

## Gravesham Choral Society reports for the 2022-2023 season

### Music Director's report

Our first concert since the last AGM was on 12 November 2022 at our regular venue, St George's Church, Gravesend. It was a great success although the first half was a challenging one with Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* having to be sung in Hebrew and the need to master some tricky rhythms in Chilcott's *Nidaros Jazz Mass*. The Bernstein was performed in the version for small ensemble featuring Malcolm Riley – organ, Hannah Runting – harp and Jonathan Vincent – percussion. Our treble soloist was Dominic Stone. Roger Harris was at the piano for the Chilcott.

We were on much more familiar ground after the interval with Fauré's *Requiem*. The soloists were Emily Jennings – soprano and Jack Holton – baritone accompanied Malcolm on the organ and Hannah, harp.

The programme for our 14 December Carol Concert was the same as the one we sadly had to cancel in 2021 owing to the pandemic. Malcolm accompanied on organ or piano as required and contributed a lively and uplifting solo item. At Alison Harding's request, the concert included my setting of *A spotless rose* which I had dedicated to her late husband, John.

Entitled *Magnificent Mozart*, our 22 April 2023 concert featured two of the composer's late, great works: his *Symphony No. 41*, known as '*Jupiter*' and the *Great Mass in C Minor*. The latter, scored for soloists, chorus and orchestra, remained uncompleted, but is a significant masterpiece, nevertheless. Our soloists were Emily Jennings – soprano, Helen Lacey – soprano, Alexander Maclaren – tenor and Adam Jarman – bass.

I stupidly tripped on a raised paving stone and 'had a fall' just before the dress rehearsal for our 24 June 2023 performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* at St George's Church. I had to be taken to hospital and, by sheer chance, a vacant ambulance happened to be close by to take me there. Happily, Malcolm Riley and Roger Harris were booked to accompany *Carmina* in the version for two pianos, so that, in my absence, Malcolm (a vastly experienced conductor) wielded the baton with Roger at the piano. Although I missed Soprano Laure Meloy's and baritone Simon Thorpe's lovely solos and duets before the interval, I made it to the concert in time to enjoy a fine performance of *Carmina* in the second half.

Thus far rehearsals for our 18 November 2023 concert are proceeding well. Rutter's *Birthday Madrigals* are proving fairly challenging as their lighter style is less familiar to many. But we'll get there in time!

**Alan Vincent**

**Music Director, 6 October 2023**

### Chairman's report

This was our first full season since the advent of Covid - no concert cancellations and weekly rehearsals as usual! We continue to have a healthy membership who enjoy a varied programme with plenty of musical challenge. We know how fortunate we are to have Alan as our inspirational maestro, weaving his magic to bring us to performance standard whilst enabling us to have fun. We are also lucky to have Roger as our accompanist. He knows how to bolster our efforts especially when learning tricky passages. Together Alan and Roger make a dream team, second to none.



The committee continue to work together to ensure that our choral society thrives and to enable future generations of singers can enjoy singing the fabulous range of both sacred and secular music we perform. With the increase in popularity of 'community choirs' such as *Rock Choir* and the *Big Sing*, I believe it is imperative that those who enjoy our brand of music have the opportunity to sing big works. There must be lots of people like me who cannot manage without a score in front of them! We are also blessed to have so many members who are happy to volunteer their skills, time and partners to help the society with tasks big and small.

We started the 22/23 season in September with a highly successful and enjoyable Bob Chilcott day. This attracted singers from other choirs as well as our own members. We had a good lunch in the church hall and people appreciated the chance to chat. It gave an opportunity to show that GCS is a friendly and welcoming group of singers but sadly, visitors were unable to commit more time to joining another choir. A big 'thank you' to all those involved in organising and running the day.

22/23 seems to have been a year of cataracts and new hips and we are pleased to see members coming back to rehearsals after various procedures looking hale and hearty.

### Changes

This season we have had the following changes:

- Lisa as secretary, following the retirement of Sheila Buchanan
- Julia as our new social secretary
- Leonie as 'front of house', a new role after the retirement of Gwyneth and Mike Charles. Leonie successfully recruited a team of people, including husbands, to assist.
- A publicity/marketing group focused on making the most of the opportunities available in order to let the world know what a great choir we are.

### Thank you to the following for their work in 2022/23:

- Chris Chare, our treasurer, a role that is vitally important, especially bearing in mind our charitable status.
- Martin Hann, our librarian and keeper of the eraser, who ensures scores are returned, often in a better state than that received from the hirer!
- Steve Doerr who organises ticket sales and prepares the programme for the printers
- Lisa Behague who has expanded the role of website design and maintenance as well as her secretarial role
- Lynne Rumsey, who takes responsibility for opening the church, liaising with the concert venue and collecting the keys, organising the church furniture and seating at concerts
- Jill Beety, who arranges floral and other gifts for concerts and has liaised with our graphic designer and the printing company to produce flyers and posters
- Mike Hickie, our membership secretary
- Alison Smith, who engages the orchestral players for our concerts
- Maureen Dorrell, who looks after the Friends of GCS
- Elspeth Southward, who liaises with the school and the church to arrange bookings
- Julia Davies, for organising our enjoyable end of term socials

Lastly, we say thanks for the many years of service to GCS to those committee members who are standing down from the committee at the 2023 AGM – Jill Beety, Chris Chare, Doreen Grierson and Martin Hann.



They will all remain members of the choir with Martin continuing as our valued librarian and Jill as part of the publicity group.

I thank both committee and non-committee members wholeheartedly for their continued support and desire to make our society enjoyable for all. To members who continue to turn up every week, often having done their homework in preparation, I thank you for your commitment. Without you we would not have such a successful choral society – something that needs to be preserved for future generations of singers.

A special vote of thanks to all for the summer concert. We were so fortunate that Malcolm was able to step in to the conductor's shoes to deliver a stirring rendition of Carmina Burana. Fortunately, Alan arrived just in time to hear the concert and the fruits of his labour. Roger was also able to play the two piano parts simultaneously, other than the duet passages, as he has done so brilliantly throughout our practices. Within minutes a solution had been reached and everyone worked together to pull off a memorable performance and a fitting end to the 22/23 season.

Jan Blease

Chairman, 23 October 2023

### Treasurer's report for the Year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Welcome to a more stable year after the strangeness with the coronavirus although still with us as we draw our season to a close. We now look forward to a hopefully to a brighter future with a concert in November and a single Christmas Concert. I think we have recovered a bit with the membership with some returning and new members as well for which we give thanks.

We made a loss over the year of £10,405.72 which is hidden by the bequest payment received. £-14,363.10). At the start of the season our bank balances were £24,502.46 and they have now increased to £55,790.38. The bequest from the late Robert Scott has seen us through the year with a final payment of £41,693.94. Making a total payment to us of £61,593.94. We have spent some of this money on assets for the Society and funding the Bob Chilcott singing day in September 2022. Please see the summary of the bequest in your papers.

**Subscriptions:** These have been in place with the rates about the same for some years with Autumn and spring at £55 and £25. The new season Sept 23 new rates have been implemented as you are by now aware.

**Other sources of funds included: -**

	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2021 /</u> <u>2022</u>	
Music Purchase or Hire	110.03	-29	Martin Hann
Bonus Ball Residual	0	46	Valerie Galliers
Sponsors - Orchestral	0	500	Alison Smith
Sponsors - Others	0	300	Various
Donations (overpaid subs)	0	75	Various

**Expenditure:** The usual expenditure has been incurred in paying for our musicians, with an increase of £20 in the rate paid. The concerts being in St George’s has reduced the space to accommodate musicians. Like most things these days they cost more. We are very lucky as the bequest has meant we have a cushion to absorb some increases. However, the committee needs to be vigilant and make wise decisions for Society as a whole. I hope that over my tenure as Treasurer I have done this. It certainly saved the day during the Covid crisis.

I wish to thank the committee members who have helped me and members who have ensured we have been successful in what we do, providing a good standard of music for all. I am now standing down as Treasurer and am very grateful to Anne Streatfeild who is now taking over. With best wishes for the future. I will continue to be a member of the choir without the responsibility I have had for 20 years.

These accounts have not been examined due to the constraints of time in their preparation. My problems with my eyes since May impacted upon my ability to see the paperwork. When this has been done, a meeting will be arranged for their formal approval. Thank you.

**Christopher Chare**  
**GCS Hon Treasurer, 23 October 2023**



## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Gravesham Choral Society Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gravesham Choral Society for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:

Name: Kacey Leigh

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 2 Thalia Way, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1FY

Date: 5 June 2024



**Kacey Leigh**

**Business Operations Manager  
Data Protection Officer**

*Northfleet School for Girls*

### Get in touch

[k.leigh@nsfg.org.uk](mailto:k.leigh@nsfg.org.uk)  
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ  
01474 831020

 [nsfg.org.uk](https://nsfg.org.uk)  
 [@NorthfleetGirls](https://www.facebook.com/NorthfleetGirls)  
 [@northfleetschoolforgirls](https://www.instagram.com/northfleetschoolforgirls)  
 [@nsfgofficial](https://twitter.com/nsfgofficial)

# GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

## Receipts and Payment account 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

	2022/2023	2021/2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	9,355.00	5,050.00
Friends	978.00	0.00
Bob Chilcott	989.28	551.60
Members Sale/ Hire of Music	1,321.50	1,625.50
Fundraising	13.30	121.00
Other Income (inc interest, & Gift Aid 0.00)	578.27	78.40
<u>Concert Income</u>		
Tickets	4,466.96	1,293.07
Programmes	256.10	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00
Rochester Orchestral Sponsorship	0.00	500.00
Other Sponsorship	0.00	300.00
Bequest (Robert Scott)	41,693.94	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>59,652.35</u>	<u>9,519.57</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Expenses	125.00	915.00
MD's Expenses	3,629.40	2,139.83
Accompanist	2,320.00	1,970.00
Purchase of music (prepay 2023/4 £619.87) +++++	1,831.34	1,654.81
Fundraising	0.00	0.00
Rehearsal Venue	1,700.00	1,450.00
Subscriptions	239.00	295.00
Other Costs	2,503.71	2,643.45
Chilcott Day expenses	1,820.57	
<u>Concert Costs</u>		
Music Director	3,300.00	2,025.00
Soloists	2,300.00	2,260.00
Orchestra	5,830.00	6,495.00
Orchestral Scores	161.35	708.20
Printing Progs & Posters	749.58	137.78
Hire/tspt Instruments	910.00	313.60
Venue & Staging	800.00	700.00
Gifts for Artistes	144.48	175.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>28,364.43</u>	<u>23,882.67</u>
Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year	<b>31,287.92</b>	<b>-14,363.10</b>
Bank Account & cash at 1 September	24,502.46	38,865.56
Bank accounts & cash to date	<u>55,790.38</u>	<u>24,502.46</u>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/08/23

### Monetary Assets

Shawbrook 60 Day Dep a/c	10,560.56	10494.96
Deposit Account CAFCash	45,114.82	13989.90
Cash in hand	115.00	17.60
<b>Total</b>	<u>55,790.38</u>	<u>24502.46</u>

Debtors (Gift Aid)	0.00	0.00
Liabilities - None	0.00	0.00
<b>Asset: Keyboard Purchase value 05/12/21.</b>	1,823.00	<b>1823.00</b>
<b>Asset: Wine glasses &amp; Crates</b>	188.24	<b>188.24</b>
Podium revamp with handrails	660.00	
<b>Asset: New Music stand</b>	505.58	



## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Gravesham Choral Society Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gravesham Choral Society for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:

Name: Kacey Leigh

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 2 Thalia Way, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1FY

Date: 5 June 2024



**Kacey Leigh**

**Business Operations Manager  
Data Protection Officer**

*Northfleet School for Girls*

### Get in touch

[k.leigh@nsfg.org.uk](mailto:k.leigh@nsfg.org.uk)  
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ  
01474 831020

[nsfg.org.uk](https://www.nsfg.org.uk)  
[@NorthfleetGirls](https://www.facebook.com/NorthfleetGirls)  
[@northfleetschoolforgirls](https://www.instagram.com/northfleetschoolforgirls)  
[@nsfgofficial](https://www.twitter.com/nsfgofficial)

# GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

## Receipts and Payment account 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

	2022/2023	2021/2022
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Subscriptions	9,355.00	5,050.00
Friends	978.00	0.00
Bob Chilcott	989.28	551.60
Members Sale/ Hire of Music	1,321.50	1,625.50
Fundraising	13.30	121.00
Other Income (inc interest, & Gift Aid 0.00)	578.27	78.40
<b><u>Concert Income</u></b>		
Tickets	4,466.96	1,293.07
Programmes	256.10	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00
Rochester Orchestral Sponsorship	0.00	500.00
Other Sponsorship	0.00	300.00
Bequest (Robert Scott)	41,693.94	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>59,652.35</b>	<b>9,519.57</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Expenses	125.00	915.00
MD's Expenses	3,629.40	2,139.83
Accompanist	2,320.00	1,970.00
Purchase of music (prepay 2023/4 £619.87) +++++	1,831.34	1,654.81
Fundraising	0.00	0.00
Rehearsal Venue	1,700.00	1,450.00
Subscriptions	239.00	295.00
Other Costs	2,503.71	2,643.45
Chilcott Day expenses	1,820.57	
<b><u>Concert Costs</u></b>		
Music Director	3,300.00	2,025.00
Soloists	2,300.00	2,260.00
Orchestra	5,830.00	6,495.00
Orchestral Scores	161.35	708.20
Printing Progs & Posters	749.58	137.78
Hire/tspt Instruments	910.00	313.60
Venue & Staging	800.00	700.00
Gifts for Artistes	144.48	175.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>28,364.43</b>	<b>23,882.67</b>
Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year	<b>31,287.92</b>	<b>-14,363.10</b>
Bank Account & cash at 1 September	24,502.46	38,865.56
Bank accounts & cash to date	<b>55,790.38</b>	<b>24,502.46</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/08/23

### Monetary Assets

Shawbrook 60 Day Dep a/c	10,560.56	10494.96
Deposit Account CAFCash	45,114.82	13989.90
Cash in hand	115.00	17.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,790.38</b>	<b>24502.46</b>

Debtors (Gift Aid)	0.00	0.00
Liabilities - None	0.00	0.00
<b>Asset: Keyboard Purchase value 05/12/21.</b>	<b>1,823.00</b>	<b>1823.00</b>
<b>Asset: Wine glasses &amp; Crates</b>	<b>188.24</b>	<b>188.24</b>
Podium revamp with handrails	660.00	
<b>Asset: New Music stand</b>	<b>505.58</b>	