

**WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**30th JUNE 2025**

**Reg. Charity No.: 263150**



**PRESIDENT**  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**Ian Partridge CBE**  
**Daniel Mahoney MA MMus BMus**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **for the year ended 30 June 2025**

Registered Charity Number 263150  
[www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk](http://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 2025 the members in these roles were:

#### Society Members

Chair	+	Alex Youel
Vice-Chair	+	Ian Gleeson
General Secretary	+	Tracy Sherman
Treasurer	+	John Gale
Publicity Officer	+	Anna Lemmon
Concert Co-ordinator	+#	Paula Lambe
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	Daniel Mahoney
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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 2024/2025 season, two professional musicians, the Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, were hired on a renewable contract or ad hoc basis.

### **Advisers**

Bankers	Santander & NS&I
Independent Examiner	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 7th 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 collections at our Christmas concerts this year were in aid of The Wimbledon Guild and Faith in Action. Our audiences donated a total of £1,436.

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 2025

The 2024/25 season was the first under the leadership and direction of our new Music Director Daniel Mahoney, who joined us in July 2024. Because of the need for advance planning, the content of his first year with us had been largely shaped by his predecessor Neil Ferris, who had designed the year's programme before his departure. We are very lucky indeed to have been able to recruit such a talented, effective and knowledgeable musician in Daniel as his successor. It was appropriate therefore that the choir's year began with a great party, wonderfully organised by choir members, to celebrate and thank Neil for his 15 years leading us.

It has become a tradition, and one which we are delighted to honour and continue, that members of Wimbledon Choral lead the community singing at the Remembrance Day service held at the War Memorial in Wimbledon Village. It was a sombre but moving occasion, attended by great crowds of local people and a host of civic dignitaries.

Our own first concert under Daniel's direction followed just a week later, where we performed "Music of the Stars" on 16 November, at Holy Trinity Church in Sloane Square to a packed and appreciative audience. The programme featured works by Cecilia McDowall (a premiere in its original orchestration), Michael Higgins (his own arrangement of Elgar's *Nimrod*), Elgar and, fittingly, Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was president of Wimbledon Choral from 1946 - 1958.

In December we had great fun singing Carols for Choir and Audience at St Paul's in Southfields, where in recent years we have had to perform twice in one day in order to meet demand. The afternoon's programme was designed with young families in mind, including an appearance from a delightful Fairy Godmother!

Events for 2025 kicked off with a well-attended "Come and Sing" for choral singers from near and far who wanted to learn about and perform Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*. We sang together, under Daniel's knowledgeable guidance, in our regular rehearsal church of St Mark's, Wimbledon.

Our spring concert at the Cadogan Hall on 5 April again featured Haydn, with his powerful *Nelson Mass*, plus modern works by Dobrinka Tabakova (who joined us for the performance, with her family), *Centuries of Meditations*, and an orchestral piece *Sea Sketches* by Welsh composer Grace Williams.

On 10 May we welcomed no fewer than 17 local choirs to join us for Merton Singfest, jointly hosted by Wimbledon Choral and Merton Music Foundation. It was a splendid day of the greatest possible variety of joyous choral music-making, showcasing the talents of the youngest school children right up to the Wimbledon Oldies and everyone in between.

The summer concert on 14 June was a joint endeavour with Wimbledon High School's Chamber Choir, in the school's fine new auditorium. We sang together John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* and then the choir performed the world premiere of Russell Hepplewhite's *from: Gravity Archives*, newly commissioned from former poet laureate Sir Andrew Motion as part of Hepplewhite's Living Voices project. Russell joined us for the live performance, which both we and he much enjoyed. So much so that when it came to the end of season quiz night just two days later, one of the teams picked up on the text to become the highly competitive - but ultimately not winning - "Frolicsome Fat Bees", which feature at the end of the song.

The year ended though on a sadder note as we said farewell to our accompanist, arranger and composer - and all-round magician of the piano - Michael Higgins, who has supported us for no fewer than 17 years of superb music-making. The quiz night questions ended with "Who is the finest pianist and composer in the land?" and there could be only one resounding answer. Thank you Michael and very best wishes for your future career in composing and music publishing.

## 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.

Our 2024-25 Concert Season was successful, although it is proving more difficult to attract audiences to fill our venues. As a result, the annual deficit from concerts was higher this year. An increase in membership and in fee rates resulted in higher receipts and other sources of income remained broadly the same. General expenditure was similar to that in previous years and we also paid the initial fee related to our new commission to be premiered in April 2026.

The overall financial result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments for the year. Our cash funds increased from £85,908 to £95,522 and our total assets from £111,167 to £115,031.

## 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 – Alex Youel  
Chair for the year ended 30 June 2025  
For and on behalf of the Trustees

4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**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 2025 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: 29 September, 2025

**WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2025**

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	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Actual £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Members subscriptions	39,218		39,218	35,557
Friends subscriptions	1,490		1,490	1,740
Donations	1,006		1,006	3,927
Tax recovered (gift aid)	14,454		14,454	-
Easyfundraising and similar receipts	278		278	202
Music hire to other choirs	2,268		2,268	2,529
Sale of folders (net)	(42)		(42)	60
Choir performance fees	-		-	1,450
Fundraising activities	483		483	(135)
Income from recordings	38		38	310
Refreshment income (net of expenses)	538		538	394
Interest received	834		834	499
Collections received	-	2,445	2,445	2,740
	<u>60,565</u>	<u>2,445</u>	<u>63,010</u>	<u>49,273</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Rehearsal hall hire	5,222		5,222	6,172
Musicians fees	14,060		14,060	12,820
Recruitment costs	-		-	1,241
New Commission	10,000		10,000	-
Marketing & publicity	1,506		1,506	495
Website costs	640		640	907
Insurance	157		157	151
Making Music and other subscriptions	520		520	392
Administration & sundries	190		190	50
Librarian's expenses	448		448	646
Payments in advance (movement)	(440)		(440)	692
Card charges	748		748	89
Social activities (Net of income)	1,736		1,736	-
Collections paid	-	2,445	2,445	2,740
	<u>34,787</u>	<u>2,445</u>	<u>37,232</u>	<u>26,395</u>
<b>Net ordinary receipts</b>	<u>25,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,778</u>	<u>22,878</u>
<b>Concert receipts</b>				
Ticket sales	40,266		40,266	52,854
Programme sales	2,540		2,540	2,982
Refreshments	731		731	-
Music hire and purchase	7,897		7,897	6,431
Singfest income	1,087		1,087	1,491
	<u>52,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,521</u>	<u>63,758</u>
<b>Concert payments</b>				
Hire of venues	12,685		12,685	14,090
Staging	4,704		4,704	5,639
Agency commission	1,222		1,222	2,396
Musicians	32,526		32,526	28,165
Instrument tuning & hire	725		725	705
Music hire and purchase	7,799		7,799	8,335
Other concert costs	300		300	514
Program design & printing	2,768		2,768	2,715
Advertising expenditure	2,645		2,645	2,508
Royalties	1,640		1,640	1,048
Singfest costs	1,671		1,671	370
	<u>68,685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,685</u>	<u>66,485</u>
<b>Net concert payments</b>	<u>(16,164)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,164)</u>	<u>(2,727)</u>
<b>Net receipts (payments) for year</b>	<u>9,614</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,614</u>	<u>20,151</u>
<b>Cash funds at 1st July 2024 (2023)</b>	<u>85,908</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,908</u>	<u>65,757</u>
<b>Cash funds at 30th June 2025 (2024)</b>	<u>£ 95,522</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 95,522</u>	<u>£ 85,908</u>

**WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT 30th JUNE 2025**

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	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>				
Bank current account	25,955	-	25,955	17,138
Bank deposit accounts	69,567	-	69,567	68,770
	<u>95,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,522</u>	<u>85,908</u>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>				
Gift Aid recoverable	-	-	-	7,017
Other amounts owed to the society	252	-	252	765
	<u>252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>7,782</u>
<b>Investment Assets</b>				
M&G Charifund Units	19,257	-	19,257	17,477
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Amounts owed by the society	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets of the Society</b>	<u>£ 115,031</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 115,031</u>	<u>£ 111,167</u>

Approved by the Committee on 4th September 2025 and signed on its behalf by

A Youel - Chairman

J Gale - Treasurer

## 1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Our society is classified as a small charity because gross receipts do not exceed £250,000.

## 2 Concert income and expenditure

	MOTS HTSS	Christmas St Pauls	Come & Sing Haydn	Haydn Cadogan	Rutter WHS	Total for year
Ticket sales	8,785	5,455	2,541	17,240	6,245	40,266
Program sales	747	-	-	1,089	704	2,540
Refreshment sales	-	177	554	-	-	731
Music hire and purchase	2,435	1,129		2,360	1,973	7,897
Total income	11,967	6,761	3,095	20,689	8,922	51,434
Venue hire	2,439	888	324	6,870	2,164	12,685
Staging	903	550	-	3,251	-	4,704
Musicians	9,796	2,125	1,975	15,105	3,525	32,526
Instrument hire & tuning	-	95	-	630	-	725
Music hire and purchase	2,274	1,550	313	1,955	1,707	7,799
Agency Commission	429	265	118	101	309	1,222
Program design & printing	785	143	-	1,025	815	2,768
Advertising expenditure	380	60	-	2,058	147	2,645
PRS Royalties	343	213	-	560	244	1,360
Sundry concert expenditure	150	150	-	-	-	300
Total expenditure	17,499	6,039	2,730	31,555	8,911	66,734
Net (deficit)/surplus on each concert	(5,532)	722	365	(10,866)	11	(15,300)

Figures in italics are estimates of costs yet to be paid.

The above figures have been adjusted to take account of payments and receipts in prior periods e.g. venue deposits and costs settled after the year end.

HTSS = Holy Trinity Sloane Square      WHS = Wimbledon High School

## 3 Unrestricted Funds

	At 1-Jul-24	Receipts	Payments	Non- cash movements	At 30-Jun-25
General fund	99,795	111,594	101,157	-5,058	105,174
Funds specifically allocated (see below)	11,372	1,492	3,007		9,857
	111,167	113,086	104,164	-5,058	115,031
Commissioning & recording Fund	7,287	365			7,652
Singfest surplus available for future years	1,911	1,087	1,671		1,327
Surplus on previous overseas tours	878	-	-		878
Surplus on previous social events	1,296	40	1,336		-
	11,372	1,492	3,007	-	9,857

Non-cash movements include amounts such as Gift Aid which has yet to be received from HMRC and the movement on our M&G investment.

## 4 Charitable collections

Collections were taken at our Christmas concerts raising the sums of £449 for *Wimbledon Guild* and £987 for *Faith in Action*

Donations received in cash were passed directly to the charities concerned and did not pass through the Society's bank account.