

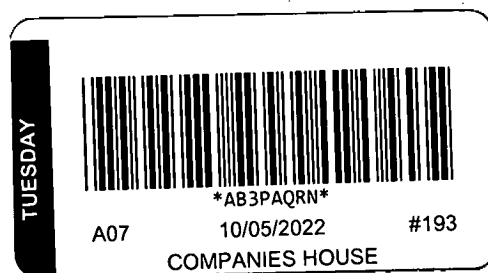
- Registered number: 01271179
- Charity number: 272866

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021



The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the Company, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2 - 12
Independent examiner's report	13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Notes to the financial statements	16 - 24

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details of the Company, its Trustees and advisers
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Trustees

Owen Hanmer, Chair
Alice Jones
Anne Loveluck
Elizabeth Webb
Gillian Lawson
Matthew Clarke (appointed 2 September 2021)
Nathan Homan (until 21 July 2021)
Richard Street, Vice Chair
Robert Ward
Simon Backhouse

Company registered number

01271179

Charity registered number

272866

Registered office

c/o LSO Office
Level 6 Frobisher Crescent, Barbican Centre
Silk Street, Barbican
London
EC2Y 8DS

Accountants

Kreston Reeves LLP
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor
168 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6RA

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
100 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 5JD

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Council Members

At the date of this report

Simon Backhouse	
Matthew Clarke	from 2 September 2021
Alice Jones	
Owen Hanmer	Chairman
Gillian Lawson	
Anne Loveluck	
Richard Street	Vice Chairman
Robert Ward	
Elizabeth Webb	

Other Trustees who served during the year ending 31 August 2021:
Nathan Homan until 21 July 2021

Officers of the Chorus

Paul Allatt	Treasurer
Joanne Buchan	Librarian
Andrew Fuller	Auditions Secretary
Robert Garbolinski	Concert Manager
Gina Broderick	Council Secretary

Music Team

Simon Halsey	Chorus Director
Lucy Hollins	Associate Chorus Director
David Lawrence	Associate Chorus Director
Benjamin Frost	Chorus Accompanist
Anita Morrison	Vocal Coaches
Rebecca Outram	
Norbert Meyn	
Robert Rice	

Company Secretary

K Harrison

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Directors, who are also Trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2019 in preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the Charity.

The London Symphony Chorus is a company limited by guarantee and is exempt from the requirement to use the word 'Limited' as part of its name. The company is a registered charity, Charity No. 272866, and is therefore exempt from Corporation Taxation.

It is also an entirely self-sufficient organisation covering its costs through concert and recording fees and fundraising.

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Structure, governance and management

The Chorus is managed by a Council of its members. Members are elected to the Council at the Annual General Meeting to hold office for the period of two years. In the event of a Council member (voice representative) resigning, the appropriate Chorus section elects a replacement to hold office until the following Annual General Meeting. Members of the Council retire by rotation. Council members are the company directors of the Chorus, and are also the trustees. They are volunteers. The Trustees' Statement of Responsibilities is noted below.

The members of the Council each have an interest in the Chorus in their capacity as guarantors, which is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

The members of the Chorus are all those who have been admitted following audition or re-audition by the Chorus Director.

The Chorus Director is appointed by the Council and receives fees in his professional capacity by virtue of an arrangement between the Chorus and the London Symphony Orchestra. No other Council or Chorus member is remunerated by the Chorus, but reasonable expenses incurred by Council members in fulfilling their obligations to the Chorus are reimbursed.

The Council has also appointed other Officers listed on Page 2 who fulfill the roles specified in relation to them.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

(continued)

Aims and objectives

In the Articles of Association of the London Symphony Chorus "the objects for which the Society is established are the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance."

We have re-stated our aims as:

1. Excellence - We aim to be critically recognised as the best symphonic chorus in the UK. We strive for artistic excellence, renowned equally for our mastery of standard repertoire as well as the ability and confidence with which we tackle new or unusual challenges. We wish to be the chorus of choice for talented singers.
2. Partnership - Central to our identity is a commitment to the special and long-standing relationship with the London Symphony Orchestra. We aim to remain at the heart of their artistic vision as a highly flexible and responsive choral partner.
3. Membership - We are committed to our identity as a self-financed members' organisation. Our members are at the heart of the LSC, its direction, governance and administration. We are focused on developing our own talent and constantly challenging ourselves, whilst enjoying the many social benefits membership brings.
4. London - We are committed to the musical life of London, our home. We aim to use our activities to nurture the artistic life of the capital through engagement with our audiences and the wider community. We seek to develop links with emerging soloists, choral conductors and accompanists, as well as commissioning new works to expand the choral repertoire
5. Reputation - We continue to develop our reputation with other leading international orchestras and conductors, in the UK or when we tour abroad.

We are committed to being an inclusive and diverse group of singers regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, lifestyle, age, educational background, national origin, religion or physical ability. Membership is open to anyone with a good choral singing voice with no fees to join or participate.

An audit in 2018 showed we met the Charity Commission guidelines for diversity and equality in our governance and, benchmarking ourselves against Arts Council Funded Organisations, we compare favourably in the diversity of our members from Black and Ethnic Minority groups. We have established a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group, are carrying out further analysis of our membership to understand better our diversity profile, are working with a DEI consultant to develop a shared understanding and strategy for DEI, and will continue to maintain our diversity through our open membership recruitment and participation in outreach programmes such as LSO Sing.

We aimed to achieve our aims through:

- concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra and the world's great orchestras, conductors and soloists, at home and abroad
- recordings that attract critical acclaim and awards
- commissioning and performing new and exciting works, from new and established composers, that are accessible to choruses and audiences alike
- involving adults, young people and children in the community in discovering and taking part in choral music
- encouraging and supporting young singers, choral conductors and accompanists
- a programme of choral training and vocal development
- the recruitment of new adult members of all ages and diverse backgrounds

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance

Main achievements of the Company

The LSC is one of the UK's leading choirs and is renowned both at home and internationally for its concerts, recordings, awards, promotion of new music and outreach work.

The year 2020-21 was the London Symphony Chorus' 55th season. It was also the 9th season with Simon Halsey as Chorus Director and Choral Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, and of the partnership between the chorus and the orchestra, LSO Sing.

The Covid pandemic and the various lockdowns precluded the Chorus from live rehearsal and performance for most of the 20/21 season. A tour to Monte Carlo and Aix with the Orchestra de Monte Carlo scheduled for September 2020 was cancelled and subsequently rearranged for Sept 2021.

We continued to work as a team to:

- Rehearse online and when allowed in person
- Audition and admit new members via Zoom
- Continue vocal coaching online, both on an individual and sectional basis
- Complete our rebrand, and launch a new external website and members' Sharepoint site
- Perform outside in Guildhall Yard and in Spitalfields Xmas Market, a Christmas recording at St Luke's, a recording of Stravinsky's Mass at St Luke's, and a first public performance of *Never to Forget* by Howard Goodall, and the world premiere of *After Winter* by Errollyn Wallen, both at the opening concert of the Spitalfields festival
- Develop our understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion, and prepare for a new chorus strategy.

Covid precautions

Rehearsals took place on Zoom until October 2020 when we were able to rehearse face to face and record a contribution at St Luke's to the LSO's Xmas concert (for later streaming online).

Following risk assessments, face to face rehearsals took place initially in Aldgate School and Prior Weston School, with members standing 2m apart in a well ventilated and cold hall. Masks were worn when not singing, and also worn for singing as the numbers in the community with Covid, and the risk to members, increased. From November, all members taking part in rehearsals and concerts undertook lateral flow tests within 24 hours in line with the LSO's Covid-19 policy.

The joint approach adopted by the LSO and LSC was successful in preventing transmission associated with singing, and received commendation from the DCMS.

Concerts

The chorus took part in 5 concerts and 4 projects (compared with 14 concerts and 6 projects in 2019-20) with the following orchestras, conductors and venues.

- Orchestras: London Symphony Orchestra (2); City of London Sinfonia (1)
- Piano Accompanist: Benjamin Frost (2)
- Conductors: Simon Halsey (4); David Lawrence (1)
- Venues: Guildhall Yard (1); Spitalfields Market (1); Christchurch Spitalfields (1); St Luke's (2)

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

2020

- 27 September An Autumn Selection
Simon Halsey. Benjamin Frost piano. Guildhall Yard London
(4 x thirty minute concert performances outside)
- 15 November Xmas concert
Simon Halsey. London Symphony Orchestra. St Luke's London
(Recording for streaming on the LSO's YouTube channel)
- 12 December Xmas Selection
David Lawrence. Benjamin Frost piano. Spitalfields Market London
(3 x 30minute performances outside)

2021

- 1 July Goodall: Never to Forget (first public performance)
Wallen: After Winter (world premiere)
Roderick Williams baritone. Chris Glynn piano
Simon Halsey. City of London Sinfonia. Christchurch Spitalfields London
(the opening concert of the 2021 Spitalfields Festival)
- 25 July Stravinsky: Mass
Britten: Hymn to the Virgin
Royal College of Music soloists
Simon Halsey. London Symphony Orchestra. St Luke's London
(Recording for streaming on the LSO's YouTube channel)

Reviews of these concerts by music critics included the following opinions:

At the end of this concert opening Spitalfields Festival, Simon Halsey looked close to tears. *"I conduct choirs,"* he told the audience, *"and this is the first concert I have conducted for 16 months."*

And, I imagine, also the first time the London Symphony Chorus has sung together in public since March 2020. As about a million amateur singers have pointed out on Twitter, at a time when footie fans are roaring their heads off, without masks or social distancing, there are still ludicrous restrictions on choirs. So all credit to the LSC and Halsey for finding the requisite loopholes needed to fill Hawksmoor's great Christ Church with choral sounds again.

Howard Goodall's Never to Forget at least conveyed its good intentions with fine craftsmanship and a sweet lyricism. It's a memorial to the health and care workers who died in the pandemic, but instead of their names being etched in stone they are immortalised by being sung, one after another, by a chorus and soloists with a gentle instrumental backing. Hard to bring off what was in effect a choral roll call without it sounding like a sombre rewrite of Widcombe Fair, but Goodall evoked grief without ever slipping into sentimentality."

3* The Times - Goodall Never to Forget, Wallen After Winter – Christchurch Spitalfields (1 July)

During early lockdown in 2020 Howard Goodall published an article pondering the role of the composer in a pandemic. His answer was that music has throughout history been successful at memorialising people and events, and that it could do so again. On the back of the article, the London Symphony Chorus invited Goodall to create such a piece for the care and health workers who had lost their lives to Covid. The first version of Never to Forget was released online in July 2020, the 'virtual' LSC singing the names of the then 122 workers who had died. A year later the piece has been expanded – there are now 285 workers listed in the text – and received its live world premiere as the first event of this year's Spitalfields Festival. It is a humble and moving response to the tragic loss of life and the performance – a return to live singing by the LSC – had sincerity and sensitivity. It is a successful answer to Goodall's own question.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

The 70 masked singers were arrayed around the gallery, with conductor Simon Halsey having to work in 360 degrees, with the names projected on a screen. Care had clearly been taken to pronounce the names correctly and it felt like a sincere and committed tribute to the dead. As Goodall said in a powerful introductory speech: 'each of these names we cherish and honour – we sing these names with love and gratitude'. Although performed in a church, Never to Forget felt like an appropriately secular tribute to a group of people clearly hugely varied in cultural and national origin, and was in that sense a model of how such a thing can be done.

Arts Desk - Goodall Never to Forget, Wallen After Winter – Christchurch Spitalfields (1 July)

Projected onto a screen behind the performers, the names underlined the debt we owe to people whose collective heritage spans every continent, their multiple syllables engendering music that, if it never quite joyous, was largely celebratory. Prominent roles for harp and a soaring cello provided a timbral counterpoint to each other, and to the choir, which, apart from four soloists positioned in front of the orchestra, came to us from galleries above the nave. Goodall's lines, never fully melodic but always mobile, had a sing-song quality, eventually rising to a climax like a peal of bells before a keening cello solo brought the piece to an end that was finally, unequivocally mournful.

Not an easy work to follow. Undaunted, Errollyn Wallen, curator of this year's Spitalfields Festival, presented her own After Winter, written for Streetwise Opera, a company that works with homeless people. They would have sung it in Middlesbrough last year, but Covid put paid to that, so this was its premiere. Wallen conceived it as a set of six songs to her own words, scored for choir, piano and string quartet, each piece interleaved with excerpts from Schubert's Winterreise, the greatest of all 19th-century song cycles.

With the masked choir again positioned above us, Wallen's words often dissolved into the church's upper reaches, but the singing was forceful, committed. Unusually, the Schubert was sung in agreeably conversational English (translation by Jeremy Sams), which baritone soloist Roderick Williams delivered with an ideal combination of clarity and understated emotion.

Evening Standard - Goodall Never to Forget, Wallen After Winter – Christchurch Spitalfields (1 July)

LSO Live recordings

None

Live streams

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 15 November | Xmas concert
Simon Halsey. London Symphony Orchestra. St Luke's London
(Recording for streaming on the LSO's YouTube channel) |
| 25 July | Stravinsky: Mass
Britten: Hymn to the Virgin
Simon Halsey. London Symphony Orchestra. St Luke's London
(Recording for streaming on the LSO's YouTube channel) |

Commissioning and performing new works

Howard Goodall *Never to Forget*

This was commissioned by the LSC and recorded in 2020 as a video with LSO players and released on YouTube. It initially commemorated 122 of the first UK health and care workers to die from Covid-19. When completed in 2021 it included 285 names.

Julian Anderson *Exiles*

The chorus is the lead co-commissioner of this new work for chorus and orchestra to be performed with the LSO in September 2021.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

Involving adults, young people and children in the community

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, no LSO singing days could be held in 2020-21.

The LSO Christmas recording provided opportunities for the LSO Community, Youth and Discovery Choirs and the LSC to perform. Those who took part enjoyed the opportunity to perform live again.

Encouraging young singers and conductors

The absence of Singing Days removed opportunities for students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to prepare and sing solo roles. Five current and former postgraduate students from the Royal College of Music took part in the Stravinsky Mass in July 2021

Young conductors from UK universities and conservatoires, and from overseas, have attended rehearsals in order to observe the chorus and music team at work, and have been given an opportunity to conduct.

Choral training and vocal development

The Chorus is committed to excellence and has continued to undertake a programme of vocal and choral development despite Covid.

In addition to the guidance and expertise of Simon Halsey, some chorus members had the opportunity to have vocal coaching sessions online with Anita Morrison, Rebecca Outram, Norbert Meyn and Robert Rice to help them reach their potential as choral singers. Online coaching was organised for each section of the Chorus and was provided for the whole chorus in some rehearsals.

Planned further development and expansion of the programme to increase the number of coaching sessions to 3 for each eligible individual per year had to be postponed because of Covid.

Re-auditions were postponed for a second year because of Covid-19, although it is planned to hold them again in season 21/22.

We are very grateful to the members of our vocal coaching team for their hard and effective work with chorus members.

Recruitment of new members

In 2020-21 we auditioned 7 new applicants online. This compares with 29 in 2019-20 and was clearly a significant decrease because of the constraints imposed by Covid-19. 5 (71% - 3 sopranos and 2 altos) were successful, a higher percentage than the previous year. New members joined because of the personal recommendation of other members and friends of the chorus, our website and social media, and an awareness of the reputation of Simon Halsey, Sir Simon Rattle, and the chorus.

There were 17 (25) leavers in year, fewer than in the previous year: 9 sopranos, 3 altos, and 5 basses. The total membership of the chorus and of the sections at the end of November 2021 was (Nov 2020 figures in brackets): total 221 (233); sopranos 73 (77); altos 55 (58); tenors 44 (45); and basses 49 (53).

We are very grateful to our Auditions Secretary for organizing this task so efficiently at a difficult time, and to the website and social media teams for their help in marketing the chorus so effectively.

Music Team

None of the successful outcomes described above would have been possible without our excellent music team. In 2020-21 Simon Halsey led the great majority of rehearsals. He was ably assisted by Lucy Hollins and David Lawrence (associate chorus directors), Benjamin Frost (chorus accompanist), and by our language coaches. We are very grateful to them all.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

Management and administration

Thanks is also due to our voice reps and officers who make up Council, and volunteer a considerable amount of their time for operational, administrative and strategic work. We are also very grateful to Sumita Menon, LSO Choral Projects Manager, who arranges our rehearsal and concert schedule and supports the chorus in so many important ways.

LSC Friends

LSC Friends was launched in 2011 to support the Chorus in achieving its mission of supporting new commissions, choral projects or other initiatives, while also promoting LSC's social networks and reaching out to connect with past members.

During this unprecedented Covid year, live get-togethers - whether at concerts, rehearsals or social events - were necessarily very limited, though some of us were able to enjoy the Friends' summer party - the second of these gatherings generously hosted by LSC Friends Helen and Philip Petchey in their garden, and fully compliant with Covid restrictions in place at the time. LSC Friends played a fuller role in Chorus social networking, coming along to Chorus outdoor singing events and joining online events such as the highly enjoyable 12th Night party, as well as sharing recollections of members/past members who sadly died during the year.

LSC Friends continued to help support the Chorus Zoom rehearsals by paying for the licence costs, and to build resources to support LSC initiatives and projects post pandemic.

12th Night celebration

Nearly 100 members and LSC Friends attended this event on Zoom, ably compered by Andrew Fuller, and were entertained by Simon Halsey (reading entries from his diary of 50 years ago), Simon Russell Beale (performing TS Eliot's Journey of The Magi), Lucy Crowe (soprano), and many members who demonstrated their Xmas decorating, baking and musical skills.

Rebranding

The process started in earnest at the end of 2019 and the new brand was finally launched in Sept 2021. We were very lucky to work with a fantastic creative agency, Two Stories, who helped support and co-lead the project, which included a (virtual) brand workshop where Council and Officers re-discovered our 'brand purpose'... why we all do, and love, what we do!

The results of the workshop fed into the development the new LSC Brand Book. After several months of drafting and editing this was released in time for the website's launch, and includes our new inspiring, inclusive and ambitious Brand Purpose: 'To be a diverse collective of passionate and dedicated choral singers with one unified voice, that come together to create a world-class, symphonic chorus that excites and inspires'.

From a visual perspective we were keen to develop and create a new brand mark, or logo, for the chorus that represented our new core values: Ambitious | Inclusive | Committed | Passionate | Unified. Our new sound wave motif, font and colour pallet, were all joyfully inspired by the 1960s, the decade when the Chorus was formed.

The imagery used on the new website best represented our commitment to diversity and inclusion and was suggested by the D&I Advisory Group. Our thanks to our team of Liz Reeve, Alice Jones and Nathan Homan, to Two Stories, Robert Garbolinski, and all those others who helped.

New website

The new LSC website was planned and built in 2020-21 and officially soft launched in September 2021. The launch followed extensive user-testing throughout August and early September 2021 led by Liz Reeve. The aim was to 'try and break the website' so digital developer Rob Ellis (Two Stories), could identify and fix any problems or glitches in the website architecture and ensure visitors to our website on both desktop and mobile devices would have the best and smoothest experience possible. Our thanks to the user group for volunteering their time and giving such thorough feedback during this phase.

It was the aim of the website team (Liz Reeve, Nathan Homan and Alice Jones), and of course Two Stories, to ensure the website embodied our new brand and our values and aims for the LSC over the next few years. One

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

of our key aims, was to ensure Chorus members felt proud of the new website, and that it should more appropriately reflect their passion for and experience of being in the Chorus. To this end, we invited members to contribute articles to the 'Our News' page, and started to include member profiles so interested audience members, supporters and, importantly, prospective members, can learn a little more about who we are. Thank you to those members who have already volunteered to take part in this project and our particular thanks to Lynn Eaton (alto) for leading on the project, carrying out numerous interviews and writing the wonderful profiles.

Data management project

In June 2019, the London Symphony Chorus initiated a 'Data project' led by Liz Reeve. We saw that data and information about the LSC and its members were stored in many different places in many formats, and that different processes were being used to manage it. As a result of our analysis, we set up some design principles. We identified that our data fell into four broad categories which then led into four sets of detailed requirements and from these we were able to define several smaller projects, which were:

1. Ability to Manage Documents
2. Ability to manage members, their status and associated data
3. Ability to manage project numbers, including chorus registration and attendance
4. Ability to market the LSC (see new Website, above)

As Council already had experience of using the Microsoft product, OneDrive, we approached Microsoft to recommend a consultancy to support us. Using this consultancy we successfully set up a Microsoft Tenancy for ourselves and are using SharePoint to share information with our own Members.

We continued to review our membership data in the light of GDPR regulations and have ensured that our data is streamlined as far as possible. Regular reviews ensured that the data was kept up to date. For sign-on and reporting, we have now centralised registers and reporting in place.

Thanks are due to Liz Reeve, Robert Ward, Jo Buchan, Gina Broderick and Paul Allatt

Advisory Group on Diversity and Inclusion

The LSC Advisory Group on Diversity and Inclusion (the "AG") held its inaugural meeting in August, 2020. Members held weekly 90-minute zoom meetings during the year ending August, 2021. Group members made an early decision to recommend broadening the Group's scope to address all aspects of diversity and inclusion. As well as gathering and prioritising "blue sky" ideas and resources for learning, Group Members undertook a number of pieces of work. Some of these aimed to lay foundations for the ongoing work of the Group and for increasing diversity and inclusion in the LSC. Members drafted Terms of Reference for the AG, prepared a Request for Proposal for the recruitment of external support, in line with Council's Time for Change statement of June 2020, and drafted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy for Council's consideration. Members liaised with the website project team to draft D&I goals for the website project. They also responded to requests from Council, including a request for comments on proposed changes to the Chorus Rules. AG members met twice with Council during the year and established a joint Steering Committee to oversee the recruitment of external support. They also met with representatives of the LSO.

Thanks are due to the Co-Chairs, Dorothy Nesbit and Louisa Martin, and past and present members of the group.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

b. Financial review

The continued impact of Covid made live rehearsal and performance extremely difficult during much of the 20/21 season. This has meant a considerable reduction in performance activity for the Chorus. In particular, the Chorus had only two events involving the London Symphony Orchestra (the Christmas recording and Stravinsky Mass recording). A most unusual occurrence.

The underwriting agreement between the orchestra and Chorus was suspended for the year.

Although the Chorus rehearsed live when Covid restrictions permitted much rehearsal was online. We incurred considerable expenditure on rehearsals and limited performance opportunities (approx. £60,000) and had very low income (£2,000). The Council again made compensation payments (£14,000) to our music team to help with loss of earnings during this difficult time for freelance musicians.

The Chorus was able to manage this imbalance by spending cash reserves built up over previous seasons (£38,600) and contributions from its endowment fund (£34,000).

The Chorus is grateful to the London Symphony Chorus Endowment fund which provided donations to cover the compensation payments to the music team (£14,000) and a further £20,000 towards the costs of our overheads.

The LSC Friends again generously covered the costs of the chorus zoom licence (£704) which was used to support online rehearsals and Council meetings.

Despite the the financial stresses brought on by Covid, the Chorus was able to upgrade its website, improving its branding and communication, digitise administrative procedures and develop virtual rehearsal techniques to maintain quality and morale. The new website went live in September 2021, at a cost of around £12,000. Music was purchased to support performances during the season (e.g. Britten Hymn to the Virgin (£520), additional copies of Stravinsky Mass (£306), Dove Now (£343)).

Council members and Officers work on a voluntary basis. The time offered gratis is estimated to be worth at least £60,000 covering legal, financial, digital and administrative expertise.

LSO/Live royalties were healthy at £3,685 (up from £2,108 in 19/20) and income from PPL was also good at £2,400 (£2,008 in 19/20). We suspect this reflects the increase access to recorded performances due to the lack of live performances.

Hire of music from the Chorus Library to other organisations was much reduced due to Covid restrictions on amateur groups singing live. We hope this will pick up in season 21/22. We are grateful to the Chorus Librarian for supporting this activity and the considerable amounts of time they provide gratis.

Several current and past members of the Chorus have made donations directly to the Chorus funds for which we are grateful.

The Chorus made further claims to HMRC for Gift aid refunds for donations both made directly to the Chorus and to the LSC Friends.

Reserves Policy

The Chorus seeks to maintain sufficient reserves to support its core charitable activities and to provide for contingencies which may arise. Sizeable reserves are held by the London Symphony Chorus Endowment Trust.

The Endowment Trust holds and manages both the Chorus Endowment Fund and the Chorus Legacy Fund. Both funds have seen good performance with regard to income over the financial year. The LSC Endowment Trust accounts provide details of their current value.

The Endowment fund expects to continue to be able to provide funds from its income stream to the Chorus on an annual basis, which will be used to help with Chorus operational and administrative costs. In addition, from time to time, the Endowment fund helps with costs of specific activities such as Tours and Commissions.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Legacy fund continues to fund the more strategic activities of the Business plan.

During these unusual times when the Chorus is unable to earn income from performances, the existence of the Endowment and Legacy funds have and will continue to provide financial support for ongoing Chorus musical activity, e.g. covering costs of rehearsals, both online and live (when permitted), and costs of self-promotion concerts, which may be needed to fill gaps in our schedule.

Future Plans

The Chorus has survived the storm of Covid and now needs to deal with the aftermath. It anticipates reduced opportunities to perform over the next year few years. At the same time, storage costs for its music library are rising, which is pushing up our overhead costs. It will be important to keep control of costs where possible.

We expect the underwriting arrangement with the LSO to be reinstated in season 21/22. We note that the current agreement with the orchestra comes to an end in July 2022 and securing good future arrangements will be important to the Chorus's future financial position.

The existence of our reserves both in the Endowment and Legacy funds will be vital to the Chorus during this difficult period.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed; subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 27 April 2022
and signed on their behalf by:



Owen Hanmer
Chair

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent examiner's report
for the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The London Symphony Chorus ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 27th April 2022

Peter Hudson BA FCA

Kreston Reeves LLP
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor
168 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6RA

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	14,120	20,210	34,330	18,075
Charitable activities	3	2,454	2,000	4,454	59,754
Investments	4	-	16	16	130
Other income		-	8,965	8,965	15,100
Total income		16,574	31,191	47,765	93,059
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	120	120	560
Charitable activities	5	16,264	69,868	86,132	116,356
Total expenditure		16,264	69,988	86,252	116,916
Net income/(expenditure) before losses on fixed assets		310	(38,797)	(38,487)	(23,857)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	(167)	(167)	-
Net income/(expenditure)		310	(38,964)	(38,654)	(23,857)
Transfers between funds	12	7,893	(7,893)	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,203	(46,857)	(38,654)	(23,857)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		(8,203)	65,789	57,586	81,443
Net movement in funds		8,203	(46,857)	(38,654)	(23,857)
Total funds carried forward		-	18,932	18,932	57,586

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 01271179

Balance sheet
as at 31 August 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		11,633		4,905
			11,633		4,905
Current assets					
Stocks	9	644		764	
Debtors	10	23,622		14,915	
Cash at bank and in hand		44,339		64,887	
		68,605		80,566	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(61,306)		(27,885)	
Net current assets			7,299		52,681
Total assets less current liabilities			18,932		57,586
Total net assets			18,932		57,586
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	12				(8,203)
Unrestricted funds	12		18,932		65,789
Total funds			18,932		57,586

The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on *27 April 2022* and signed on their behalf by:



Owen Hanmer
Chair

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The London Symphony Chorus meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Whilst the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been assessed by the Trustees, so far as is reasonably possible, due to its unprecedented impact on the worldwide economy it is difficult to evaluate with any certainty the potential outcomes on the Charity's future activities. However, taking into consideration the Charity's level of reserves, the Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Music Library	-	33% on cost
Chorus Website	-	20% on cost
Computer Software	-	25% on cost

1.7 Stocks and work in progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. This includes amounts relating to sponsorship of the commission from Howard Goodall 'Never to Forget' by the LSC Endowment fund and Zoom licence costs paid by the LSC Friends.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	14,120	20,210	34,330
	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	16,126	1,949	18,075

3. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Performances	2,454	2,000	4,454
		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Performances		59,754	59,754

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Deposit Account Interest	16	16

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Deposit Account Interest	130	130

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Performances	16,264	69,868	86,132

	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Performances	16,022	95,009	111,031
Other	-	5,325	5,325
	16,022	100,334	116,356

6. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	1,650	1,600
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner in respect of:		
All other services not included above	900	850

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

7. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2021, two Trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £423 (2020 - £351).

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Chorus Website £	Music Library £	Computer Software £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2020	23,910	43,636	1,522	69,068
Additions	8,100	2,266	-	10,366
Disposals	-	(495)	-	(495)
At 31 August 2021	32,010	45,407	1,522	78,939
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	23,910	38,731	1,522	64,163
Charge for the year	-	3,471	-	3,471
On disposals	-	(328)	-	(328)
At 31 August 2021	23,910	41,874	1,522	67,306
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	8,100	3,533	-	11,633
At 31 August 2020	-	4,905	-	4,905

9. Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Stock of music folders	390	510
Car park tokens	254	254
	644	764

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

10. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	671	8,003
Other taxation debtor	3,690	2,097
Prepayments and accrued income	19,261	4,815
	<u>23,622</u>	<u>14,915</u>

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	1,833	1,329
Friends Scheme	10,681	9,606
Music Deposits	12,445	12,175
Accruals and deferred income	36,347	4,775
	<u>61,306</u>	<u>27,885</u>

	2021 £
Movement on the balance of Friends Scheme is as follows:	
Balance at 1 September 2020	9,606
Fundraising activities	1,116
Gift aid tax refund	663
Amounts spent	(704)
	<u>10,681</u>

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	65,789	31,191	(69,988)	(7,893)	(167)	18,932
Restricted funds						
Restricted Funds - all funds	(8,203)	16,574	(16,264)	7,893	-	-
Total of funds	57,586	47,765	(86,252)	-	(167)	18,932

The restricted funds includes donations made for specific purposes and the associated spend. These include support for the Spitalfields concert, purchase of masks with the LSC logo for this concert, LSC Friends purchase of the Chorus Zoom licence, Endowment fund support for compensation payments made to the Music Team and support for social activity.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds - all funds	89,750	76,933	(100,894)	65,789
Restricted funds				
Restricted Funds - all funds	(8,307)	16,126	(16,022)	(8,203)
Total of funds	81,443	93,059	(116,916)	57,586

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
General funds	65,789	31,191	(69,988)	(7,893)	(167)	18,932
Restricted funds	(8,203)	16,574	(16,264)	7,893	-	-
	<u>57,586</u>	<u>47,765</u>	<u>(86,252)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(167)</u>	<u>18,932</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
General funds	89,750	76,933	(100,894)	65,789
Restricted funds	(8,307)	16,126	(16,022)	(8,203)
	<u>81,443</u>	<u>93,059</u>	<u>(116,916)</u>	<u>57,586</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	11,633	11,633
Current assets	68,605	68,605
Creditors due within one year	(61,306)	(61,306)
Total	<u>18,932</u>	<u>18,932</u>

The London Symphony Chorus
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Restricted funds 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	4,905	4,905
Current assets	(8,203)	88,769	80,566
Creditors due within one year	-	(27,885)	(27,885)
Total	(8,203)	65,789	57,586

15. Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 August 2021 grants totalling £59,000 (2020: £15,688) were received from The London Symphony Chorus Endowment Fund.

16. Covid-19

At the time of signing the accounts the Trustees are aware of the potential economic and social effects of the Covid-19 virus outbreak. The full impact of the pandemic on the UK economy is yet to be seen, but the Charity will continue to seek to mitigate this risk by following the UK Government's guidelines and adapting/developing its own internal strategy.