

Cirencester Choral Society

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st May 2024

Charity No 276649

Cirencester Choral Society

Year ended 31st May 2024

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 6 and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards.

Objectives and Activities for the public benefit

The objects of the Society are to advance the education and appreciation of music and to offer access to the work of both established and developing composers and artists through the performance of choral works and other musical activities.

Achievements and performance

Having regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, the Trustees aim to maintain membership numbers to raise sufficient funds to enable the hiring of professional orchestras and soloists while keeping the prices of concert tickets affordable. Three public concerts were performed in 2023-24: one with a quartet of professional soloists and baroque orchestra in December 2023; one a Christmas concert in support of local charities and giving a young local oboist an opportunity to perform in public, and one in May 2024 involving a professional baritone soloist and organist.

Grant Making policy

The Society does not normally make grants. However, the Society may perform Christmas concerts with profits designated to support local charities. All other income is applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Society as stated above.

Financial review

The general running of the Society, including income from members' subscriptions, donations and fund-raising activities and the costs of weekly rehearsals, gave rise to a net surplus of £5,335 (2022-23 surplus £7,150, though the latter additionally included 2021-22 Gift Aid of £2,603). The positive surplus reflects the generally applied policy of planning for surpluses in the day-to-day running of the Society to offset some concert costs, thereby helping to keep concert ticket prices at an affordable level and maintain good audiences.

As part of the annual planning process, the Trustees consider carefully the costs associated with the proposed concert programmes, taking account of the level of funds brought forward and the Society's Reserve Policy. While reserves may be allowed to rise or fall in any year depending on the nature of the concert programmes performed, over the medium term the Society seeks to maintain a reserve equivalent approximately to half a year's income. As anticipated, the Society this year made a net loss on concerts, amounting to £1,401, less than the loss in 2022-23 (£3,438) as only a single soloist was required for the concert of songs performed in May 2024.

The overall surplus achieved was thus £3,933 (2022-23 surplus £3,712), raising the accumulated surplus carried forward into next year to £20,644 (2023: £16,712). This increase in available funds has enabled the Society to budget for an overall loss in 2024-25 with a programme of two orchestra-accompanied concerts. All of the Society's funds at 31st May 2024 were unrestricted.

The Society is grateful for a grant from the Josephine Baker Trust towards the expenses associated with engaging vocal soloists from the Royal College of Music for the December 2023 concert, a donation from a local business to help offset increases in concert costs, and a memorial donation in respect of a former member.

Investment policy

The trustees do not normally hold large surplus funds and consider that long term investment would not be appropriate. Short term surplus funds are held on deposit.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems are in place to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to six months' normal running costs.

Plans for the future

The Society is planning two orchestra-accompanied concerts with professional soloists for the 2024-25 season: one in November and one in May.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Cirencester Choral Society was founded in 1863 and became a registered charity in 1978 (Charity No 276649). The charity is governed by the amended 2012 Governing Rules.

Trustees - Officers

The Officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator who shall be Members and who shall be elected for a period of one year by other Members present at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees – Managing Committee

The Managing Committee shall consist of the Officers and up to seven Ordinary Members of the Managing Committee who shall be Members and who shall be elected for a period of one year by other Members present at the Annual General Meeting. Ordinary members of the Managing Committee in post shall be eligible for re-election at subsequent Annual General Meetings and may serve for three consecutive years before retiring from the Managing Committee for at least one year.

The trustees normally meet formally at least three times during the year. They keep the skill requirements of the Committee under review and may co-opt a member with particular skills until the next AGM when they will offer themselves for election. The Chairman ensures that new trustees are given appropriate training.

Over the year the trustees held three meetings in August, December and May and remained in close contact via e-mail throughout the year.

Reference and Administration

The Trustees who served during the year are as follows:

Officers

Julia Hasler	Chair
Andrew Crane	Treasurer
Sarah Powell	Secretary
Ros Ivison	Communications and marketing (from 3/10/23)
Victoria Summerley	Communications and Marketing (until 3/10/23)
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Role undertaken by ex-trustee member</i>

Committee members

Robert Merrill
Mary Simpson

Cirencester Choral Society

Year ended 31st May 2024

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015 and the provisions of the constitution.

The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the Charity Commission website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Julia Hasler Chair

Date: 1st October 2024

Cirencester Choral Society
Year ended 31st May 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Cirencester Choral Society**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st May 2024, which are set out on pages 5 and 6.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes 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 the seeking of 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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

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 s130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

David S Murray
Chartered Accountant
2 Sawyer Court
Upper Siddington
Cirencester
Gloucestershire

Signed:



Date:

11th September 2024

Cirencester Choral Society
Year ended 31st May 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	<u>2023-24</u> <u>(£)</u>	<u>2022-23</u> <u>(£)</u>
Membership fee income:		
Members' subscriptions	12,455	12,025
Income tax refunds	2,628	5,119
	<u>15,083</u>	<u>17,144</u>
Concert Receipts:		
Ticket & programme income	11,626	6,750
Refreshment sales	262	-
Grants/donations	846	1,268
	<u>12,734</u>	<u>8,018</u>
Misc. income:		
Summer Extension	712	1428
Bring and buy	10	-
Donations	428	165
Bank interest	217	30
Social events	76	62
Refreshments	270	269
Music/scarf sales	279	-
	<u>1,993</u>	<u>526</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>29,809</u>	<u>27,116</u>
Society running costs:		
Rehearsal costs (incl venue, professional fees)	9,990	9,404
Summer Extension	592	1,338
Subscriptions and donations	301	278
Insurance	283	269
Refreshment costs	80	57
Sundry running costs	195	303
Depreciation	300	300
	<u>11,741</u>	<u>11,948</u>
Concert expenses:		
Orchestra, soloists, conductor, music etc	9,489	9,758
Venue hire	1,804	1,159
Publicity, tickets, programme, refreshments	1,168	381
Performing rights	436	158
First Aid provision	492	-
Transfer of Christmas profit	747	-
	<u>14,135</u>	<u>11,455</u>
Total resources expended	<u>25,876</u>	<u>23,403</u>
Net incoming /(outgoing) resources	<u>3,933</u>	<u>3,712</u>
Funds brought forward at start of year	16,712	13,000
Funds carried forward at end of year	<u>20,644</u>	<u>16,712</u>

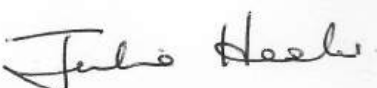
Cirencester Choral Society

Year ended 31st May 2024

Balance Sheet

	<u>31/5/2024</u>	<u>31/5/2023</u>
	<u>(£)</u>	<u>(£)</u>
Fixed assets (staging & piano):		
At cost	3,000	13,244
Additions/(Disposals)	-	(10,244)
Total cost	3,000	3,000
Transfer from designated fund	-	-
Depreciation	(2,400)	(2,100)
	<u>600</u>	<u>900</u>
Current assets:		
Debtors	2,835	5,469
Cash at bank and in hand	18,417	12,021
	<u>21,252</u>	<u>17,490</u>
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(1,208)	(1,678)
Net current assets	20,044	15,812
Total assets less liabilities	20,644	16,712
The funds of the charity:		
Unrestricted	20,644	16,712
Restricted	-	-
Total charity funds	20,644	16,712

Approved by the Committee on 13 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Julia Hasler (Chair): 

Andrew Crane (Treasurer): 

Notes to Accounts

1. Accounting Policies
 - a) Basis of Accounting: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.
 - b) Turnover: Subscriptions are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account when received. All other income is credited in the period to which it relates.
2. Taxation

Cirencester Choral Society is a Registered Charity and is not liable to taxation.

Cirencester Choral Society

Year ended 31st May 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 276649

Correspondence Address: The Old School
Coates
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6NN

Independent Examiner: David S Murray
2 Sawyer Court
Upper Siddington
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6NB

Bankers: Barclays Bank Plc
28 Market Place
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GL7 2NP