



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 01 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2023

A. Legal and administrative information

1. Full name: Truro Choral Society (The Truro Singers)
2. Registered Charity number: 281902
3. Correspondent: Hon. Treasurer
4. Governing document: Constitution, revised 12 July 2022
5. Trustees: Officers and elected committee
6. Bank: Lloyds Bank
7. Activities: Choral music rehearsals and concerts (usually in Cornwall)
8. Investment powers: None specifically mentioned in the governing document, apart from "control of finance to be in hands of the committee"

B. Aims and organisation

1. Aim: To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of choral music, by the presentation of public concerts.
2. The Charity is organised entirely by volunteers. The Director of Music and the accompanist are fee-paid per rehearsal at an agreed hourly rate.
3. The activities of the Charity are:
 - (i) Regular choir rehearsals
 - (ii) Presenting choral concerts
4. There are no major changes in the aims and organisation to report this year.

C. Review of progress and achievements

General membership suffered at the start of the new choir season in September 2022, when we recorded our lowest membership for a decade. This was due primarily to the resignation of a cohort of long-standing members, many of whom had not returned to the choir after the lockdown periods. The choir undertook a major recruitment campaign, with adverts in local brochures and an interview on local radio. Furthermore, the Society subsidises young members by charging no choir fees to those in full-time education, and a mini-recruitment campaign at the local teaching hospital by an enthusiastic young member added 6 medical students to the choir. By March 2023, membership was back to 120.

2022 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1962 (known then as the Truro Singers) and to commemorate the occasion the choir commissioned a short work from Rebecca McGlade, "Ring Out, Wild Bells". Becky has had a number of pieces published nationally, but being from Cornwall we were lucky (if nervous) that she could join several of our rehearsals before our premiere of the work at the Christmas concert.



Concert audience numbers remained lowered for the early part of the season, not helped by reduced capacity in the Cathedral due to socially-distanced seating, but by our Christmas concert our audience was back to our 5-year average.

In this our first “normal” choir season since the pandemic, we were able to return to our custom of inviting local schools to take part in one of our choral concerts. We were pleased to be joined by approximately 20 singers from two school choirs who took part in our Spring concert “Music for a Coronation”.

In March 2023, Truro Choral Society was invited to take part in the Royal School of Church Music (Cornwall) “Come and Sing Stainer’s *The Crucifixion*”. The event was conducted for the last time by Truro Cathedral’s Director of Music, Christopher Gray, who was leaving the Cathedral after 20 years to take up a post as Director of Music at St John’s College, Cambridge. The choir was keen to help make this a memorable occasion, and offered to open two choir rehearsals to singers who had signed up for the event - a gesture much appreciated by the RSCM. Some 30 or so members of the choir took part.

The following concerts were performed:

10 June 2022

A concert performance in Truro Cathedral of Joseph Haydn’s *The Creation*. The choir was accompanied by Truro Symphony Orchestra (leader: Philip Montgomery-Smith), conducted by Martin Palmer. The soloists were Cheryl Rosevear (soprano), Mark Hounsell (tenor) and Tim Mirfin (bass).

03 December 2022

A Christmas concert in Truro Cathedral featuring Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* and Britten’s “Hymn to the Virgin”, along with orchestral items including Bach’s “Sheep may safely graze” and “Wachet Auf”. We were joined by St Mary’s Singers (conductor: Andrew Wyatt), who also performed unaccompanied carols by Warlock, Whitacre and Tavener. The concert also featured the premiere of “Ring Out, Wild Bells” by Becky McGlade, commissioned to mark the Society’s 60th anniversary. Truro Symphony Orchestra (leader: Mikhail Vichniakov) was conducted by Martin Palmer, with soloists Will Charnley (tenor), Jacob Dennison (baritone) and Paul-Ethan Bright (alto).

11 March 2023

“Music for a Coronation” in Truro Cathedral opened with Parry’s “I was glad” and closed with Mozart’s *Coronation Mass*, with soloists Imogen Dowse, Evie Harrison and Millie Montgomery-Smith (soprano), Celia Stoddard (alto), Ben Hoadley (tenor) and Charlie Murray (bass). In between were two orchestral items; the first movement of Elgar’s *Cello Concerto* (soloist: Imogen Dowse) and a full performance of Vaughan Williams’s *Oboe Concerto* (soloist: Eleanor Sullivan). Elgar’s “Give unto the Lord” completed the programme. Martin Palmer conducted the performance, accompanied by Truro Symphony Orchestra (leader: Philip Montgomery-Smith). All of the soloists had close ties to Cornwall and the Cathedral, and we were pleased to welcome both current and past choristers. The soprano soloists (Truro Cathedral girl choristers) were subsequently to take part in the Coronation Service of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey on 06 May 2023.



D. Review of financial activities and affairs

Due to a shortage of volunteers, for this year only, the Treasurer and Chair roles were undertaken by a single person, on the clear understanding that a new Treasurer would be needed the following year.

Three full concert events this year depleted choir funds to pre-COVID levels, and steps need to be taken next year to ensure that at least one concert is "low cost", combined with extra efforts to recruit more members and audience, so as not to deplete reserves further. However, there is now a much-appreciated facility for members to pay their subscription by monthly standing order, which has led to subscription totals being artificially depleted this year since they do not include April to August. This effect will even out in the next financial year.

A minor amendment to the Constitution was agreed at the Annual General Meeting to the effect that the Making Music representative no longer need be an Officer role and instead can be undertaken by any member of the committee.

Prepared by: Kathryn Routledge (Chair & Treasurer)

Signed by: Kathryn Oatey (Vice-Chair)

Date:

Kathryn Oatey
28.11.23



Truro Choral Society
Registered Charity No 281902

Balance Sheet

As at the 31st March, 2023

	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Current Assets		
Balance at Bank:		
Current	137.37	
Deposit	15,146.59	
	<u>15,283.96</u>	
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>	
Net Current Assets		<u>15,283.96</u>
Represented by		
Capital Account		
Truro Choral Society (Charity No 281902)		
Opening Balance	27,044.59	
Profit (Loss) for year	(11,760.63)	
		<u>15,283.96</u>

Truro Choral Society
Registered Charity No 281902

Profit and Loss Accounts

Year ended 31st March, 2023

2023 2022

Income		
Concert Receipts (<i>including ticket and Programme sales, advertisements in concert Programmes etc.</i>)	11,177.40	10,242.52
Annual Membership Subscriptions	13,714.00	14,590.00
Annual Friend Subscriptions	845.00	1,685.00
Gift Aid/Sponsorship	1,000.00	9,919.28
Music sales and hire to members	992.31	113.00
Fundraising (<i>including donations</i>)	2,446.00	1,591.00
Interest on Bank Account	34.78	1.94
	<u>30,209.49</u>	<u>38,142.74</u>
Expenditure		
Concert Payments	30,106.91	17,672.28
Music Director(s) and Accompanists	5,065.00	2,870.00
Room Hire	2,083.28	924.59
Social Event	1,100.00	
Music Scores (<i>Purchase, Hire and Printing</i>)	1,481.64	340.40
Administration (<i>including Gifts</i>)	1,528.55	216.97
Making Music Subscriptions (<i>including insurance</i>)	604.74	925.49
	<u>41,970.12</u>	<u>22,949.73</u>
Net Profit/(Loss) for Year	<u>(11,760.63)</u>	<u>15,193.01</u>



Independent Financial Examiner's Report

To the trustees of

Truro Choral Society

Registered Charity No 281902

I report on the Financial Receipts and Payments Accounts set out on the attached Financial Statement for the above named organisation for the year ended 31st March 2023

Basis of Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011: and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met: or

2) To which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Harris'.

Chris Harris
31 Chainwalk Drive
Truro Cornwall TR1 3ST