

Treasurer's Report (2024 Accounts) to BCS AGM April 30th 2025

This report should be read in conjunction with the 2024 BCS accounts document. Overall the accounts show a significant surplus to last year, maintaining a “run” over previous 5 years ensuring that the BCS reserves are increasing year on year providing the Society with solid financial stability. We do need a healthy “cash flow” especially around concert times when our outgoings are large in advance of receiving income – an “average” concert costs over £12,000 to stage, the larger ones nearer to £17,000 at the Abbey..

The size of the surplus in effect was really down to the phenomenal financial success (to accompany the undoubted musical success) of the Messiah performances in December 2024 that yielded a massive surplus for BCS of over £8,000 for the two events (one of the biggest recorded in recent history). Attributable to a number of reasons – very high audiences (1200 across the two nights) that might have reflected a pent up demand for the “traditional BCS Messiah at Xmas” after a gap of two years and a change in the ticket “variance” of pricing – we held the premium seats ticket prices at the same rate but found more people were choosing the less expensive (and more varied) price ranges – the £7 - £15 areas in the aisles and South Transept particularly filled up. We have just come off a very expensive Brahms/Poulenc concert (for 2025 accounts) whose loss was over 50% of the Messiah surplus which shows how valuable the Messiah concerts are and how they “contrast” to all other concerts financially..... The other concerts recorded losses throughout the year (Haydn and Summer concerts). I wanted to record my personal thanks to all BCS committee members (and others) who contribute to the running of the concerts – from ticket selling, publicity, managing of the concert before and on the day. It is a large task across the season.

We are looking next year to deviate from the Abbey for our Spring concert as the hire charges are significant especially when we cannot attract audiences to counter the charge in ticket income. 2024 maintained a high level of membership subscriptions based on

increased growth in choral singers with the new season starting in September and with new members joining through the current season; we have more people wishing to join us even now for this season which is very encouraging – as before the membership income allows us to “balance the books” outside of the concerts. It also maximises our Gift Aid HMRC annual rebate which helps us to boost our reserves.

In terms of the costs, we had to spend more on maintenance items – repairs to piano, replacement of the conductor’s stand and investment in a second card reader that is proving its worth for the sale of programmes at concerts. We also incurred additional professional costs to support the Choir tour Summer 2024. Other costs remain broadly in line with previous years; noting that we are liable for PRS charges on certain performances (3.1% of net income as an Amateur choir) that “bite” us on a regular basis and although we choose to use Bath Box Office as our ticket agency and they provide a good service in the lead up to concerts, they currently charge 10% + VAT per ticket which affects our income.

In terms of subscriptions, the AGM last year agreed that for the coming two seasons, the level of subscriptions would remain frozen, reflecting the current health of the BCS reserves. One item I wanted to raise is the importance of choral members to commit to the subscription payments across the full season – specifically those members that choose to pay in 3 bank transfer instalments (as opposed to paying all upfront or by presentation of 3 cheques). Exceptional circumstances that are made known to the membership secretary at the outset of the season (by end September of each season) that could affect the cycle of payments will be considered but generally the expectation is that the three instalment payments will be “honoured” by members – the purpose for the instalment option is for the ability for members to spread their subscription costs across the whole season, not to pay for a partial season (unless they join new at various term points of course).

The accounts have been independently and expertly examined and I commend them to you for your perusal and approval before submission to the Charity Commission website. I am, of course,

willing to answer any questions you may have – either email at michael_ledbury@yahoo.co.uk or catch me in person at rehearsals if you would like anything more specific.

2025 AGM Motions to be voted on:

1. To accept the annual BCS financial accounts for 2024
2. To confirm that subscription for choral members is *frozen* at £180 for the 2025-2026 season (as approved at 2024 AGM)
3. To confirm the following options for payment:
 - a. One payment of £180 if paid in full (cheque or preferably bank transfer) by 30th September 2025
 - b. Instalments of either:
 - i. 3 x post-dated cheques of £60 presented upfront - first to be dated before or latest 30th September 2025, second dated 1st Dec 2025, final dated 1st Mar 2026
 - ii. 3 x ebank transactions of £63 to be paid into the BCS Unity Bank Account on or before the following dates: 30th September 2025, 1st Dec 2025, 1st Mar 2026

*Mike Ledbury Hon. Treasurer April
2025*

Bath Choral Society Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

	2024			2023		
Income and Expenditure	Income	Cost	Net	Income	Cost	Net
Concerts	£44,434	-£41,403	£3,031	£38,564	-£41,047	-£2,483
see details below						
Music/folders	£661	-£1,035	-£374	£1,187	-£1,400	-£213
Tour 2024						
deposit #1				£2,500	-£2,400	£100
Residue inc refunds	£24,235	-£24,442				
professional costs		-£2,100				
Room hire		-£84				
Total	£24,235	-£26,626	-£2,391			
Social events						
2023 meal/2024 meal	£712	-£691	£22	£1,670	-£1,686	-£16
Welcome back socials (Sept)	£176	-£58	£118	£90	-£60	£29
	£888	-£749	£139	£1,760	-£1,746	£13
BCS Workshop events						
Bach Christmas Oratorio (St Swithins) - Nov 23						
hire charge					-£305	
professional costs - conductor, accompanist					-£700	
Income - Admission/donations				£1,300		
				£1,300	-£1,005	£295
Brahms Requiem (St Swithins) - Nov 24						
hire charge		-£430				
professional costs - conductor, accompanist		-£700				
other costs		-£24				
Income - Admission/donations	£1,294					
	£1,294	-£1,154	£140	£0	£0	£0
Subscriptions						
Choral Members	£18,008			£18,396		
Gift Aid tax refund	£3,807			£3,069		
	£21,815		£21,815	£21,465		£21,465
Other Income						
Bank Interest (NSI account) - 2024 not known yet				£8		
as balance not available						
Donations to BCS	£145			£493		
	£145		£145	£501		£501
Incomes total	£93,472		£22,506	£67,276		£19,691
General expenditures						
Promotion						
Flyers and posters inc design		-£884			-£538	
Web site		-£314			-£350	
		-£1,198	-£1,198		-£888	-£888
Other						
Rehearsal related costs						
Music Director fees		-£6,712			-£6,615	
Guest conductor fees					-£340	
Accompanist fees		-£2,730			-£2,880	
Room hire - masterclass		-£90			-£108	
Rehearsal room hire		-£2,447	-£11,979		-£2,609	-£12,552
Bank charges (Unity)		-£71			-£72	
NFMS subscription		-£411			-£392	
NFMS insurance		-£155			-£151	
Miscellaneous costs		-£820			-£76	
Bursary related costs (singing lessons)					-£300	
		-£1,457	-£1,457		-£991	-£991
Expenditure total		-£85,601	-£14,635		-£62,029	-£14,431
Total Outcome			£7,871			£5,260

Supported by Reserves

Opening Bank balances	£61,415	£56,155
Surplus / Deficit for the year	£7,871	£5,260
Closing Bank balances	<u>£69,286</u>	<u>£61,415</u>

Notes to the accounts

The Society reports its financial position using Receipts and Payments

Its main asset is an upright piano with an estimated value of £2,500.

The Society do not believe it is appropriate to make any provision for depreciation of the piano.

Bank balances by account	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23
Unity Trust Current account	£60,973	£53,102
NS&I Deposit account (note 2024 balance not yet available to add to this figure from 2023)	£8,313	£8,313
	<u>£69,286</u>	<u>£61,415</u>

Concerts summary

	2024			2023		
Concerts summary	Income	Cost	Net	Income	Cost	Net
Verdi Requiem - 4/3						
Venue charge (Bath Abbey)					-£3,475	
Professional costs					-£13,857	
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)				£15,310		
Agency costs - (10%+VAT comm + ads/printing)					-£1,565	
Programmes (printing and revenue)				£594	-£431	
gift soloists					-£40	
donations - anonymous				£1,400		
Total	£0	£0	£0	£17,304	-£19,368	-£2,064
Carmina Burana - 17/6						
Venue charges (St Matt's Widcombe)					-£418	
Professional costs					-£4,787	
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)				£3,645		
Agency costs (10%+vat + ads)					-£365	
programmes (cost and sale)				£151	-£93	
publicity/printing/gift soloist					-£530	
Total	£0	£0	£0	£3,796	-£6,193	-£2,396
Christmas Oratorio - 1/12						
Venue charges (Bath Abbey)					-£3,432	
Professional costs					-£7,993	
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)				£15,766		
advertising revenue				£30		
PRS charge (Performing Rights Society)		-£703				
Agency costs (10% BBO ticket sales)					-£1,481	
programmes (cost/sales)				£558	-£419	
publicity/printing/gift soloist					-£599	
Total	£0	-£703	-£703	£16,354	-£13,924	£2,430
Haydn/Mozart March 2024						
Venue charges (Bath Abbey)		-£2,783			-£1,028	
Professional costs		-£7,894				
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)	£8,793			£1,110		
Agency costs (10% BBO ticket sales)		-£1,093				
programmes (cost/sales)	£486	-£386				
publicity/printing					-£535	
Total	£9,279	-£12,156	-£2,877	£1,110	-£1,562	-£452
Summer 2024						
Venue charges (St Mary's Bathwick)		-£475				
Professional costs		-£1,220				
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)	£2,177					
advertising revenue/donations	£125					
Agency costs (10% BBO ticket sales, ads)		-£272				
programmes (cost/sales)	£196	-£259				
publicity/printing/gift soloist/staging/St Johns		-£852				
Total	£2,498	-£3,077	-£579	£0	£0	£0
Messiah December 2024 (x 2 perfs)						
Venue charges (Bath Abbey)		-£6,612				
Professional costs		-£13,450				
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)	£30,852					
advertising revenue/donations	£235					
Agency costs (10% BBO ticket sales+ ads)		-£3,062				
programmes (cost/sales)	£955	-£473				
publicity/printing/gift soloist		-£426				
Total	£32,042	-£24,023	£8,019	£0	£0	£0
Brahms/Poulenc Gloria Mar 2025						
Venue charges (Bath Abbey)		-£957				

Professional costs						
Ticket sales (Secretary/door/BBO)	£615					
advertising revenue						
Agency costs (10% BBO ticket sales)						
programmes (cost/sales)						
publicity/printing/gift soloist		-£487				
Total	£615	-£1,444	-£829	£0	£0	£0
Concert totals	£44,434	-£41,403	£3,031	£38,564	-£41,047	-£2,483



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bath Choral Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

263086

Set out on pages

1 - 2

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Richard Robb

Date:

24 January 2025

Name:

Richard Robb

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants

Address:

Briscoe House, 28 Church Street, Bathford, Bath BA1 7RS

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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