

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

England & Wales · Charity number 277544

Details

Other names	THE HILL SINGERS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1979-04-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	31 Meadow Place London SW8 1XZ
Phone	07984440849
Email	trustees@northlondonchorus.org
Website	www.northlondonchorus.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE IMPROVE DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN APPRECIATION OF AND EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC (AND IN PARTICULAR THE COMMUNITY OF HIGHGATE, FINCHLEY AND MUSWELL HILL) IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC AND IN PARTICULAR OF CHORAL MUSIC BY THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS AND RECITALS TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD, THE HOLDING OF WORKSHOPS AND BY SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES AS THE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: Per the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED - IN PRACTICE HIGHGATE AND THE VICINITY
- Haringey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£49,813	£46,168	-	-
2024-08-31	£50,421	£54,094	-	-
2023-08-31	£47,788	£45,604	-	-
2022-08-31	£31,063	£39,174	-	-
2021-08-31	£23,332	£17,028	-	-
2020-08-31	£35,188	£29,332	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gary Bilkus	Chair	2017-05-01
ALAN GRAHAM CHANDLER FCCA		
Allan Shaun Davies		2020-12-10
Chloe Bedford		2026-01-22
David Hastings		2024-12-12
Megan Greene		2026-01-22
Rhona Graham		2024-02-29
Tessa Padel		2023-01-26
Tim Lutton		2024-02-29
Wilhelm Skogstad		2026-01-22

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 277544

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2025

Registered Charity No. 277544

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Aug 2025

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: North London Chorus

Registered Charity Number: 277544

Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

Trustees & Elected Committee Members: Gary Bilkus (Chair), Alison Salisbury (Hon Secretary), Alan Chandler (Hon Treasurer), Viv Canter, Shaun Davies, Rhona Graham, Tim Lutton, Tessa Padel, David Stone - all for the full year, and Dave Hastings from 12/12/2024

Co-opted Committee Members: None

Musical Director: Murray Hipkin (also present at Committee)

Committee Members for part of choir year now resigned: Lucy Ellis (to 12/12/2024)

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Rachel Eden FCMA, Holy Brook Accountants

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution as amended 25th January 2018

Organisational Structure

The Chorus is managed by a committee as detailed above. All members of the Committee are elected by the Chorus at its Annual General Meeting and hold office until the following AGM. All Committee members offer their services on a voluntary basis. The Chorus employs no staff but contracts for the services of the Musical Director and Accompanist. The Chorus is not connected to other charities. New Trustees / Elected Committee Members are recruited within the ranks of the choir and are encouraged to stand for Committee at the AGM. According to the Constitution, a maximum of 6 out of 10 Committee Members can remain without standing for re-election the following year. This encourages rotation of membership and "new blood" within the ranks of the Committee. All elected Committee members are Trustees also.

Objectives and Activities

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Chorus relies on income subscriptions to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of subscriptions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Chorus for those on low incomes and in these circumstances reduced subscriptions are available.

North London Chorus is a Public Benefit Entity and as such is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops and concert attendance. To this end, a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. More specific details of our activities, which benefit the public, can be found in our Musical Director's and Chair's reports.

These objectives remain the same for the coming year.

Financial Position

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 6-10 give a detailed account of the main drivers of the finances of the Chorus. In summary, we started the year with net assets of £4,822 and ended with £8,467 making a surplus of £3,645. The Committee managed the reserves in accordance with the policy described below, through careful cost control, realistic concert budgets and contributions from outside and within the choir. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2025 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to cover other costs including unplanned emergency cancellation of concerts at short notice resulting in costs but no revenue and to fund new developments as agreed by the Trustees, from time to time. The Trustees' policy is thus to ensure normal expenditures are matched by a sufficient level of income and that an appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable the Chorus to function, to allow for unforeseen contingencies and to fund new initiatives to develop its work in accordance with its aims and objectives in a manner that does not present undue risk to the choir's financial position. The Trustees will act to increase the level of reserves where significant expenditure or increased risks are foreseen.

Chair's Annual Report

Sept 2024 – Aug 2025

It's been another very successful year for NLC. All three of our concerts were well-attended and well-received, and the Bach B Minor Mass in March was a sell-out. We also had a very successful charity collection for The Choir with No Name at that concert.

It was good to see a number of old friends and others join us for the Bach, and to note that our numbers have grown closer to our target after the deprivations of the Covid years, but we would still benefit from a few more members – basses in particular. Although our various publicity efforts have been quite effective at attracting interest, word of mouth recommendations remain the most reliable form of recruitment.

Thanks as always to Murray, not only for his ability to coax the best out of us, but also his amazing network of contacts which allows him to find such incredible talent for our soloists. Thanks also to Yvette, who continues to provide invaluable help through coaching, lessons and warm-ups.

And a very special mention for Catherine, whose 20 year anniversary as accompanist with NLC, although after the year being reported, took place before the AGM for which this report is written. We marked the occasion with her solo performance at our November 2025 concert, and a presentation of gifts acquired through generous donations by NLC members. Catherine's ability to master our repertoire in short order appears effortless, although a lot of work undoubtedly goes on behind the scenes.

And my personal thanks to my fellow committee members for making the chair's job relatively straightforward, and to everyone in NLC who has given freely of their time, especially on concert days, to ensure that we continue to thrive.

In particular, to my fellow office-holders - Alison Salisbury who is stepping down as Secretary after a long and effective tenure, and to Alan Chandler, who continues to hold things together as Treasurer and Fundraiser-in-chief.

I plan to step down as Chair no later than this time next year, as I believe the time has come for someone with a fresh perspective to take over before too long.

Gary Bilkus - Chair,
January 2026

Musical Director's Review (2024-2025 Season)

Our 2024-2025 concert season opened on 23 November with a programme of 20th century French sacred music for choir and organ. Accompanied by rising star organist George Herbert we performed Duruflé's *Requiem* and Poulenc's *Gloria*. The programme was completed by a Nadia Boulanger *Trois pièces pour orgue* which showcased the famous Harrison & Harrison at St James Church, Muswell Hill. Soprano Philippa Boyle was a late replacement for an indisposed Nadine Benjamin, and the baritone solo was sung by James Cleverton. Both the choral pieces stretched the choir technically but more than repaid the effort required to learn them in a gripping and profoundly moving performance.

Our spring concert took place on 29 March 2025 and was the third performance of Bach's *Mass in B minor* that I have conducted with North London Chorus. Accompanied by the Meridian Sinfonia on period instruments, and with an excellent quartet of soloists Eloise Irving (soprano), Martha McLorinan (mezzo-soprano), James Robinson (tenor) and James Geidt (baritone), the performance was a hugely rewarding for choir and audience. Everyone rose to the extremely high vocal demands of the piece and we were able to augment the choir with a number of former members who are no longer able to make a full commitment to the demands of the choir's rehearsal schedule, but who were delighted to take this opportunity to sing this masterpiece again.

The third and final concert of the season, which was held on 12 July, included three pieces each of which normally requires a large orchestra, but which had been skilfully reduced for a small ensemble drawn from the Meridian Sinfonia. Both Elgar's *The Music Makers* (arranged by Cole Bendall) and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (arranged by Arnold Schoenberg) featured mezzo-soprano Clare Presland, while the choir had a chance to shine in Brahms' *Schicksalslied*, as well as in the Elgar, which we had studied at a residential workshop before the pandemic but, largely because of its scale, had never before performed. All in all, the adventurous programme was a very satisfying experience for everyone who took part and was extremely well-received.

In addition to the concert programme, we also ran a one-day workshop in the spring term, with expert technical input from guest vocal consultant Sam Evans and a workshop on the *Mass in B minor* with patron Laurence Cummings. We also took the opportunity to break out into smaller groups to work on forthcoming repertoire (Elgar and Buxtehude) and for sectionals on the Bach. A good proportion of the 70 members who attended the workshop stayed on for the traditional meal and cabaret evening which rounded off a productive and enjoyable day. I also introduced the newly-formed Artistic Steering Group whose research and work, together with my reduced commitment at ENO, helped me to provide a two-year repertoire plan for the first time. While some of this remains subject to minor changes, it has helped with budgeting and maintaining artistic balance.

During the season, members enjoyed trips to *The Turn of the Screw* at English National Opera and *Whattalife!* Lucy Steven's one-woman portrait of Kathleen Ferrier at Wilton's Music Hall.

My thanks to Gary Bilkus (chair) and the rest of the committee for their tireless work, and to Catherine Borner (accompanist) and our vocal consultant Yvette Bonner whose regular coaching and teaching sessions help maintain high vocal and musical standards and provide support and positive encouragement to all our members.

Murray Hipkin - Musical Director,
January 2026

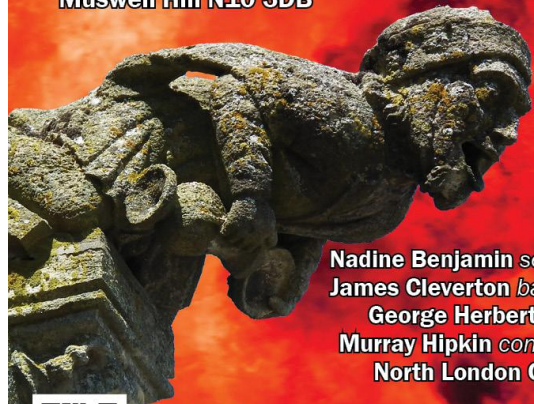


patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings OBE
musical director Murray Hipkin

Durufle Requiem Poulenc Gloria

Saturday 23 November 2024
7.30pm

St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB



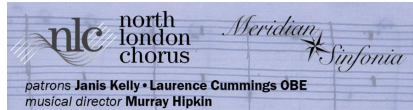
Nadine Benjamin *soprano*
James Cleverton *baritone*
George Herbert *organ*
Murray Hipkin *conductor*
North London Chorus

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
or: St James Church bookshop
£25 • £21 • £13 Concs £2 off



NIMROD CAPITAL
Goodman Jones

northlondonchorus.org
Registered charity (no. 277544)



patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings OBE
musical director Murray Hipkin

J S Bach Mass in B minor

Saturday 29 March 2025
7.30pm

St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Eloise Irving *soprano*
Martha McLorinan *mezzo-soprano*
James Robinson *tenor*
James Geidt *baritone*

Murray Hipkin *conductor*
North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia

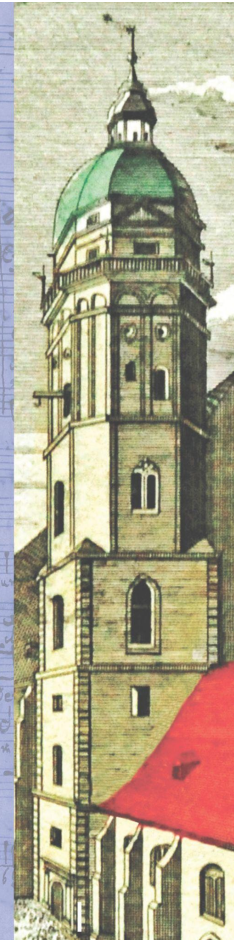
book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
or: St James Church bookshop
£26 • £22 • £14 Concs £2 off



NIMROD CAPITAL

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patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings OBE
musical director Murray Hipkin

Elgar The Music Makers Brahms Schicksalslied Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

Saturday 12 July 2025
7.30pm

St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Claire Presland *mezzo-soprano*
Murray Hipkin *conductor*
North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
or: St James Church bookshop
£25 • £21 • £13 Concs £2 off

northlondonchorus.org



NIMROD CAPITAL

Goodman Jones

Registered charity (no. 277544)



Statement of Financial Activities - Summarised

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025	2024
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	21,747	17,438
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	4,328	3,604
Total Subscriptions related income	26,075	21,042
Hall hire - rehearsals	(5,008)	(5,096)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(15,028)	(14,176)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(907)	(1,020)
Administration & Other	(957)	(975)
Depreciation expense	(90)	(100)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	4,084	(325)
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	20,083	18,896
Concert-specific funding	-	7,500
Professional fees - concerts	(17,215)	(23,808)
Instrument & music hire	(877)	(1,350)
Concert venue costs	(3,115)	(2,850)
Flowers	(275)	(350)
Printing & publicity	(1,431)	(1,827)
Concert - other costs	(1,266)	(2,542)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(4,094)	(6,331)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	439	116
Other income incl. coffee & raffles	1,362	976
Annual sponsorship	1,500	1,500
Friends of NLC Revenue	355	390
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	3,655	2,982
Total surplus / (deficit)	3,645	(3,674)

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2024.

We made a surplus this year of £3,645 which can be broadly summarised as follows - we invested in our three concerts which made approximately the following surpluses / deficits - Winter 2024 (+£2,200), Spring 2025 (-£3,100), Summer 2025 (-£3,450) funded with net inflows (income less non-concert expenses) of around £8,000. A key element of our surplus this year was driven by an increase in the number of singers, following a recruitment drive, which generated an increase in subscriptions related income.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £46,168. Of that amount £21,990 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £24,178 on concerts. Income during the year was £49,813. Of this, £26,075 was from subscriptions related income, £20,083 from concerts and £3,655 from fundraising and sponsorship. £4,328 of Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant was included within the subscriptions related income; all relevant Gift Aid had been claimed from HMRC by the year end.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultant.

Administration costs include £353 for the costs of accounting software, a fee of £300 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, as well as a range of other smaller expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation of £90 represents the annual allocation of the cost of our assets (lighting and a set of folding chairs), spread over their estimated periods of use.

Of the £20,083 concert revenues for this year, £17,378 was generated from ticket sales, £1,237 from programme sales, £610 from programme advertising revenue and £859 from the bar.

The majority of the £17,215 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£9,940) and soloists (£3,400). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar.

Other donations of £439 represent smaller one-off donations and also NLC's participation in the Easy Fundraising scheme. The Friends of NLC initiative brought in net revenue of £355. The tea break at choir rehearsals generated £1,362 over the choir year. The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,500 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital.

Balance Sheet - Summarised

North London Chorus

As at 31 August 2025

	31 AUG 2025	31 AUG 2024
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	190	80
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	10,697	6,160
Amounts recoverable by NLC	898	1,323
Total Current Assets	11,595	7,483
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	3,318	2,741
Net Assets	8,467	4,822
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	4,822	8,495
Current Year Earnings	3,645	(3,674)
Total Reserves	8,467	4,822

Approved by the Committee on 7th October 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)
Treasurer

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2025.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns lighting a set of folding chairs. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC of £898 relate to small amounts owed to NLC at the year end: £500 owing for sponsorship, £323 owed by the members for scores purchased for the Winter 2025 concert, and £75 representing the deposit we hold with St James Church.

Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £3,318 mostly relates to funds raised for the November 2025 concert (£2,500), as well as profit on annual weekend workshop which is allocated towards the next one (£495), an accrual for the Independent Examination (£300) and subscriptions paid by members in advance of the new choir year (£23).

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2025 of £8,467 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. There have been no changes in approach compared to last year.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b) Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d) Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a) Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost. The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b) Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3. Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted.

4. Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner's fees were £300.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Fixed Assets

Details	Year purchased	Cost or valuation b/f	Additions	Total cost	Accumulated depreciation brought fwd	Net book value at start year	Depreciation in year (straight line basis)	Accumulated depreciation carried fwd	Net book value at year end
Lighting	2023	£159.98	£0.00	£159.98	£80.00	£79.98	£40.00	£120.00	£39.98
Folding chairs	2024	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£150.00
Total		159.98	£200.00	£359.98	£80.00	£70.98	£90.00	£170.00	£189.98

6. Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7. Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9. Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b) Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c) Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions that require disclosure in the reporting period other than £98 of donations received without conditions.



Report to the trustees	North London Chorus		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st August 2025	Charity no	277544
	Set out on page 11		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed:  **Date:** 2nd June 2026

Name: Rachel Eden

Relevant professional qualification: Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: Holy Brook Associates Ltd,
Thames Tower, Station Rd, Reading RG1 1LX

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 277544

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2024

Registered Charity No. 277544

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Reference and Administration details

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Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

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Co-opted Committee Members: None

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Committee Members for part of choir year now resigned: Kate Hodgkin (to 29/02/2024)

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Independent Examiner: Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Limited

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Chair's Annual Report

Sept 2023 – Aug 2024

I am pleased to be able to report another very successful year for the Chorus.

We sang fairly traditional fare centred around the Bach *Magnificat* in November, but both of our other concerts were much more unusual. Our Verdi *Requiem* in the summer played with reduced orchestral accompaniment proved that it can enthuse an audience even without the massed ranks and correspondingly large venue usually required. And our performance of *The Prison* by Ethel Smyth in the Spring showed that we are able to champion and do justice to less well-known works by unfairly neglected composers. Our particular thanks to the Foyle Foundation and the Vaughan Williams Foundation whose generous grants made it possible to put on this challenging work. And our thanks also to Chris Hopkins for his brilliant work in the summer term preparing us and conducting the Verdi in Murray's absence.

I am very pleased to note that the uncertainty surrounding the future of the ENO and Murray's contract has been largely resolved, and in a somewhat more positive way than originally seemed likely. Murray has a new permanent (albeit seasonal) contract with ENO and no longer has to consider leaving London.

Once again, we held a well-attended non-residential Weekend Workshop in February, and we now expect to continue the format in future years unless the costs in real-terms of a weekend away return to a more affordable level.

The various efforts spearheaded by the committee to improve our marketing and publicity have borne fruit, and although we still have significant gaps in the lower voices, we are now more or less full in the Soprano and Alto sections.

Our online presence in particular has significantly improved, due partly to some technical fixes to the way search engines index our website, but mainly to the more enthusiastic use of social media. My thanks to everyone who has made the effort to keep our name visible, whether physically or virtually.

It goes without saying that we can only function effectively as a choir through the amazing voluntary efforts of our members, whether or not they are on the committee. The hard work of all those involved in everything from weekly teas to concert management, membership liaison to programme production, technology, accounting and administration is much appreciated, not only by myself as Chair, but I'm sure by everyone in NLC. There are far too many to mention by name.

But as always, particular thanks to our professionals: Murray, Catherine and Yvette, and also, for the last time, to Mark who was our first vocal consultant, and played a vital part in supporting our level of musical attainment. We wish him well and hope to see him at future events.

Gary Bilkus - Chair,
November 2024

Musical Director's Review (2023-2024 Season)

Our 2023-2024 season opened with a concert of baroque masterpieces. The centrepiece was Bach's *Magnificat*, which we were performing for the third time since I became musical director. The choir was accompanied by the Meridian Sinfonia, playing on period instruments, and we were joined by soloists Ellie Neate, Sophie Goldrick (a last-minute replacement for an indisposed Bethan Langford), Graham Neal and Trevor Eliot Bowes. We also performed Bach's *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, an early version of the Gloria from the *Mass in B minor*. Rising star Ellie was showcased in Handel's virtuosic motet for soprano, choir and orchestra *Laudate pueri Domini*, and the programme was completed with a Bach aria for our bass soloist and a concerto grosso by Handel featuring soloists from the orchestra.

In March 2024, after a long period of planning and fundraising, we achieved the distinction of giving the first British performance for almost 20 years of Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Prison*. Thanks to generous support from the Vaughan Williams Foundation and the Foyle Foundation, as well as the regular support we receive from Nimrod Capital and Goodman Jones, we were able to realise this ambitious plan. Soloists were Rebecca Bottone and Alex Otterburn, the orchestra was the Meridian Sinfonia, and the programme was introduced by Lucy Stevens. The Smyth was framed by Beethoven *Meerstille und glückliche Fahrt* and Brahms *Nänie*. This performance was previewed and reviewed by music critic and blogger Robert Hugill.

Our summer concert was once again conducted by Chris Hopkins, to allow me to fulfil a second contract conducting at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton. The programme was Verdi *Requiem*, performed in a relatively new chamber version for piano (featuring our accompanist Catherine Borner), timpani, bass drum, horn, double bass and marimba. Soloists Philippa Boyle, Sophie Goldrick, Ruairi Bowen and Frederick Long joined the choir for a sell-out performance of this new take on a well-known masterpiece, to great acclaim. The concert was preceded by a special "come-and-sing" event as part of a series of "playdays" with the Orchestra of the City, and four soloists Elinor Rolfe-Johnson, Sophie Goldrick, Ben Thapa and Armand Rabot. Chris conducted.

In addition to the concert programme, we also ran a weekend workshop in the spring term, with expert technical input from our two vocal consultants Yvette Bonner and Mark Oldfield. We took the opportunity to look at some non-concert repertoire, look ahead to the summer concert and hold extra sectionals on *The Prison*. We were also delighted to welcome actor Lucy Stevens in a highly entertaining and informative performance of her one-woman show about Ethel Smyth, *Grasping the Nettle*. Members also enjoyed trips to *Iolanthe* and *The Magic Flute* at English National Opera.

All in all, it was a hugely successful season artistically. Membership remained roughly static with vacancies mostly in the bass section, so we had to boost the section with volunteer or professional guest singers at all three concerts. My thanks to Gary Bilkus (chair) and the rest of the committee, and to Catherine Borner (accompanist) and our two vocal consultants Yvette Bonner and Mark Oldfield. We said goodbye to Mark at the end of the summer term and marked his departure with a presentation at his last rehearsal.

Murray Hipkin - Musical Director,
November 2024




Patrons Janis Kelly · Laurence Cummings
Musical Director Murray Hipkin

JS Bach Magnificat in D

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Handel Laudate pueri

Saturday 25 November 2023
7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Ellie Neate *soprano*
 Bethan Langford *mezzo-soprano*
 Graham Neal *tenor*
 Trevor Eliot Bowes *bass*
 Murray Hipkin *conductor*



North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
with period instruments

Book online:
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£25 · £21 · £13
 Concessions £2 reduction
 Unreserved tickets available from
 St James Church bookshop









Patrons Janis Kelly · Laurence Cummings OBE
Musical Director Murray Hipkin

Ethel Smyth The Prison

Brahms Nanie
Beethoven Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt

Saturday 16 March 2024
7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Rebecca Bottone *soprano*
 Alex Otterburn *baritone*
 Murray Hipkin *conductor*

North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia



Book online:
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£25 · £21 · £13
 Concessions £2 reduction
 Unreserved tickets available from
 St James Church bookshop







northlondonchorus.org
North London Chorus is a registered charity (no. 277544)




patrons Janis Kelly · Laurence Cummings OBE
musical director Murray Hipkin

Verdi



Requiem

Arranged for small ensemble by
Michael Betzner-Brandt

Saturday 22 June 2024
7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Philippa Boyle *soprano*
 Sophie Goldrick *mezzo-soprano*
 Ruairi Bowen *tenor*
 Frederick Long *bass-baritone*
 Chris Hopkins *conductor*
North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia


book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
or: St James Church bookshop
£25 · £21 · £13 Concs £2 off




northlondonchorus.org
Registered charity (no. 277544)

Statement of Financial Activities - Summarised

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	17,438	16,190
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	3,604	3,457
Total Subscriptions related income	21,042	19,647
Hall hire - rehearsals	(5,096)	(4,847)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(14,176)	(13,645)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(1,020)	(713)
Administration & Other	(975)	(1,391)
Depreciation expense	(100)	(100)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(325)	(1,049)
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	18,896	19,677
Concert-specific funding	7,500	4,986
Professional fees - concerts	(23,808)	(18,665)
Instrument & music hire	(1,350)	(803)
Concert venue costs	(2,850)	(2,580)
Flowers	(350)	(400)
Printing & publicity	(1,827)	(1,465)
Concert - other costs	(2,542)	(996)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(6,331)	(246)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	116	604
Other income incl. coffee & raffles	976	954
Annual sponsorship	1,500	1,500
Friends of NLC Revenue	390	420
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	2,982	3,478
Total surplus / (deficit)	(3,674)	2,183

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2024.

We made a deficit this year of £3,674 which can be broadly summarised as follows - we invested in our three concerts which made approximately the following deficits - Winter 2023 (£3,000), Spring 2024 (£3,000), Summer 2024 (£500) funded with net inflows (income less non-concert expenses) of around £2,850 and reserves from previous years.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £54,094. Of that amount £21,367 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £32,727 on concerts. Income during the year was £50,421. Of this, £21,042 was from subscriptions related income, £26,396 from concerts and concert-specific funding and £2,982 from fundraising and sponsorship. £3,604 of Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant was included within the subscriptions related income; all relevant Gift Aid had been claimed from HMRC by the year end.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultants.

Administration costs include £321 for the costs of accounting software, a fee of £300 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, as well as a range of other smaller expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation of £100 represents the annual allocation of the cost of our assets (amplifier, transparent banner and lighting), spread over their estimated periods of use.

Of the £26,396 concert revenues for this year, £16,040 was generated from ticket sales, £1,235 from programme sales, £510 from programme advertising revenue, £1,112 from the bar and £7,500 from concert specific funding. This funding was raised specifically for the Spring 2024 concert, to support our performance of Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Prison*. We are grateful for the grants we received from the Foyle Foundation (£6,000) and the Vaughan Williams Foundation (£1,500).

The majority of the £23,808 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£16,275). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar. In addition this year, this category included the hire of folding acoustic screens, the fee for an assistant conductor who carried out sound balance work and an introduction to *The Prison* especially written and presented, all for the Spring 2024 concert and made possible by the funding we received.

Other donations of £116 relate to NLC's participation in the Easy Fundraising scheme. The Friends of NLC initiative brought in net revenue of £390. The tea break at choir rehearsals generated £976 over the choir year. The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,500 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital.

Balance Sheet - Summarised

North London Chorus As at 31 August 2024

	31 AUG 2024	31 AUG 2023
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	80	180
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	6,160	13,019
Amounts recoverable by NLC	1,323	391
Total Current Assets	7,483	13,409
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	2,741	5,094
Net Assets	4,822	8,495
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	8,495	6,312
Current Year Earnings	(3,674)	2,183
Total Reserves	4,822	8,495

Approved by the Committee on 3rd December 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)
Treasurer

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2024.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns an amplifier, a transparent banner and lighting. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC of £1,323 relate to small amounts owed to NLC at the year end - £1,248 owed by the members for scores purchased for the Winter 2024 concert, and £75 representing the deposit we hold with St James Church.

Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £2,691 mostly relates to subscriptions paid by members in advance of the new choir year (£2,363).

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2024 of £4,822 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. There have been no changes in approach compared to last year.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b) Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d) Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a) Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost. The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b) Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3. Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted apart from £7,500 which is shown on the face of the accounts as concert specific funding. This funding was raised specifically for the Spring 2024 concert, to support our performance of Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Prison*. We are grateful for the grants we received from the Foyle Foundation (£6,000) and the Vaughan Williams Foundation (£1,500).

4. Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner's fees were £300.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Fixed Assets

Details	Year purchased	Cost or valuation b/f	Additions	Total cost	Accumulated depreciation brought fwd	Net book value at start year	Depreciation in year (straight line basis)	Accumulated depreciation carried fwd	Net book value at year end
Amplifier	2020	£119.00	£0.00	£119.00	£89.25	£29.75	£29.75	£119.00	£0.00
Transparent banners	2020	£119.94	£0.00	£119.94	£89.97	£29.97	£29.97	£119.94	£0.00
Lighting	2023	£159.98	£0.00	£159.98	£40.00	£119.98	£40.00	£80.00	£79.98
Total		£398.92	£0.00	£398.92	£219.22	£179.70	£99.72	£318.94	£79.98

6. Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7. Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9. Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b) Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c) Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of North London Chorus Charity no. 277544.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 6-10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

- (1) I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.
- (2) 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.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Verdant Accountants
Chartered Certified Accountants
167 Clarence Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TX

Date: 04th December 2024

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 277544

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2023

Registered Charity No. 277544

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Aug 2023

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: North London Chorus

Registered Charity Number: 277544

Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

Trustees & Elected Committee Members: Gary Bilkus (Chair), Alison Salisbury (Hon Secretary), Alan Chandler (Hon Treasurer), Shaun Davies, Lucy Ellis, Kate Hodgkin, David Stone - all for the full year, Viv Canter and Tessa Patel from 26/01/23.

Co-opted Committee Members: None

Musical Director: Murray Hipkin (also present at Committee)

Committee Members for part of choir year: Abigail Dolan (to 20/09/22), Vicky Faure Walker (to 26/01/23)

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Limited

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution as amended 25th January 2018.

Organisational Structure

The Chorus is managed by a committee as detailed above. All members of the Committee are elected by the Chorus at its Annual General Meeting and hold office until the following AGM. All Committee members offer their services on a voluntary basis. The Chorus employs no staff but contracts for the services of the Musical Director and Accompanist. The Chorus is not connected to other charities. New Trustees / Elected Committee Members are recruited within the ranks of the choir and are encouraged to stand for Committee at the AGM. According to the Constitution, a maximum of 6 out of 10 Committee Members can remain without standing for re-election the following year. This encourages rotation of membership and "new blood" within the ranks of the Committee. All elected Committee members are Trustees also.

Objectives and Activities

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Chorus relies on income subscriptions to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of subscriptions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Chorus for those on low incomes and in these circumstances reduced subscriptions are available.

North London Chorus is a Public Benefit Entity and as such is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops and concert attendance. To this end, a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. More specific details of our activities, which benefit the public, can be found in our Musical Director's and Chair's reports.

These objectives remain the same for the coming year.

Financial Position

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 6-10 give a detailed account of the main drivers of the finances of the Chorus. In summary, we started the year with net assets of £6,312 and ended with £8,495 making a surplus of £2,183. The Committee managed the reserves in accordance with the policy described below, through careful cost control, realistic concert budgets and contributions from outside and within the choir. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2023 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to cover other costs including unplanned emergency cancellation of concerts at short notice resulting in costs but no revenue and to fund new developments as agreed by the Trustees, from time to time. The Trustees' policy is thus to ensure normal expenditures are matched by a sufficient level of income and that an appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable the Chorus to function, to allow for unforeseen contingencies and to fund new initiatives to develop its work in accordance with its aims and objectives in a manner that does not present undue risk to the choir's financial position. The Trustees will act to increase the level of reserves where significant expenditure or increased risks are foreseen.

Chair's Annual Report

Sept 2022 – Aug 2023

I am pleased to be able to report a very successful year for the Chorus. Although our numbers have not yet returned to full strength, we have demonstrated our continued ability to perform not only our traditional repertoire but also larger scale and challenging works such as *A Sea Symphony*, and to attract a full and appreciative audience.

It is also nice to note that our regular venue at St James has returned to normal after the building work, although the maximum seating capacity in the full-priced central area has been reduced, and a shortage of physical chairs has caused a few headaches.

For a variety of personal reasons, I was unable to participate fully in choir activities during the Summer term, and my thanks for keeping things going in my absence go to David who stood in as Deputy Chair, as well as Shaun and Marcus, in particular on the day of the Summer concert.

My report last year mentioned the sad deaths of choir stalwarts Tony Shelton and Marian Bunzl, both of whom contributed enormously to NLC as singers, active participants and committee members and not least, in very different ways, at our annual Cabaret. The November concert was dedicated to Tony, and the July one to Marian.

On a much happier note, the March concert celebrated Murray's 20th anniversary with NLC as well as being a much delayed marking of his 60th birthday just before covid lockdown.

A major concern during the year was a consequence of the shocking news that the ENO was losing much of its funding, and as a result Murray Hipkin, our Musical Director found himself facing considerable uncertainty, and his need to find additional work meant that he was sadly unable to rehearse and conduct the Summer Concert.

We had originally hoped that this year would see the return of our traditional residential weekends, but the greatly increased costs of hotel facilities led to a decision instead to hold a non-residential weekend event, in which a full day and a half of activities in Muswell Hill in February allowed us to benefit from the same excellent musical opportunities and social environment at a much more affordable price.

With an effective committee and a largely smooth-running programme, we have been able to focus more on the challenges of effective marketing, fundraising and recruitment, with notable success, although we remain under strength in terms of number of singers, particularly in the lower voices.

My thanks, as always to the committee for its support and hard work, and to all the other members and supporters who have given freely of their time and expertise throughout the year, and especially on concert days.

And to our professionals, Musical Director Murray Hipkin, Accompanist Catherine Borner, and Yvette Bonner and Mark Oldfield, Vocal Consultants.

Gary Bilkus, Chair - February 2024

Musical Director's Review (2022/23 Season)

The 2022-23 season began with a repeat performance of one of Handel's most demanding choral pieces *Dixit Dominus*. The piece was selected in order to make the most of our soprano section (the work is in five parts) which had benefited at the start of the season from several accomplished new members.

Paired with Charpentier *Messe de minuit* it was a ideal pre-Christmas programme and I noted in my message to the choir afterwards that it felt to me as though we had finally returned to our pre-pandemic standards, each concert better than the one before. We were accompanied by the exceptional musicians of the Meridian Sinfonia, on period instruments and the concert is definitely a highlight of my tenure with the choir.

As was the spring concert, which was originally planned for my 60th birthday celebration in 2020 but which, of course, had to be postponed. Happily for me it turned into a double celebration as last spring marked my 20th anniversary with the choir. We gave a stunning performance of Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*, which had been on my bucket list for years.

Working with one of the largest orchestras we have ever engaged and with a pair of star soloists, Verity Wingate and James Cleverton, the choir rose to the occasion splendidly, and I wrote afterwards that "the whole evening was delivered with such confidence and commitment, which has been commented on by many from the audience. From the first explosion of sound to the muted cadences of the final farewells, it was a magical and moving performance..."

Musical Director's Review (2022/23 Season)

In 2023 I was appointed musical director of the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton. A clash with rehearsals for that meant that I was not available to conduct the NLC summer concert, but I am delighted to say that my place was taken by my ENO colleague Chris Hopkins, who delivered a sparkling summer concert of highlights from the world of opera and musical theatre.

Joined by three wonderful soloists and accompanied by Catherine Borner, it was a fun and entertaining evening and I am very glad that the train gods allowed me to make it to the second half. The afternoon relaxed performance was also a great success, and we were delighted to welcome members of the local community who might not otherwise have many opportunities to hear live music, including quite a few young children.

As usual, my thanks to the committee and in particular the chair Gary Bilkus and his deputy David Stone for steering the choir through this year of recovery after the traumatic events of the Covid pandemic.

Murray Hipkin - Musical Director,
February 2024

nle north london chorus
patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
musical director Murray Hipkin

Meridian Sinfonia



Handel
Dixit Dominus

Corelli
Concerto grosso in G minor
'Fatto per la Notte di Natale'

Charpentier
Messe de Minuit pour Noël

Saturday 3 December 7:30pm
St James Church, London N10 3DB

soprano Eloise Irving
soprano Susanna Fairburn
counter-tenor Iestyn Morris
tenor Ben Thapa
bass TBC
conductor Murray Hipkin
North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£25 · £21 · £13 Concs £2 off
or: Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill
or: St James Church bookshop

Registered charity (no. 277544)



nle north london chorus
patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
musical director Murray Hipkin

Meridian Sinfonia

Ralph Vaughan Williams
A Sea Symphony


Saturday 22 April 7:45pm
St James Church, London N10 3DB

Doors open 6.45pm
Bar open before and after the performance



soprano Verity Wingate
baritone James Cleverton
conductor Murray Hipkin

North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£25 · £21 · £13
Concs £2 off
or: St James Church bookshop

 VAUGHAN WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

Registered charity (no. 277544)

nle north london chorus
patrons Janis Kelly and Laurence Cummings
musical director Murray Hipkin



A Night at the Opera

Arias and choruses from favourite operas and operettas

Saturday 22 July 2023
St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10 3DB

soprano Sarah-Jane Lewis
tenor David Webb
bass-baritone/compere John Savournin
piano Catherine Borner
conductor Chris Hopkins

5-6pm relaxed performance 4.30pm refreshments £10 · U12s £1 Concs £5 off	7.30pm full performance £25 · £21 · £13 Concs £2 off
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book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
or: St James Church bookshop
northlondonchorus.org

Registered charity (no. 277544)



Statement of Financial Activities - Summarised

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	2023	2022
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	16,190	14,690
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	3,457	3,071
Total Subscriptions related income	19,647	17,761
Hall hire - rehearsals	(4,847)	(3,398)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(13,645)	(11,500)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(713)	(653)
Administration & Other	(1,391)	(2,730)
Depreciation expense	(100)	(60)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(1,049)	(578)
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	19,677	11,351
Concert-specific funding	4,986	-
Professional fees - concerts	(18,665)	(13,819)
Instrument & music hire	(803)	(1,745)
Concert venue costs	(2,580)	(2,638)
Flowers	(400)	(275)
Printing & publicity	(1,465)	(1,237)
Concert - other costs	(996)	(1,121)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(246)	(9,484)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	604	243
Other income incl. coffee & raffles	954	-
Annual sponsorship	1,500	1,250
Friends of NLC Revenue	420	458
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	3,478	1,951
Total surplus / (deficit)	2,183	(8,111)

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2023.

In summary, the main reasons we have gone from a deficit of £8,111 the previous year to a surplus of £2,183 this year are: i) more members generating more subscriptions, ii) healthier concert revenues as we dispensed with social distancing, iii) not incurring as much administration cost as there were a few one offs the previous year such as the filming of a concert video, member recruitment ads, and purchase of PPE, iv) raising concert specific funding as detailed below, v) the welcome return of the tea break at choir rehearsals generated £954 over the choir year, vi) choosing the programming carefully and so the Summer concert was less costly and actually made a surplus by itself which is quite unusual.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £45,604. Of that amount £20,695 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £24,909 on concerts. Income during the year was £47,788. Of this, £19,647 was from subscriptions related income, £24,663 from concerts and concert-specific funding and £3,478 from fundraising and sponsorship. £3,457 of Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant was included within the subscriptions related income; all relevant Gift Aid had been claimed from HMRC by the year end.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultants.

Administration costs include £300 for the costs of accounting software, a fee of £250 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, £200 in bank and card processing charges (net of interest received), as well as a range of other smaller expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation of £100 represents the annual allocation of the cost of our assets (amplifier, transparent banner and lighting), spread over their estimated periods of use.

Of the £24,663 concert revenues for this year, £16,677 was generated from ticket sales, £1,196 from programme sales, £530 from programme advertising revenue and £1,274 from the bar and £4,986 from concert specific funding. This funding was raised specifically for the Spring 2023 concert, to support our performance of Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony. We are grateful for the grant we received from the Vaughan Williams Foundation (£2,000), from a collection of donations (including gift aid) celebrating our Musical Director Murray Hipkin's 60th birthday (£2,086), and from Murray Hipkin directly (£900) to sponsor the cost of the soloists, in memory of his late father Richard Hipkin.

The majority of the £18,665 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£11,260). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar. In addition this year, this category included the hire of folding acoustic screens and the fee for an assistant conductor who carried out sound balance work, both for the Spring 2023 concert.

Other donations of £604 relate general donations from various members and friends to support the choir, nearly half of which was generated from a tabletop sale at choir rehearsals. The Friends of NLC initiative brought in net revenue of £420. The welcome return of the tea break at choir rehearsals generated £954 over the choir year. The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,500 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital.

Balance Sheet - Summarised

North London Chorus

As at 31 August 2023

	31 AUG 2023	31 AUG 2022
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	180	119
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	13,019	8,446
Amounts recoverable by NLC	391	83
Total Current Assets	13,409	8,529
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	5,094	2,336
Net Assets		
	8,495	6,312
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	6,312	14,423
Current Year Earnings	2,183	(8,111)
Total Reserves	8,495	6,312

Approved by the Committee on 19th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)
Treasurer

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2023.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns an amplifier, a transparent banner and lighting. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC of £391 relate to small amounts owed to NLC at the year end - £206 owed by the members for scores purchased for the Winter 2023 concert, £110 owed by advertisers in the concert programme, £75 representing the deposit we hold with St James Church.

Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £5,094 mostly relates to subscriptions paid by members in advance of the new choir year (£4,523) as well as regular bills yet to be paid. Most of the previous year's amount (£2,086 of £2,336) related to amounts raised for the Spring 2023 concert via Murray Hipkin's 60th birthday fund (including Gift Aid) which was then spent this year.

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2023 of £8,495 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. There have been no changes in approach compared to last year.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b) Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d) Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a) Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost.

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b) Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3. Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted apart from £4,986 which is shown on the face of the accounts as concert specific funding. This was raised specifically for the Spring 2023 concert, to support our performance of Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*. We are grateful for the grant we received from the Vaughan Williams Foundation (£2,000), from a collection of donations (including gift aid) celebrating our Musical Director Murray Hipkin's 60th birthday (£2,086), and from Murray Hipkin directly (£900) to sponsor the cost of the soloists, in memory of his late father Richard Hipkin.

4. Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner's fees were £250.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Fixed Assets

Details	Year purchased	Cost or valuation b/f	Additions	Total cost	Accumulated depreciation brought fwd	Net book value at start year	Depreciation in year (straight line basis)	Accumulated depreciation carried fwd	Net book value at year end
Amplifier	2020	£119.00	-	£119.00	£59.50	£59.50	£29.75	£89.25	£29.75
Transparent banners	2020	£119.94	£0.00	£119.94	£59.98	£59.96	£29.99	£89.97	£29.97
Lighting	2023	-	£159.98	£159.98	-	-	£40.00	£40.00	£119.98
Total		£238.94	£159.98	£398.92	£119.48	£119.46	£99.74	£219.22	£179.70

6. Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7. Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9. Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b) Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c) Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of North London Chorus Charity no. 277544.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 6-10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

- (1) I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.
- (2) 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.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Verdant Accountants
Chartered Certified Accountants
167 Clarence Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TX

Date: 30th January 2024

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 277544

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2022

Registered Charity No. 277544

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Aug 2022

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: North London Chorus

Registered Charity Number: 277544

Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

Trustees & Elected Committee Members: Gary Bilkus (Chair), Alison Salisbury (Hon Secretary), Alan Chandler (Hon Treasurer), Shaun Davies, Abigail Dolan, Lucy Ellis, Vicky Faure-Walker, Kate Hodgkin, David Stone

Co-opted Committee Members: None

Musical Director: Murray Hipkin (also present at Committee)

Committee Members for part of choir year: Judith Schott, Sue Heaney, Yoav Landau Pope, Ainsley McArthur (who all stood down at the last AGM of 2nd December 2021), Naomi Weber (to 14th January 2022)

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Limited

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution as amended 25th January 2018.

Organisational Structure

The Chorus is managed by a committee as detailed above. All members of the Committee are elected by the Chorus at its Annual General Meeting and hold office until the following AGM. All Committee members offer their services on a voluntary basis. The Chorus employs no staff but contracts for the services of the Musical Director and Accompanist. The Chorus is not connected to other charities. New Trustees / Elected Committee Members are recruited within the ranks of the choir and are encouraged to stand for Committee at the AGM. According to the Constitution, a maximum of 6 out of 10 Committee Members can remain without standing for re-election the following year. This encourages rotation of membership and "new blood" within the ranks of the Committee. All elected Committee members are Trustees also.

Objectives and Activities

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Chorus relies on income subscriptions to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of subscriptions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Chorus for those on low incomes and in these circumstances reduced subscriptions are available.

North London Chorus is a Public Benefit Entity and as such is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops and concert attendance. To this end, a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. More specific details of our activities, which benefit the public, can be found in our Musical Director's and Chair's reports.

These objectives remain the same for the coming year.

Financial Position

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 6-10 give a detailed account of the main drivers of the finances of the Chorus. In summary, we started the year with net assets of £14,423 and ended with £6,312 making a deficit of £8,111. The Committee managed the reserves in accordance with the policy described below, through careful cost control, realistic concert budgets and contributions from outside and within the choir. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2022 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to cover other costs including unplanned emergency cancellation of concerts at short notice resulting in costs but no revenue and to fund new developments as agreed by the Trustees, from time to time. The Trustees' policy is thus to ensure normal expenditures are matched by a sufficient level of income and that an appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable the Chorus to function, to allow for unforeseen contingencies and to fund new initiatives to develop its work in accordance with its aims and objectives in a manner that does not present undue risk to the choir's financial position. The Trustees will act to increase the level of reserves where significant expenditure or increased risks are foreseen.

Chair's Annual Report

Sept 2021 – Aug 2022

This was my first time in the role of NLC Chair, and I have to start with a massive thanks to Judith Schott my predecessor for her support in getting me up to speed, and for the tremendous amount of work she had put into the documentation of our processes and activities. I'd also like to thank my fellow committee members, several of whom were new to the role, and other choir members who take on the many tasks needed to keep things running smoothly.

This year saw NLC finally returning to a full schedule of activity after almost two years of Covid and the resulting limited opportunity to sing together.

Our November concert marked a welcome return to singing in public, and was a special event as it featured a collaboration with Finchley Children's Music Group under the direction of Grace Rossiter. We compensated for the need to socially distance our seating by performing two versions of the concert, an informal afternoon performance with a child-friendly atmosphere, and a more traditional evening one.

Our other concerts in March and July saw a return to our normal evening-only arrangements, and each was an enjoyable and successful event, thanks as always to Musical Director Murray Hipkin for his musical and organisational efforts.

There were of course a few challenges:

We had to deal with the disruption caused by St James' roof work, which meant that a significant portion of the church was blocked off and unavailable for audience seating, and this, combined with a degree of Covid-related reduced seating in November 2021 meant that our box-office takings throughout the year were lower than usual. I'm pleased to report that the work is now complete, although some changes to the layout inside the church has permanently robbed us of a number of seats in the central aisle.

Choir membership is significantly down as some who dropped out during the pandemic decided not to return. We have already had some success in attracting new members, thanks in particular to Lucy Ellis in publicity, and Vicky Faure-Walker in organising our new member pipeline, but we remain below strength.

And the increasing impact of the economic situation and the inflationary environment has started to make itself felt.

Nevertheless, it is clear that NLC remains a vibrant and engaged community and is well placed to move forward.

Gary Bilkus, Chair - January 2023

Postscript:

It is with sadness that I record the deaths of long-standing members Tony Shelton and Marian Bunzl after the end of the choir year, but before the AGM. It was decided to recognise their major contributions to NLC by dedicating a concert to each of them.

Musical Director's Review (2021/22 Season)

When planning our first live performance following the Covid 19 pandemic, in November 2021, the saying "necessity is the mother of invention" came to mind. I had long wanted to follow the example of ENO and the National Theatre, among others, and give an informal performance that could be enjoyed by families, people with dementia (for example) and those living with other life-changing conditions that might otherwise prevent them from enjoying live music, partly because of the artificial protocols that have built up regarding concert etiquette.

When it became clear that it would once again be possible to perform to a live audience, but with significantly reduced capacity, this seemed to me to be the obvious thing to do, so we performed our programme featuring Britten's St Nicolas and Parry's I was glad twice. Once informally, with spoken introductions and accessible printed material, then again in the evening more formally and with the addition of an extra piece, Mendelssohn's Verleih uns Frieden. The experiment was a great success - the afternoon was particularly well-supported - and I hope that it is something that we can repeat in the future.

Rehearsals were complicated by the need for a larger space, to fulfil Covid safety precautions, so we met at St James' Church for part of the term, and I am particularly grateful for the deputies who stood in for myself and of our accompanist, Catherine Borner, on occasions, as necessary.

Rehearsals for our spring concert continued at our usual rehearsal venue, Martin School, although we continued to provide streaming via Zoom for anyone who tested positive for Covid or who was shielding. The Brahms Requiem in April 2022 was a significant step in our journey back to "normality" and was well-received by our audience and much enjoyed by the choir, many of whom were singing the piece for the first time.

The season ended with a larger-scale concert of Cherubini, Bach and Mendelssohn, which, although budgeted cautiously (there was only one soloist) felt like the beginnings of a return to form, and my slightly courageous choice of two lesser-known choral pieces was vindicated by the audience reaction and the engagement of the choir's membership during rehearsals and performance.

Musical Director's Review (2021/22 Season)

Although, as the Chair remarks, membership during this season was lower than pre-pandemic levels, this was an exceptionally successful season, all things considered, and I am extremely grateful to all who made it possible.

*Murray Hipkin - Musical Director,
January 2023*

nlc north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin



Saint Nicolas
Britten
I Was Glad
Parry

Saturday 27 November 2021
5pm*
Relaxed family performance
 for those who might enjoy a less formal concert
Doors open 4.15pm • duration 70 min
St James Church
London, N10 3DB

tenor **John Findon**
 North London Chorus
 Finchley Children's Music Group
 Meridian Sinfonia
 conductors **Murray Hipkin**
 and **Grace Rossiter**

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
 £10 • conc £8 • u18s £1



**See overleaf for details of evening performance*
www.northlondonchorus.org
 NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)

nlc north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin



Saint Nicolas
Britten
I Was Glad
Parry
Verleih uns Frieden
Mendelssohn

Saturday 27 November 2021
8pm*
Doors open 7.15pm • duration 70 min
St James Church
London N10 3DB

tenor **John Findon**
 North London Chorus
 Finchley Children's Music Group
 Meridian Sinfonia
 conductors **Murray Hipkin**
 and **Grace Rossiter**

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
 £18 • £14 • £10
 conc £2 reduction



**See overleaf for details of afternoon relaxed family performance*
www.northlondonchorus.org
 NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)

nlc north london chorus
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin

Brahms
Ein deutsches Requiem

Saturday 9 April 2022 7.30pm

St James Church, London N10 3DB

soprano **Verity Wingate**
 baritone **James Cleverton**
 conductor **Murray Hipkin**
 pianos **Chris Hopkins • Catherine Borner**

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
 £23 • £19 • £11 • conc £2 reduction
 or: **Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill**
 or: **St James Church bookshop**

NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)



nlc north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin

Cherubini
Requiem in C minor
Mendelssohn
Psalm 42 Wie der Hirsch schreit
Bach
Cantata 51 Jauchzet Gott

Saturday 2 July 7:30pm
St James Church, London N10 3DB

soprano **Lucy Knight**
 trumpet **Fraser Tannock**
 conductor **Murray Hipkin**
 North London Chorus
 Meridian Sinfonia

book: northlondonchorus.org/tickets
 £23 • £19 • conc £11
 or: **Les Aldrich, Music Shop, Muswell Hill**
 or: **St James Church bookshop**

Stained glass at Norwich Cathedral by John McLean
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norwich_Cathedral,_stained_glass_window_\(48574243887\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Norwich_Cathedral,_stained_glass_window_(48574243887).jpg)
 Registered charity (no. 277544)



Statement of Financial Activities - Summarised

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2022	2021
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	14,690	16,570
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	3,071	4,701
Total Subscriptions related income	17,761	21,271
Hall hire - rehearsals	(3,398)	(1,228)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(11,500)	(9,655)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(653)	(733)
Administration & Other	(2,730)	(959)
Depreciation expense	(60)	(88)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(578)	8,608
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	11,351	-
Professional fees - concerts	(13,819)	(3,135)
Instrument & music hire	(1,745)	(150)
Concert venue costs	(2,638)	(200)
Flowers	(275)	-
Printing & publicity	(1,237)	-
Concert - other costs	(1,121)	(880)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(9,484)	(4,365)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	243	191
Annual sponsorship	1,250	1,250
Friends of NLC Revenue	458	620
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	1,951	2,061
Total surplus / (deficit)	(8,111)	6,304

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2022.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £39,174. Of that amount £18,339 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £20,835 on concerts. Income during the year was £31,063. Of this, £17,761 was from subscriptions related income, £11,351 from concerts and concert-specific funding and £1,951 from fundraising and sponsorship. £3,071 of Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant was included within the subscriptions related income; all relevant Gift Aid had been claimed from HMRC by the year end.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultants.

Administration costs include £600 for video production to be used in publicity, £452 for local advertising to recruit new members, £278 for the costs of accounting software, a fee of £250 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, and £200 to place a banner on the railings of Martin School to advertise the choir, as well as a range of other smaller expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation of £60 represents the annual allocation of the cost of our assets (amplifier and transparent banner), spread over their estimated periods of use.

Of the £11,351 concert revenues for this year, £9,513 was generated from ticket sales, £904 from programme sales, £615 from programme advertising revenue and £319 from the bar. Ticket sales were not as high as previous years (when concerts took place) as St James Church had reduced capacity due to internal building works.

The majority of the £13,819 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£7,710). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar. In addition this year, this category included a choirmaster fee and chaperone fee regarding the Finchley Children's Music Group who performed with NLC at its Winter 2021 concert.

Other donations of £243 relate general donations from various members to support the choir. The Friends of NLC initiative brought in net revenue of £458.

The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,250 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital.

Balance Sheet - Summarised

North London Chorus As at 31 August 2022

	31 AUG 2022	31 AUG 2021
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	119	179
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	8,446	13,825
Amounts recoverable by NLC	83	4,280
Total Current Assets	8,529	18,106
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	2,336	3,862
Net Assets	6,312	14,423
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	14,423	8,119
Current Year Earnings	(8,111)	6,304
Total Reserves	6,312	14,423

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2022.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns a Yamaha keyboard, some stage lighting, a conductor's stand, an amplifier and a transparent banner. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC is £83 relate to small amounts owed to NLC at the year end. The previous year's larger number contained £500 relating to sponsorship income outstanding and £3,750 for Gift Aid yet to be claimed - which were received during the financial year.

Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £2,336 are made up of £2,086 raised for a specific future concert via Murray Hipkin's 60th birthday fund (including Gift Aid) and £250 of accruals for expenses attributed to the financial year, but not billed by year end.

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2022 of £6,312 represent a sufficient level of reserves. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully as we cross into the new financial year.

Approved by the Committee on 10th January 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)
Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. There have been no changes in approach compared to last year.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b) Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d) Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a) Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost.

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b) Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3. Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted.

4. Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner's fees were £250.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Fixed Assets

Details	Year purchased	Cost or valuation b/f	Additions	Total cost	Accumulated depreciation brought fwd	Net book value at start year	Depreciation in year (straight line basis)	Accumulated depreciation carried fwd	Net book value at year end
Yamaha Keyboard	2012	£1,305		£1,305	£1,305	£0	£0	£1,305	£0
Stage lighting	2015	£182		£182	£182	£0	£0	£182	£0
Conductor's stand	2017	£112		£112	£112	£0	£0	£112	£0
Amplifier	2020	£119		£119	£30	£89	£30	£60	£59
Transparent banners	2020	£120		£120	£30	£90	£30	£60	£60
Total		£1,838	£0	£1,838	£1,659	£179	£60	£1,719	£119

6. Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7. Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9. Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b) Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c) Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of North London Chorus Charity no. 277544.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 6-10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

- (1) I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.
- (2) 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.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Verdant Accountants
Chartered Certified Accountants
167 Clarence Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TX

Date: 16th January 2023