

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th JUNE 2023

Reg. Charity No.: 263150



PRESIDENT
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ian Partridge CBE
Neil Ferris BMus (Hons) ARCM MMus

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Registered Charity Number 263150
www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk

Objects

The Objects of the Society are to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and other activities involving or relating to choral music.

Governance & Administration

Wimbledon Choral Society is a charity, registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 263150) and operates under the same name within the rules of a revised Constitution adopted on 24 September 2001 and approved by the Charity Commissioners. The principal address of the charity is 13 Augustus Court, Augustus Road, SW19 6NA.

The charity is administered by a Committee as defined by the Constitution comprising of an Executive Group of Trustees, who are registered with the Charity Commission, plus other Society members making up the full Committee. All the Committee roles are occupied by Society members only and all members are eligible for any of the roles. No member of the Committee, Trustee or otherwise, is paid for his or her role. For the season ended 30 June 2023 the members in these roles were:

Society Members

Chair	+	Sarah Hendry
Vice-Chair	+	Isla Smith
General Secretary	+	Tracy Sherman
Treasurer	+	John Gale
Publicity Officer	+	Anna Lemmon
Concert Co-ordinator	+ #	Helen Edwards
Sponsorship Officer	#	unfilled
Membership Secretary		Laura Stewart
Librarian		John Britton
Voice Representatives	*	Thérèse Kennedy-Laing, Sharon Smith
	*	Angela Wake, Sarah Harris
	*	Martyn Wake
	*	Jeremy Collis, Peter Hickson

Ex Officio Appointment

Music Director	Neil Ferris
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- + Trustees of the Society and Members of the Executive Group.
- # These posts are appointed or co-opted by the Committee as permitted by the Constitution and are, therefore, not elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- * Voice Representatives are elected for a two-year period, half of them retiring/standing for re-election each year.

Employees

The Society has no employees. During the 2022/2023 season, two professional musicians, the Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, were hired on a renewable contract or ad hoc basis.

Advisers

Bankers
Independent Examiner

Santander & NS&I
Annette Cowley, BA FCA

Public Benefit

Mindful of the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, our aim is always to perform a varied repertoire in a range of venues and provide the widest possible access to our events in terms of ticket prices charged. We work hard to keep up the profile of the Society in our community, despite the limited number of venues suitable for large scale performances locally.

We collaborated once again with Merton Music Foundation to put on the 5th Merton Singfest in May, with a record number of local choirs taking part including many primary school and children's choirs. The annual event has become a popular fixture in the Borough music calendar.

The local charity collection at our Christmas concerts this year was in aid of St Raphael's Hospice, with our audiences donating £1,462.

The Society values diversity and membership is open to all; but as with many similar organisations, subject to applicants undergoing a voice test to ensure their vocal ability meets the standard required. The standard is agreed between the Society's Committee and the Music Director.

Reduced membership subscriptions are available for full-time students, those under the age of 26 and those who are registered as unemployed.

Events for the year ended 30 June 2023

It was a pleasure, after a series of disrupted seasons, to put on a full and varied programme. Our three major concerts were linked under the theme: A Triptych of Passions, exploring a number of different ways the story of the final days of Jesus Christ on earth are told in music. This rich vein spanned familiar choral music and less well-known works by contemporary composers. In our Reflections on Gratitude and Remembrance concert at Cadogan Hall in November, alongside Alison Willis' very recent 'Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum' and Bob Chilcott's 'Passion Hymns', we performed Howard Goodall's poignant 'Cantata of Gratitude and Remembrance' evoking the sacrifices and selflessness seen during the Covid pandemic. Bach's 'St John Passion', accompanied by Florilegium at Southwark Cathedral in March, was the central part of the triptych. And Will Todd and the Will Todd Ensemble, with soprano Shaneeka Simon, joined us for an uplifting third concert back at Southwark in June, performing Will's 'Passion Music' and 'Jazz Missa Brevis'. All three concerts received highly enthusiastic responses from our audiences.

Our Christmas concerts at last allowed us to perform the long postponed live premiere of Michael Higgins' brilliant 'Christmas Fantasy', commissioned by the choir during lockdown in 2020. And we were delighted to premiere a setting by choir member Peter Burton of John Clare's poem 'Little Trotty Wagtail', specially composed for us, at the Merton Singfest in May.

The other highlight of the season was the release on the Signum Classics label of our recording of Cecilia McDowall's 'Da Vinci Requiem', commissioned by the choir. The reviews of the album and the choir's performance have been universally excellent.

Responsibilities of the Trustees in relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable it to ensure that financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Society Representatives

Gift Aid Officer: John Gale

Reserves Policy

The Trustees consider it prudent that the Society should maintain reserves sufficient to cover the costs for a whole season.

Financial Matters

With the exception of the professional musicians in the capacity of Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, the Society is dependent on the services of its membership and others as unpaid volunteers. Full details of the financial statement of accounts for this past financial year are filed with the Charity Commission with this Annual Report.

The 2022-23 Concert Season was our first full 'normal' season for four years, the last one being that for 2018-19. The costs of putting on concerts has inevitably increased over this period and for that reason, membership subscriptions were raised for the first time since 2019. We had planned an ambitious program for the year, but a disappointing audience at the Cadogan Hall in November 2022 taken together with a significant increase in costs in relation to our two concerts at Southwark Cathedral, resulted once again in significant losses on the provision of concerts. Other 'non-standard' costs for the year included final settlement of our recording costs and the purchase of stocks of our CD. Sales of CDs in the year largely covered the cost of their purchase and we maintain stock, from which we would hope to receive income in current and future years.

As a result of the increase in our non-concert income, the overall financial result was a modest excess of payments over receipts for the year. Our cash funds reduced from £69,608 to £65,757 and our total assets from £84,819 to £80,945.

Risk Management

The Trustees perform regular reviews of its operations and strategic objectives to ensure adherence to its principal charitable objects and financial controls. They are satisfied that there are sufficient systems and procedures in place to identify and address in a timely manner those risks that the Society may face from time to time. A constant potential risk throughout any season is that of having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Implementation of the Reserves Policy above together with subscription to Making Music's insurance scheme is agreed by the Trustees as being of an adequate nature to minimise this particular risk.

Financial Controls

The Trustees perform regular reviews of its financial controls to ensure compliance with the Charity Commission's guidance of internal financial controls for charities. Controls include:

- Annual budgets are prepared and approved by the Trustees and full Committee.
- Performance is measured against the budget at regular intervals.
- Financial management information is discussed by the Executive and full Committee at regular meetings.
- As required by law, the Annual Accounts are subject to Independent Examination.
- There are no trading activities other than the direct sales of tickets for events in furtherance of the Society's Objects
- The Society does not make grants to any third party.
- All payments from the Society's bank accounts require two signatures from an approved list of signatories. This includes cheques, BACS payments and transfers between accounts.
- Expenses are reimbursed only in those cases where both (1) an individual has incurred those expenses in the course of carrying out the Society's business and (2) prior agreement has been obtained from either the Society's appointed Treasurer or Chair or both.

Signed - Sarah Hendry
Chair for the year ending 30 June 2023
For and on behalf of the Trustees



13 September 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wimbledon Choral Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2023 set out on pages 5 and 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")

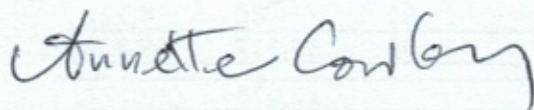
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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



Signed : Annette Cowley BA FCA
Cowley & Co, Chartered Accountants
210 Worple Road, London SW20 8RH

Dated: 2nd October 2023

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

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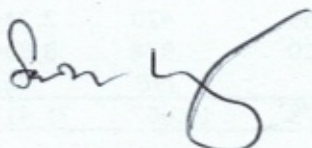
	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Actual £
Receipts				
Members subscriptions	30,730		30,730	25,415
Friends subscriptions	1,660		1,660	1,525
Donations	2,742		2,742	1,620
Tax recovered (gift aid)	5,091		5,091	4,287
Easyfundraising and similar receipts	442		442	465
Music hire to other choirs	2,416		2,416	1,362
Sale of folders (net)	(98)		(98)	42
Fundraising activities (Quiz)	482		482	-
Sale of CDs	4,465		4,465	-
Refreshment income (net of expenses)	288		288	-
Interest received	97		97	8
Christmas Concert collection		80	80	1,929
	<u>48,315</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>48,395</u>	<u>36,653</u>
Payments				
Rehearsal hall hire	5,499		5,499	5,055
Musicians fees	13,465		13,465	13,675
DaVinci Recording costs	3,440		3,440	40,745
Purchase of CDs	5,850		5,850	-
Marketing & publicity	152		152	275
Website costs	383		383	319
Insurance	158		158	150
Making Music and other subscriptions	365		365	365
Administration & sundries	269		269	247
Librarian's expenses	574		574	277
Card charges	82		82	-
Christmas Concert collection		80	80	4,722
	<u>30,237</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>30,317</u>	<u>65,830</u>
Net ordinary (payments) / receipts	<u>18,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,078</u>	<u>(29,177)</u>
Concert receipts				
Ticket sales	37,790		37,790	28,586
Received in relation to prior year	225		225	-
Programme sales	2,156		2,156	2,389
Agency commission	(1,723)		(1,723)	(1,000)
Music hire and purchase	7,734		7,734	1,261
Singfest income	1,042		1,042	719
	<u>47,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,224</u>	<u>31,955</u>
Concert payments				
Hire of venues	16,661		16,661	18,220
Staging	5,957		5,957	3,271
Musicians	29,207		29,207	30,686
Instrument tuning & hire	1,355		1,355	1,193
Music hire and purchase	7,772		7,772	1,105
Other concert costs	450		450	-
Program design & printing	2,344		2,344	2,805
Advertising expenditure	3,894		3,894	3,116
Royalties	606		606	674
Singfest costs	882		882	775
Singfest - WCS costs	25		25	79
	<u>69,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,153</u>	<u>61,924</u>
Net concert (payments) / receipts	<u>(21,929)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,929)</u>	<u>(29,969)</u>
Net (payments) / receipts for year	<u>(3,851)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,851)</u>	<u>(59,146)</u>
Cash funds at 1st July 2022 (2021)	<u>69,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,608</u>	<u>128,754</u>
Cash funds at 30th June 2023 (2022)	<u>£ 65,757</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 65,757</u>	<u>£ 69,608</u>

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 30th JUNE 2023

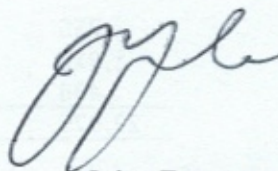
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	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash Funds				
Bank current accounts	17,486	-	17,486	11,395
Bank deposit accounts	48,271	-	48,271	58,173
Cash in hand	-	-	-	40
	<u>65,757</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,757</u>	<u>69,608</u>
Other Monetary Assets				
Other amounts owed to the society	196	-	196	-
Investment Assets				
M&G Charifund Units	15,234	-	15,234	15,211
Liabilities				
Amounts owed by the society	(242)	-	(242)	-
Total Assets of the Society	<u>£ 80,945</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 80,945</u>	<u>£ 84,819</u>

Approved by the Committee on 13 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by



S Hendry - Chairman



J Gale - Treasurer