



# Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society

President: Lord Sackville

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13 October 2024

## **Chairman's Report on Season 2023/24**

This report covers the Choir Year 2023/24 which ran from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

### **Governance**

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society is a Registered Charity (Charity Number 263930) and undertakes activities using the name Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir which deliver its Charitable Objectives which are set out in its Constitution which describes also how it manages its affairs.

During the period covered by this report the Society was governed by a Management Committee elected by the Members present at the Society's AGM, comprising :

Name	Office	Served throughout period?
John Larnar	Chairman	Yes
Polly Lockwood	Vice-Chairman and Membership Secretary	Yes
Kathy Wong	Treasurer	Yes
Mary Bonner	Secretary	Yes
Jane Aebi	Committee Member	Yes
Pauline Davies	Committee Member	Yes
Patrick Pascall	Committee Member	Yes
Brian Shirreff	Committee Member	Yes
Sandra Tooke	Committee Member	Yes
Caroline Wood	Committee Member	Yes

### **Objectives of Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society as set out in its Constitution**

To educate the public in the art and science of music and particularly to encourage and advance the study of serious music and of choral singing by the promoting and presentation of choral and other concerts and other like activities and by providing persons of vocal or instrumental ability with training and musical education

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society is a registered charity number 263930



### **Summary of activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects**

Due to venue availability the third concert of our 2022/23 Season, Verdi's Requiem accompanied by Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra, took place on 1 July 2023 (ie within our 2023/24 Choir Year). The musical details of this concert were reported as part of that Season in the Chairman's Report for 2022/23. However, the financial consequences of that concert are, correctly, accounted within the Choir's Accounts for its 2023/24 accounting year resulting in a formal set of "Statutory Basis" Accounts which have been subjected to Independent Financial Review in accordance with Charity Commission requirements. These Statutory Accounts therefore cover four concerts in the accounting year - one from Season 2022/23 and 3 from Season 2023/24.

However, in order to better track the outcome of the Society's activities on a "Season-to-Season" basis the Treasurer has re-cast the financial information to enable more informed financial understanding on a Year-on-Year basis of three concerts in each year. As well as being confirmed by the Society's Treasurer these "Management Accounts" have been verified by the Chairman by reference to the underlying accounting records.

This only the second time in the 35 year known history of the Society that this has occurred.

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Our Choir Year Activities therefore technically commenced with the performance of Verdi's Requiem on 1 July 2023. Please see last year's Chairman's Report for details of that activity.

Our 2023/24 Season then saw us present three varied and well received concerts along with a well supported Singing Development Day.

Our Autumn Concert took place on 2 December 2023 at St Nicks accompanied solely by Harp and Piano. As well as Britten's Ceremony of Carols and Chilcott's On Christmas Night both audience and choir were thrilled by solo pieces for the Harp and both the Soprano and Alto soloists ably accompanied by Tracey Renwick.

We ran another successful Singing Day with Jack Apperley as part of our preparations for our 23 March 2024 performance of Brahms' German Requiem at Pamoja Hall. As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable event in its own right the Singing Day helped towards our fundraising efforts and provided a valuable contribution of some more than 20 singers for the concert.

The Brahms concert attracted a good sized audience at Pamoja this year, though we lost quite a number of our own members from the concert forces – when we do big works we need everyone to commit to be there as part of the wider team. Feedback suggests that some people found singing in German more difficult and the music itself quite challenging. Without the Singing Day reinforcements we would have found the going much tougher, but, with just one slight wobble (which I think we got away with from the audience perspective) this was a very strong performance and greatly enjoyed by the audience.



We topped off an enjoyable season with "something completely different" – a concert performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado in which we were joined by a hugely experienced company of soloists from Grim's Dyke Opera Company Company wearing costumes and using props from the D'Oyly Cart archive. With chorus parts that were not too taxing we were able to enjoy close-up the consummate skill and experience of the soloists who delivered both the dialogue and their own vocal pieces with huge skill and clarity and outstanding comic timing. We had a really good audience at Stag for this and the applause was thunderous. Robyn was in her element holding it all together perfectly and allowing the soloists full rein to entertain us all. Though the chorus music was notably easier compared with Brahms Requiem we again had quite a number of members who chose not to sing in this one – such a pity because it was truly a memorable performance.

So all in all another wonderful season of singing that attracted good sized and appreciative audiences. My personal thanks go to Robyn for leading us so ably through such varied repertoire and to Tracey for all her support at our rehearsals. Financially the outcome was good, thanks in no small part to a generous donation to cover the soloist costs for Mikado and the unstinting fundraising efforts of Caroline Wood and the support you all give her.

Finally, my thanks also go to your Committee – without whose unstinting efforts none of this would happen.

*John Larner*

**John Larner**  
**Chairman, Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society**



# Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society

## Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2024

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	2022/2023	2023/2024
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### Current Assets

Debtors and Payments in Advance		£2,504.08		£657.00
Cash				
Bank/Building Society Accounts	£34,893.06		£44,432.40	
In Hand	£180.00	£35,073.06	£200.47	£44,632.87
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>£37,577.14</b>		<b>£45,289.87</b>

### Current Liabilities

Creditors and Receipts in Advance		£2,462.05		£3,301.32
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>£2,462.05</b>		<b>£3,301.32</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>£35,115.09</b>		<b>£41,988.55</b>
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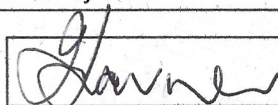
### Representing :

### Accumulated Fund

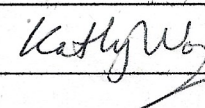
Accumulated Fund at start of year		£34,111.59		£35,115.09
add :				
Surplus/(Deficit) from Income and Expenditure Account		£1,003.50		£6,873.46
<b>Accumulated Fund at end of year</b>		<b>£35,115.09</b>		<b>£41,988.55</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>£35,115.09</b>		<b>£41,988.55</b>

In addition to the assets recorded above, the Society owns a set of stage decking, safety rails and assorted height legs which are fully written down but remain a valuable asset for the Society's use. They are stored at the Stag Theatre in return for occasional use by them.

**John Larnar, Chairman**



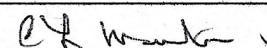
**Katherine Wong, Treasurer**



## Auditor's Report to the Members

I have independently reviewed the above Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account on pages 2 and 3. For convenience and economy, the Society uses informal means to acknowledge and account for certain receipts and my verification of these items is limited accordingly. With this proviso, in my opinion the Accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 30th June 2024 and of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

**Colin Martin, Honorary Independent Reviewer**





# Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society

## Income and Expenditure Account 2023/2024

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	2022/2023	2023/2024	
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<b>Choir Members</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>89</b>	
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<b>General Income</b>				
Choir Subscriptions	£9,939.00	£10,655.00		
Friends Subscriptions	£530.00	£480.00		
Income Tax Recoverable	£2,103.51	£3,021.36		
Grants				
Donations	£806.69	£2,342.74		
Fund Raising Activities				
Rehearsals Coffee Fund		£354.47		
Raffles	£148.40	£369.00		
Stalls at Rehearsals	£1,350.89	£1,561.74		
Singing Day	£1,146.93	£1,269.63		
Easy Fundraising	£13.41	£357.74		
<b>Total Fund Raising Activities</b>	<b>£2,659.63</b>	<b>£3,912.58</b>		
Music Hired Out	£20.80	£210.00		
Building Society Interest Received	£421.92	£819.25		
<b>Total General Income</b>	<b>£16,481.55</b>	<b>£21,440.93</b>		

<b>General Expenditure</b>				
General Administration	£269.93	£286.91		
Promotion	£65.00	£65.00		
Subscriptions	£295.00	£291.60		
Insurance	£143.00	£151.00		
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>£772.93</b>	<b>£794.51</b>		

<b>Surplus to Meet Concert Deficits</b>	<b>£15,708.62</b>	<b>£20,646.42</b>	
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<b>Net Concert Deficits</b>	<b>(£14,705.12)</b>	<b>(£13,581.06)</b>	
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<b>Net Annual Surplus before Depreciation</b>	<b>£1,003.50</b>	<b>£7,065.36</b>	
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Depreciation Charge for Modular Staging			
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<b>Net Annual Surplus after Depreciation</b>	<b>£1,003.50</b>	<b>£7,065.36</b>	
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<b>Extraordinary Items</b>				
Capital Expenditure (Roadside boards)		(£191.90)		
<b>Total Extraordinary Items</b>		<b>(£191.90)</b>		

<b>Net Annual Surplus After Extraordinary Items</b>	<b>£1,003.50</b>	<b>£6,873.46</b>	
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Summer 2023 Concert took place on 1st July, so its rehearsal costs are included in 2022/23 and its performance costs/income are included in 2023/24 :  
Aggregation of surplus from 2022/23 and surplus from 2023/24 shows a surplus of £7,876.96 for the two years together in both Management and Statutory Accounts



# Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society

## Income and Expenditure Account 2023/2024

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	2022/2023	2023/2024	Verdi Requiem	Ceremony of Carols & On Christmas Night	Brahms Requiem	Mikado
			Stag jt with SSO	St Nicholas Church	Pamaja Hall	Stag
<b>Rehearsal Expenses</b>						
Hire of Rehearsal Room	£2,771.00	£2,886.00		£1,014.00	£936.00	£936.00
Accompanists Rehearsal Fees	£2,495.00	£2,575.40		£902.00	£903.50	£769.90
Rehearsal Fees/Costs	£5,910.50	£6,442.40		£2,249.00	£2,097.50	£2,095.90
Other Rehearsal Costs						
<b>Total Rehearsal Expenses</b>	<b>£11,176.50</b>	<b>£11,903.80</b>		<b>£4,165.00</b>	<b>£3,937.00</b>	<b>£3,801.80</b>
<b>Concert Day Income</b>						
Tickets Sold	358	1,140	353	214	233	340
Average Ticket Price			£15.26	£14.72	£14.27	£15.20
Ticket Sales	£5,093.00	£17,029.62	£5,388.00	£3,149.62	£3,324.00	£5,168.00
Programme Sales	£318.50	£753.06	£173.00	£179.70	£212.35	£188.01
Programme Advertising	£252.00	£767.00	£138.00	£193.00	£193.00	£243.00
Donations from Visiting Singers						
Sponsorship						
Refreshments	£330.96	£392.58		£191.87	£200.71	
Other Concert Income						
<b>Total Concert Income</b>	<b>£5,994.46</b>	<b>£18,942.26</b>	<b>£5,699.00</b>	<b>£3,714.19</b>	<b>£3,930.06</b>	<b>£5,599.01</b>
<b>Concert Day Expenditure</b>						
Hire of Concert Venue	£1,305.00	£5,299.00	£1,980.00	£495.00	£1,052.00	£1,772.00
Professional Fees	£7,381.50	£13,024.00	£3,955.00	£1,465.00	£3,494.00	£4,110.00
Instrument Hire		£750.00		£750.00		
Hire of Orchestral Scores		£270.00			£120.00	£150.00
Performing Right Society Fees		£122.83		£122.83		
Advertising	£124.18	£234.00			£60.00	£174.00
Programmes						
Typesetting/Artwork etc						
Printing	£256.00	£660.00	£145.00	£199.00	£128.00	£188.00
Posters/Tickets etc						
Artwork/Typesetting etc						
Printing	£378.40	£532.23	£192.08	£69.00	£128.00	£143.15
Production Expenses	£78.00	£78.00		£78.00		
Sponsor Entertainment						
Other Concert Expenses		£30.00				£30.00
Joint Concert - Partner's Share of Surplus		(£380.54)	(£380.54)			
<b>Total Concert Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,523.08</b>	<b>£20,619.52</b>	<b>£5,891.54</b>	<b>£3,178.83</b>	<b>£4,982.00</b>	<b>£6,567.15</b>
<b>Net Concert Day Expenditure</b>	<b>(£3,528.62)</b>	<b>(£1,677.26)</b>	<b>(£192.54)</b>	<b>£535.36</b>	<b>(£1,051.94)</b>	<b>(£968.14)</b>
<b>Net Concert Deficits</b>	<b>(£14,705.12)</b>	<b>(£13,581.06)</b>	<b>(£192.54)</b>	<b>(£3,629.64)</b>	<b>(£4,988.94)</b>	<b>(£4,769.94)</b>

### Notes

Donations Received includes;

1) Anonymous donation of £1500 towards Mikado soloists costs

2) £250 donation from PWC Community Stars Programme; individual volunteer >20 hours supporting SPS with the website, staging, running the bar and clearing up after