



cheltenham bach choir

Annual Report for year ending 30th April 2024

The committee presents its report for the year ended 30th April 2024

The choir, which is a registered charity No. 261961, was formed in October 1946. The objectives of the choir, as set out in the constitution, are to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

The members of the Committee during the year were:

Gill Douglas (Chair) Ruth Rooke (Vice Chair), Val Fagan (Vice Chair) Shirley Elliott (Hon. Secretary), Alan Winwood (Hon Treasurer), Emma Reed, Andrew Gummer, Janet Upton, Nicola Bryant, Louise Salter

Review of the year's activities:

The concert in June 2023 was something completely different to the usual repertoire of the choir. The rhythms of South America and jazz for our summer concert, Will Todd's "Mass in Blue" and Ariel Ramirez' "Misa Criolla" were challenging and great fun to sing. The choir gave an exuberant concert of music with Hannah Davey, Michael Gibson and the Dom Franks Jazz Quintet.

The autumn programme began in October with a thank-you concert for Sarah Walker who stepped down after 36 years as our President. About 40 singers, David and Fiona Brown travelled by coach to Rackenford in Devon and gave a concert of the Fauré Requiem and English anthems.

This was followed by the autumn concert in Cirencester Parish Church where *Missa*, a setting of the Latin Mass by Peteris Vasks which draws on the choral traditions of his native Latvia and expresses a desire for beauty and hope in our troubled world, was performed. This was followed by *Five Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams to settings of poems by George Herbert. The soloist was Timothy Nelson. The concert closed with the Fauré Requiem accompanied by the strings of the Regency Sinfonia and with soloists Timothy Nelson and Miriam Allen.

The first CBC tour to Spain took place in November and was a great success. Forty-eight singers, family and friends, accompanied by Claire Alsop, travelled by train and plane to Segovia for five days. The choir gave concerts in the wonderful cathedrals of Segovia Avila and Salamanca, all beautiful mediaeval walled cities. The Spanish audiences were very appreciative of our programme of English anthems and the Fauré Requiem.

During the Christmas period, the choir reached out to the community by performing Christmas Carols on two occasions in the John Lewis store in the centre of Cheltenham. These were well received and generated not only some donations but also audience for our Christmas concert in Cheltenham Town Hall. It is hoped that the choir will maintain their relationship with John Lewis over the coming years.

For the Christmas concert, the choir decided on a different format in response to discussions at the AGM; a family friendly concert in the afternoon and a slightly longer concert in the evening. We were joined by

Blackweir Brass in two Gabrieli Christmas motets and they added a very joyful sound to Gordon Langford's "Christmas Fantasy". Soprano Hannah Davey brought vocal and visual sparkle with her performance of "The Snowman" and "O Holy Night"

For the evening performance we were joined again by the Blackweir Brass and the Beauregard Youth Choir with, for the first time, the BoyRegards, who gave a wonderful performance of "African Noel". As ever the Beauregard choir gave very polished and hugely enjoyable performances, finishing with the theme from "Elf". The wonderful Claire Alsop accompanied the concert.

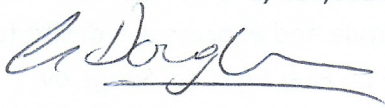
In the spring, the choir gave their long-awaited performance of the Rachmaninov "Vespers" which had been cancelled in 2020. There was a full audience in St Philip and St James Church. Having worked hard on Church Slavonic and developing the sonorities needed for this music, it was a heartfelt and emotional performance, the more so as the choir also sang three Ukrainian anthems. The concert was dedicated to Jonathan Cardale, a much-loved member of the choir, who died just two weeks earlier.

The choir goes from strength to strength under David's leadership. He has challenged us with different pieces, different languages, encouraged us to sing out and, above all, to find and enjoy the music in ourselves and in the pieces. We have not always been in our comfort zones, especially with more contemporary composers, but we have risen to the challenge and are sounding better than ever.

Finances:

The attached financial statements show the current state of the choir's finances. The choir achieved a surplus of general income over general expenditure of almost £93,000. Much of this was due to the choir receiving a generous legacy of £65,000 from Diana Walkley, a previous member of the choir. Subscriptions were also raised considerably over the period to adjust for ever increasing costs. The concert programme showed a loss of £8,000, a reduction of over half of the previous year's loss. Efforts had been made in the concert programming in the previous year to reduce expenses.

Overall, the choir made a profit of 85,000. The choir's total available assets on 30th April 2024 were £88,376 in the unrestricted General Fund, £14,262 in Caroline's Fund and £32,748 in the Cedric Virgin Fund.



Gill Douglas (Chair)

8th October 2024

Cheltenham Bach Choir
Income / Expenditure for Financial Year 01/05/23 to 30/04/24

	General Fund	Caroline's Fund	Cedric Virgin Fund	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
General Income					
Members' subscriptions	27536			27536	18496
Benefactors	1987			1987	2664
Donations/Grants	1123			1123	500
Legacy(Diana Walkley)	65005			65005	
Interest Receivable	1014	644	858	2516	1520
Income Tax recoverable	3967			3967	4847
Increase in investment units	9792			9792	
Hire of music	1330			1330	310
Social and fundraising activities	1392			1392	950
Other(inc coffee money ,and additional dress deposits)	384			384	415
TOTAL	113529	644	858	115031	29701
General Expenditure					
Rehearsal Fees: Conductors	7520			7520	8292
Rehearsal Fees: Accompanists	3295			3295	3560
Travel costs	2355			2355	1922
Rehearsal room hire	4481			4481	4106
Cost of music	970			970	229
Subscriptions / Insurance	705			705	664
Admin and Gen. Publicity	891			891	1671
Social and Fundraising costs	219			219	1493
Website costs	1370			1370	756
Other costs	259			259	0
TOTAL	22065	0	0	22065	22693
NET GENERAL INCOME / (DEFICIT)	91464	644	858	92966	7008
Concert Income					
Ticket and programme sales	16656			16656	28479
Sponsorship/donations/grants	400			400	1285
Fund raising (eg raffle or refreshments)	852			852	0
TOTAL	17908	0	0	17908	29764
Concert Expenditure					
Professional fees	16037			16037	33351
Printing and publicity	2610			2610	2348
Hire of venue	4342			4342	8357
Other costs(eg PRS ,charges on ticket sales,and social.	3077			3077	4322
TOTAL	26065			26065	48377
CONCERT INCOME / (DEFICIT)	-8158			-8158	-18613
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	83306	644	858	84808	-11605
Accumulated revenue funds brought forward	5070	13618	31890	50578	62183
Accumulated revenue funds carried forward	88376	14262	32748	135386	50578

Cheltenham Bach Choir

CURRENT ASSETS	2024	2023
Charities Official Investment Fund		
General Fund - Deposits	68697	2678
Caroline's Fund - Deposits	4204	3560
- " - Fixed Interest	1866	2000
- " - Investment Fund	15212	8000
Cedric Virgin Fund - Deposits	2748	1890
- " - Fixed Interest	1733	2000
- " - Investment Fund	25981	23000
Cash at Bank	13236	8798
Cash in hand	235	36
Debtors	8631	5265
TOTAL	142542	57228
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	-7157	-6650
NET ASSETS	135386	50578
REPRESENTED BY		
Accumulated Income Funds		
Caroline's Fund(see note 3)	14262	13618
Cedrc Virgin Fund (see note 4)	32748	31890
Unrestricted Funds:		
General Fund	88376	5070
TOTAL	135386	50578
difference	0	0

Approved by the Committee and signed on its behalf by

GILL DOUGLAS



Alan Winwood



Cheltenham Bach Choir

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 30/04/24

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities.

2. CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24						
	Mass in Blue	concert for Sarah Walker	Vasks	Christmas concerts	Rachmaninov Vespers	Total
Income						
Ticket and Programme sales	4,125.42		4,115.81	4,447.73	3,966.59	16,655.55
Sponsorship/Grants				400.00		400.00
Other income , eg refreshments	237.00		310.00		305.00	852.00
Total	4,362.42		4,425.81	4,847.73	4,271.59	17,907.55
Expenditure						
Printing & Publicity	564.00		404.00	1,192.94	449.00	2,609.94
Hire of venue	565.00		1,193.00	2,024.00	559.80	4,341.80
Conductor fee	575.00	750.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	4,025.00
Orchestra/Organist	2,000.00	300.00	5,779.30	1,832.62	0.00	9,911.92
Soloists/Extras	850.00		950.00	300.00	0.00	2,100.00
Other Costs eg refunds/commission/ PRS	252.01	715.00	898.12	0.00	1,211.68	3,076.81
Total	4,806.01	1,765.00	10,124.42	6,249.56	3,120.48	26,065.47
Profit/Loss	-443.59	-1,765.00	-5,698.61	-1,401.83	1,151.11	-8,157.92

3. CAROLINE'S FUND

Caroline's Fund was set up with a donation of £10,000 from the family of the late Caroline Brown. It was agreed between the Donors and the Choir that there shall be no restriction on the income arising from the Fund, but that the capital sum of £10,000 shall remain intact. No withdrawals were made from the income derived from these Funds in the financial year 2020/21

On the 28th October 1999 the original donation of £10,000 was invested within the COIF funds.

The value of the investments as 30th April 2024 were:

Fixed Interest	£1,865.95
Investment Fund	£15,212.47
Total	£17,078.42

4. CEDRIC VIRGIN FUND

The choir has been notified that under the terms of the Will of Mr Cedric Virgin, the charity is entitled to 0.5% of the estate. This now has a revised estimate as at March 2017 of £20,000. The choir has received at 30/4/19 a total of £19,648.47. It was agreed by the committee to designate £15,000 of this legacy to support the Cedric/Virgin Singing Prize; the inaugural competition of which was held on 31st March 2017. Since 30/4/19, the choir decided that the singing prize was no longer viable to stage. On 8th August 2019, £10,000 of the £15,000 legacy was invested within the COIF Funds. On 8th April 2021 a further £15,000 was invested in these COIF Funds.

The value of the investments at 30th April 2024 were:

Fixed Interest	£1,732.55
Investment Fund	£25,981.11
Total	£27,713.66

Cheltenham Bach Choir Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the accounts of the Cheltenham Bach Choir for the year ended 30th April 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: 1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, 2) to follow the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and 3) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

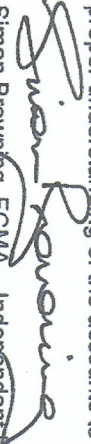
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(a) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or (b) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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


Simon Browning FCMA Independent Examiner

College Barn,
Wormington, Broadway,
Worce WR12 7NL