

LFC Chair's Report September 2023 – November 2024

Friends' Concert - Ghoulies, Ghosties and Fireworks – Carolling - Christmas - Elijah – (Seven Last Words) – Bach workshop – B minor Mass – Chingford festival – Concert for Ukraine

This has been a good year for the choir. I think the sound is good and we have tackled some challenging works with confidence. Membership remains strong and we have benefitted from some good new recruits. Sadly of course we have also lost some members for a host of sensible reasons. We have sung a range of music from Katy Perry to the glorious Mass in B minor. We have contributed to the community by carol singing and raising funds for the homeless shelter and for children in Ukraine to whom we are sending £3,000.

We have strived to ensure that the choir stays afloat financially and have increased the subscriptions slightly as we have moved into year 2024-5. Costs are increasing with our venues being forced to charge more and we have increased what we pay our soloists and orchestral musicians. Concerts are expensive to put on. The Bach cost just under £10,000 and we were only able to perform it with Pete McCarthy's wonderful orchestra because of very generous donations from two choir members. The Ukraine concert was sponsored by Ron Hopson so this was a cost neutral event. If any members would like to donate to a concert, please do not hesitate.

Fundraising by the Bonus Ball, the Quiz, book and plant (and chutney!) sales make an important contribution to our funds. Many thanks to everyone who helps or donates.

The committee is still interested in the idea of short concerts which start earlier. Interestingly the Fireworks concert was our most successful in terms of audience and income and we are planning to repeat this next year.

This September (2024) we have omitted the Friends' Concert as we felt that the choir was over committed last Autumn term.

The day's workshop on the B minor Mass was generally well attended and most people seemed to enjoy it. Socially, it was a pleasure to lunch together.

We had a very successful social evening at the Rose and Crown to finish the year in July.

I was disappointed that there was not a bigger audience for the Bach. I appeal to choir members, each and every one, to do all you can to raise interest and sell tickets for our concerts. Emily produces wonderful flyers. Please put them up everywhere you can think of and take them to all your classes, activities and socials. Distribute them on social media. Marian does a great job putting the concerts on Ticketsource which seems straightforward to navigate.

Two staunch members of the committee have stood down: Pip and Kairen. Personally, I feel the loss of their support and thank them for all they have done. Clare Myers has taken over as Treasurer and has spent a huge number of hours getting to grips with the accounts and new software. David has been a great support to her because of his twenty years' experience as Treasurer. Her commitment and fresh approach are making a huge difference. Fulsome thanks to them both.

The most crucial issue challenging the future of the choir is filling key roles on the committee. Some tasks do not need committee membership and obviously the more people we have undertaking roles the more equitably the jobs are distributed. Some members dedicate a lot of time ensuring that the choir functions efficiently and we all owe them a great deal. Please would you each consider whether there is a role you could undertake?

If I remain Chair, would you consider being co-chair? Could you ramp up the publicity for our concerts? Could you organise the quiz?

Huge thanks to everyone who helps in all kinds of ways. A massive thanks to Leo our incomparable accompanist. And, of course, to Jonathan who has not only developed the choir with consummate skill, hard work and musicality but also makes every rehearsal good humoured as well as challenging.

We have an exciting programme planned for 2024 – 5 and look forward to singing lustily.

Alison Clewlow

Chair

October 2024

LFC WHO DOES WHAT

COMMITTEE

Name	Role
Alison Clewlow	Chair
Janet Cassford	Vice-Chair (temp) Stage Manager
Clare Myers	Treasurer
David Pomfret	Assistant treasurer
Emily Morrell	Publicity Officer
Michelle Matthews	Secretary
Joan Carder	Assistant secretary
Liz Wade	Librarian
Helen Petchey	Membership Secretary
Jo Fletcher	Music Researcher

Paul Gillett	'Making Music' data base
Sally Robinson	Also Tenor part rep
Jonathan Rathbone	Music Director
Leo Nicholson	Accompanist

OTHER ROLES

Marian Jarvis	Ticket Secretary
Lorraine Dawes	Website
Paul Cooper	Staging
Steve Lowe	Rehearsal lights & recordings
Tony Summers & Gillian barker	Wine for concerts and rehearsals
Maggie Goble	Folders and front of house
Lillian Mumme	Refreshments for rehearsals
Eva Radowska	Bonus Ball
Kathy Wiltshire	Mulled wine etc for Christmas
Pip Kings	Associate members, President & patrons
Ruth Kaufman	Assistant Librarian

SITUATIONS VACANT

Secretary	
Social Secretary	
Social media / PR	
Tour Organiser	

Future Dates

London Forest Choir Dates 2024 – 2025

Date	Time		Venue	Prices	Dress
Thursday 7 th November	7.30	Extra rehearsal	St Peter & St Paul's		
Saturday 9 th November	2.30 / 6.00	Mozart mass in C minor	St P&ST P at 6.00pm	£12 /£15	Concert black
Tuesday 17 th December		Extra Rehearsal	St Mary's Walthamstow		
Thursday 19 th December		Christmas Concert – Night of Wonders etc ***	St Mary's Walthamstow	£18 /£20	Concert Black + tinsel!

2025					
Friday 10 th January	Tba	Ukraine Christmas concert (half only)	Ukrainian Cathedral W1	none	Concert black
Thursday 27 th February	7.30	Extra rehearsal	St Mary's Woodford		
Saturday 1st March	2.30 / 7.30	The Art of Song	St Mary's Woodford	£18/£20	Concert black
Thursday 15 th May	7.30	Extra rehearsal	St Peter and St Paul		
Saturday 17 th May	2.30/7.30	Dvorak Stabat Mater	St Peter and St Paul	£18 / £20	Concert black
Saturday 14 th June???		Chingford Festival			
Friday 11 th July		Extra rehearsal	tba		
Sunday 13 th July		Day at the Fair ***	tba		Jewel tops

LONDON FOREST CHOIR

Registered Charity No: 272799

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

as at

Friday 30th August 2024

2023/2024**2022/2023****CASH FUNDS** (see Receipts and Payments Accounts)

LFC Deposit Account	£3,283.75	£3,318.42
LFC Current Account	£28,208.78	£16,960.93
Cash Account	£33.00	£126.00
CD Reserve Account *	£0.00	£2,620.75
CD Cash account	£0.00	£33.00
 CASH AT BANK AT HAND	 £31,525.53	 £23,026.10
 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
**CREDITORS	-£2,942.87	£0.00
 LFC TOTAL ASSETS	 £28,582.66	 £23,059.10
 OTHER ASSETS		
***Tour Account	£8,535.96	
 TOTAL ASSETS	 £37,118.62	

Notes:**The CD Account has now been dissolved and funds transferred to the Current Account.**** Donations made at Ukraine concert – paid to UNICEF IN Oct 2024***** A balance of £8535.96 is held in Tour account as contingency reserve for future tours*

Approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf

David Pomfret / Clare Myers
Treasurer

LONDON FOREST CHOIR

Year ending 31 August 2024

Registered Charity No: 272799

GENERAL ACCOUNT**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	2023/24	2022/23
RECEIPTS		
Concert Ticket Sales	£7,955.95	£9,821.00
Programme income	£129.00	-
Bar sales	£1,096.66	£739.00
Sundry Receipts	£150.00	
Membership Subscriptions	£18,378.00	£15,347.00
Friends and Associates	£595.00	£765.00
Tax refund/Gift Aid	£9,282.25	£7,890.00
Donations	£303.00	£1,137.00
Sponsorship	£6,780.64	£0.00
Fundraising (other)	£320.32	£5,187.00
Rehearsal Refreshments	£649.00	^ ^
Bonus Ball	£626.00	^ ^
Quiz Night	£737.00	^ ^
Social Events	£106.70	^ ^
Folder Purchase	-£57.40	£475.00
Event Receipts	£1,023.00	£7,750.00
Bank interest	£101.63	-
Easy Fundraising	£38.71	
Misc Receipts	£228.00	£383.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£48,443.46	£49,494.00
PAYMENTS		
Artists Fees	£2,600.00	£14,457.00
Orchestral Players Fees	£11,971.00	£802.00
Hire of Orchestral Music	-	£169.00
Choir Music hire/purchase	£261.39	£0.00
Hire of Concert Venues	£2,334.00	£835.00
Concert Staging	£1,952.70	£2,822.00
Publicity	£848.42	£804.00
Programme printing	£293.41	^ ^
Bar stock & licence	£570.43	^ ^
Gifts for artists	£133.05	^ ^
Misc - Concerts	£646.00	£993.00
Professional fees - Conductor/Accompanist	£17,080.00	£13,650.00
Choir coaching	£275.00	-
Rehearsal Hall Hire	£2,520.00	£2,989.00
Rehearsal refreshments costs	£238.73	-
Subscriptions and Insurance	v v	£340.00
Insurance	£449.00	^ ^
Making Music	£135.00	^ ^
Accounting software	£72.00	^ ^

LFC: GENERAL ACC/RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 2023-24

Website costs	£15.54	^ ^
Music Commissioning	-	£3,542.00
Purchase of Equipment (not for resale)	£119.98	-
Bank Charges / Sum Up / Ticketsource	£344.01	£19.00
Other Expenses/Administration	£60.24	£2,611.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£42,919.90	£44,033.00
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	£5,523.56	£5,462.00
Account Balance at 1 Sept 2023	£23,059.10	
Excess of receipts over payments	£5,523.56	
Account Balance at 31 August 2024	£28,582.66	

LONDON FOREST CHOIR

Trustees Report: year ending 31 August 2024

Please read in association with General Account Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Summary

We had a reasonable year financially. Receipts exceeded Payments on the General Account to the extent of £5,524 (almost exactly the same as 22/23) on a turnover of £42,919

General Account Receipts

1. Concert Ticket Sales of £7956 were lower than those for 2022/23 (£9,821).
(further details of concert receipts below)
2. Membership Subscriptions increased to £18,378, from £15,347 in 2022/23.
3. This was due to a small annual increase in subscription rates rather than an increase in membership numbers.
4. Income Tax recovery under Gift Aid was £9,282

Total Receipts were £48,443 as against £49,494 in 2022/23

Total Payments were £42,919 as against £44,033 in 2022/23

Statement of Assets over Liabilities

Our total assets at 31 August 2024 were £28,583 as against £23,059 at 1 September 2023 (with an additional £8,536 contingency held in the Tour Account)

Since January 2024 there has been a gradual transition of the Treasurer's role from David Pomfret to myself. I would like to put on record my personal thanks for David's assistance, together with the thanks of London Forest Choir as a whole for his many years of sterling service as our Treasurer.

Clare Myers - Treasurer

	LFC & Friends	Ghouls & Ghosts	Christmas	Elijah	Bach B Minor	Ukraine
IN	£275	£1024	£3314	£1661	£5514*	£7304**
OUT	£521	£648	£4514	£2320	£9080	£4304
TOTAL	£246	£376	-£1200	-£659	-£3566	£3000**

**Bach income includes generous £2500 sponsorship from Mike Pitwood & David Pomfret*

*** Ukraine concert costs sponsored by Ron Hopwood - all proceeds donated to UNICEF*

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of The London Forest Choir

I report on the accounts of The London Forest Choir for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of the appropriate section of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified by the Charity Commissioners whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination included 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Mansfield ACIB Dip.FS, ACIM
28 Coppens Green, Wickford SS12 9PA

Date: 12/10/24