members and helpers carry out administrative roles with tasks and responsibilities set out in job descriptions.

Committee members serve for a renewable one-year term. At the AGM all members have the opportunity to approve both new appointments and re-appointments to the Committee.

Risk Management

Trustees maintain and invite the Committee to review a risk register and to be ready to respond to potential risks and issues as they arise. The register encompasses four risk areas: Governance, Finance, People and Reputation.

Financial Controls

Financial controls, which are reviewed regularly by the Trustees, include:

1. Preparation of budgets showing a two-year outlook, which are approved by the Trustees and Committee.
2. Reviews of performance against budget and other financial matters at each committee meeting.

3. Preparation of a forecast, generally at the half-year stage, for review by the Trustees and committee, and if necessary agreeing actions to address areas of concern.
4. All Trustees are advised of payments to be made from the Society's bank account, which also require authorisation by two trustees.
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In planning activities, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Kingston Choral Society specialises in providing access to high quality choral music to the local community and audiences from further afield. The Society engages with the community in several ways, including through:

- Four annual concerts, usually at venues within the borough, which are preceded by free open rehearsals;
- Active publicity and marketing campaigns, both online and via leaflets and flyers, which encourage local people to join the choir and to attend our concerts;
- Outreach activities in shopping centres, care settings and other locations;

During the year the charity additionally benefited the public by generating charitable funds from a Christmas Carol public concert held in the Bentall Centre which raised over £300 for Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

Financial Review

The 2022-23 accounts were approved at the AGM in October 2023. The format was revised in June 2024 to record gross, rather than net, concert income under Income and concert costs separately under Expenses. This explains why our income appears to have increased significantly compared with previous years.

Subscription revenues were below budget because we started the year with fewer members than in July 2022. The lower subscription revenue was more than compensated for by excellent results from fund-raising and concerts.

Large concerts with orchestra and soloists are part of our charitable aim and expected to be loss-making, offset slightly by smaller events with only piano accompaniment. This year we managed to do better than budgeted overall. Strong publicity efforts helped to boost our audiences. Sales of drinks and programmes per head of audience are increasing, helped by the introduction of card readers that allow us to sell multiple items in one go. We also saw a big increase in advertising income.

The change in environment since the pandemic has prompted us to do more detailed analysis of our own finances as well as benchmarking against other choirs. This helped to inform our subscription fee increase, and a ticket-pricing review is underway. We have also focused on trimming costs, striving to get good value without affecting the quality of our activities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Kingston Choral Society

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 the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

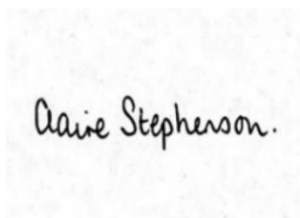
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Independent examiner's statement

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
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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.



Claire Stephenson FCA

3 Popes Road
Abbots Langley
Hertfordshire
WD5 0EY

Date 21st September 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

Kingston Choral Society			
Accounts for Choir Year 2022-23			
* Revised Format 21/6/24			
		TOTAL 2022-23	TOTAL 2021-22
Income			
Subscriptions		£16,700	£14,800
Gift Aid Income		£3,187	£2,958
Donations		£375	£991
Legacies		£0	£0
Grant - Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust		£2,575	£1,300
Fundraising	Puddings & Christmas Cards	£264	£78
	Raffles & Sales	£1,310	£842
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)	£1,268	£1,001
	Amazon / Easy Fundraising	£378	£236
	KCS 100 Club	£164	£143
	Friends	£171	£0
Teas / Coffees (net of costs)		£390	£183
Sale & Hire of music		£3,130	£2,784
Notebashers (net of costs)		£253	£145
Sale & Hire of folders		£52	£94
Sale of Ties & Roses		£62	£27
Bank Interest		£227	£14
Gross Concert Income			
	Autumn Concert	£4,721	£3,287
	Christmas Concert	£2,204	£0
	Spring Concert	£3,882	£3,649
	Summer Concert	£2,300	£2,147
Other Revenue		£0	£49
Total Incoming Resources		£43,612	£34,629
Cost of Sales / Expenses			
General			
	Musicians fees	£11,990	£11,020
	Room Hire	£4,144	£3,966
	Purchase & Hire of Music	£2,749	£2,103
	General Printing / Publicity	£321	£258
	Postage, Printing & Stationery	£9	£11
	Bank Fees	£158	£153
	Gifts	£56	£128
	PRS ¹	£19	£0
	Insurance	£269	£257
	Honorarium	£110	£110
	Memberships	£320	£345
	Purchase of Ties & Roses	£0	£0
	Other	£0	£0
Concert Costs			
	Autumn Concert	£9,460	£7,535
	Christmas Concert	£1,465	£876
	Spring Concert	£9,728	£9,238
	Summer Concert	£1,653	£1,560
	Outreach events	£108	£0
Fundraising			
	Puddings & Christmas Cards	£128	£0
	Events (Quiz & Open Evening)	£386	£83
Total Resources Expended		£43,071	£37,643
General Surplus for the year		£541	-£3,014
Balance Brought forward at 1/8/22		£18,940	£21,954
		£19,481	£18,940

¹ PRS accruals are included in individual concert accounts.

* Revised to record gross, rather than net, concert income under 'income' and concert costs under expenses.

Balance Sheet

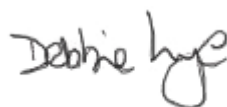
Kingston Choral Society			
As at 31.07.23			
Assets	as at 31.07.23	as at 31.07.22	
Bank			
Current Account	£700	£700	
Deposit Account	£20,120	£16,016	
KCS100 Club	£0	£0	
Total Bank	£20,820	£16,716	
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable			
Accrued Income		£3,118	
100 Club Loan			
Petty Cash	£225	£237	
Debtors and prepayments	£995	£802	
Total Current Assets	£1,220	£4,157	
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment	£347	£347	
Total Fixed Assets	£347	£347	
Total Assets	£22,387	£21,220	
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Deferred Income	£2,568	£1,490	
Accruals	£338	£789	
Total Current Liabilities	£2,906	£2,279	
Total Liabilities	£2,906	£2,279	
Net Assets	£19,481	£18,940	
Equity			
Restricted Funds (HRTCT)	£1,200	£1,200	
Unrestricted Funds	£18,281	£17,740	
Total Equity	£19,481	£18,940	

Approved by the trustees of Kingston Choral Society

Signed:



Jane Harnden, Treasurer
24/6/24



Debbie Lye OBE, Chair
25/6/24

Principal Accounting Policy

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted free reserves held by the Society should be sufficient to cover between 9 and 12 months of operating costs. This ensures that commitments made, for example, in the form of contractual commitments to venues and freelance musicians, can be met with confidence. At 31 July 2023, free reserves amounted to £18,281 (2022: £17,740). Restricted reserves consist of a grant from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust to cover our concerts in the 2023 calendar year. The grant is therefore split between our 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

The trustees who were in office on the date of approval of the financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Trustees have taken the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Examiner.

This report and financial statements were approved by the committee at a meeting held on 24 August 2023 and was subsequently endorsed by all Kingston Choral Society Members at the AGM held on 12 October 2023.

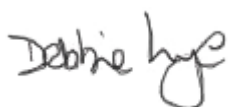
Future Plans

Kingston Choral Society has agreed an eclectic and varied programme for the 2023-24 season, including both works by living composers and well-loved familiar pieces. The programme is set out in a Concert Calendar leaflet.

Over the next period the Society aims are:

- To further build the membership, with an emphasis on the lower voice parts
- To review and enhance the functionality and appearance of the website: <http://www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk>
- To generate more income in response to continuing cost increases
- To supplement fundraising activity and subscriptions with grant income from the Sir George Dyson Trust and by applying to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust
- To review Governance arrangements and ensure that they are fit for purpose

Signed on their behalf:



Debbie Lye OBE, Chair