

THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR

England & Wales · Charity number 285079

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1982-07-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 36 Oxford Road
Manningtree
Essex
CO11 2AA

Phone 01206 393293

Email choir@essex.ac.uk

Website <https://www.essex.ac.uk/choir>

Activities

Objects: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, BY THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS AND SUCH OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITIES AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: The choir of university students and members of public from the Colchester area, prepares to a high professional standard large-scale works for 2 or 3 concerts a year. The choir is accompanied by an orchestra and professional soloists.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Norfolk
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£54,257	£57,991	-	-
2024-07-31	£51,445	£46,889	-	-
2023-07-31	£50,461	£44,197	-	-
2022-07-31	£43,207	£50,844	-	-
2021-07-31	£13,124	£14,064	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MRS JAN CULLUM NASTA	Chair	2012-04-26
Anna Hughes		2023-11-23
Catherine price		2024-11-21
Julia Campbell		2023-11-23
Nicholas Edwin Taylor		2024-11-21
Pauline Victoria Skerritt		2020-02-20

THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 285079

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE AGM 13 November 2025

The committee presents this report and the financial statements for the University of Essex Choir (Registered Charity No. 285079) for the period **July 2024 to July 2025**

Objects

The object of the Society shall be to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other such lawful activities as are necessary for the furtherance for the above objects.

Structure, Governance and Management

The society is governed by its constitution and is managed by the committee consisting of elected officers and other members. The officers are elected at the AGM. The committee meets regularly during the concert season. The conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark attends the committee on an ex-officio basis.

Chairman's Report

This has been another very successful and enjoyable year for the choir. On 8 December we performed *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, at the university. We were joined by local children from: Brightlingsea Primary School Choir, Colchester Royal Grammar School Choir, Millfields Primary School Wivenhoe and Wivenhoe Youth Choir. It was a very busy concert and with additional carols and audience participation, everyone was set up for the Christmas festival!

On 3 May we gave a concert entitled *Britten & Vaughan Williams* at Snape Maltings Concert Hall. We were accompanied by the London

Mozart Players. The programme was: Psalm 130 and Psalm 150, The World of the Spirit and A Hymn to the Virgin; all by Britten. After the interval, the leader of the Mozart Players, Simon Blendis performed a magical rendition of the Vaughan Williams, The Lark Ascending. We followed this with the Sancta Civitas, also by Vaughan Williams.

The committee continues to work well together for the choir. All of our committee are very generous with their time and expertise and are willing to help out if any difficulties arise. There are also many others who contribute to the running of the choir: Alex Bartholomew our librarian, Tim Parker managing the website, Thalia Vog , Jane Hughes and Angela Lait producing posters and programmes, and finally Chris Holmes providing the folders, set up, lifts and general good humour.

A huge thank you, of course, goes to Ben and to Caroline for making our Thursday evenings such fun! They work so well together and with us. We are very lucky to have both of them.

This is my last AGM as chairman. Julia Campbell and I are swapping roles from today; Julia will be Chairman and I shall be a temporary Vice Chairman to help her ease into the role.

Thank you all so much for your support and kindness, over the years.

Jan Cullum Nasta 13 November 2025.

University of Essex Choir Charity Number 285079– Financial Report for Season 2024-25

This report covers the 24-25 season which included the two main concerts in December 24 in the Ivor Crewe and May 25 at Snape.

At the start of the season the committee approved a budget predicted deficit of just £9.2k for the two concerts originally planned. This was based on a performance of Carmina Burana at the University using two pianos and percussion and a performance of Snape of Britten and Vaughan Williams with an orchestra.

The financial highlights are that we recorded a deficit of £3,733 at the end of the season which means that we enter 25-26 with an opening cash balance of £34,454 in the bank. While still a deficit it was a much better outcome than we had originally planned and leaves the Choir's finances in a stable position looking forward to 25-26 and beyond.

Shown below is a table showing the sources of Income(Receipts) and Expenses (Payments).

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
Subscriptions	21,447.86	39.5%	Orchestra costs	22,073.40	38.1%
Ticket sales net of fees	17,709.44	32.6%	Professional fees	14,532.59	25.1%
Tax Refunds	4,297.50	7.9%	Soloists	7,111.20	12.3%
Music sale and rental	3,591.27	6.6%	Concert halls, lighting, staging	5,786.93	10.0%
Grants	3,000.00	5.5%	Music purchase (for sale)	3,724.98	6.4%
Legacies	1,345.60	2.5%	Other non orchestral, prof.costs	2,399.38	4.1%
Transport	690.00	1.3%	Transport costs (choir)	580.00	1.0%
Programme sales	617.22	1.1%	Advertising (incl Web-site and Re	481.21	0.8%
Interest	417.82	0.8%	Subscriptions and Fees	411.00	0.7%
Advertising	400.00	0.7%	Insurance	289.00	0.5%
Specific Donations - Su	330.00	0.6%	Programme and ticket costs	200.06	0.3%
Donations, Patrons	200.00	0.4%	Misc	187.50	0.3%
Other Donations	175.00	0.3%	Presentations	113.98	0.2%
Music hire	35.00	0.1%	Music hire	99.00	0.2%
	54,256.71			57,990.23	

Income

Subscriptions were higher than budgeted, this was the first year of the higher subscriptions and we had assumed that this might result in a lower number in the choir but were pleased that it didn't have an impact, and with higher subscription and resulting higher Gift Aid this more than offset the reduction in the University Grant

Ticket sales overall matched budget with just over £7k of ticket sales in Ivor Crewe, up by over £2k from the prior year while net receipts at Snape were £10.4k, down from the previous year. Thanks goes to Pauline Skerritt for continuing to mastermind this part of the choir's activities. We did take the decision to sell directly through Snape again this year which means we pay box office fees, but we do get marketing via Britten Pears Arts which helps reduce our direct advertising costs.

We continue to receive a legacy from the estate of Ian Cook relating to royalties on his book, up this year to £1,345, we continue to be grateful to Judy Cook for donating this.

We received a lower grant from the University this year due to the financial pressures and it should be noted that we will not receive a grant in 25-26 meaning we will need to seek alternative ways of funding the £3k

Other income streams

Alex Bartholomew, with help from Tim Parker and from Chris Holmes (Folders) have continued to manage the sale & rental of music. This varies from year to year depending on whether Chris has had to purchase folders, otherwise we aim to cover the costs of the buying in or renting of the music.

On advertising and sponsorship, Julia Campbell managed to generate a number of adverts for the programme, but we were unable to secure sponsorship from Birkett Long this year so one offset the other.

Transport generated a small surplus – this being the coach to Snape

Compared to the prior year, Receipts increased by just under £3k from £51k to £54k,

Expenditure increased from £47k to £58k, mainly due to increased orchestral and soloist costs offset by reductions in advertising and programme printing as new and cheaper ways were found to promote the choir.

Other non-orchestral costs include the PRS fees for both concerts and the hire in of piano (Ivor Crewe) and Organ (Snape)

On Venue Hire, costs at the Ivor Crewe were higher than last year as the cost of cleaning was included for the first time plus it is still a cheap venue compared to other which we have looked at in the area.

For this year Snape maintained their previous rates although we did have the additional cost of hiring a professional PA operator to manage the microphone used in the concert.

Subscription and Insurance costs relate to Making Music who we are members of.

For the Independent Audit Nick Skinner (CPFA) conducted the Independent Review again and found no issues and I thank him for this. It continues to be important that we use an examiner not directly connected to the choir, and while we are small enough not to require an audit it is still best practice especially when we receive money from the University and Grant giving bodies.

Looking forward to 25-26 season, with Snape being available after all, the committee have agreed a budget which will allow us to perform a programme with an orchestra while using an organ for the December Concert. The expected deficit will be approximately £10k but this still leaves us entering 26-27 with a cash balance around £24k and with 26-27 expected to generate a surplus then the outlook for the Choir finances looks healthy

I am grateful that Nick Taylor for taking over as Treasurer and we will be finishing the handover by 1st January 2026

Andrew Dickerson
Treasurer

Notes

The two attached documents are what we submit to the Charity Commissioners along with this report once they have been approved at the AGM.

The Statement of Receipts & Payments details where we have received and spent our money during the year. The Balance Sheet shows how much cash we have in the bank and any money owing to the choir(debtors) or money the choir owes to other people (creditors) – for the current year we have neither of these. They also show a comparison to the prior year. If anyone wishes to have copies by email, please let me know.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 7/31/25

LIABILITIES	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £	ASSETS	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
Accumulated fund			Bank & cash		
110 Balance brought forward	38,187.03	33,631.05	315 Bank accounts	34,436.52	38,140.04
120 Surplus/(deficit) for year	(3,733.52)	4,555.98	350 Petty cash	16.99	46.99
100 Total accumulated fund	<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>	310 Total Bank & Cash	<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>
Sundry creditors			Sundry debtors		
220 Accruals	0.00	0.00	367 Other monies receivable	0.00	0.00
250 Account adjustments	0.00	0.00	365 Income tax repayments due	0.00	0.00
257 Deposits for music	0.00	0.00	369 Prepayments	0.00	0.00
878 PRS from previous year	0.00	0.00	360 Total Sundry debtors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
210 Total Sundry Creditors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>			
	<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>		<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN

I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Assets and Liabilities of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2025.

N.A. Skinner

NA Skinner CPFA

From: Chrisnick Skinner [REDACTED]
Subject: University of Essex Choir Accounts
Date: 18 August 2025 at 15:06
To: Andrew Dickerson [REDACTED]
Cc: Pauline Skerritt [REDACTED]



Dear Andrew

I have carried out the independent review of the accounts you sent to me and am pleased to report that all is in order. I presume there are no sundry creditors or debtors.

One very minor point is that the signing sheet for the Balance Sheet states year ended 31 July 2024 which should be 2025. I can amend and then sign but you may prefer to send me an amended copy.

I will sign the two pages and pass a copy to Pauline to give to you in due course if that is ok.

Best wishes

Nick

THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 285079

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE AGM 23 November 2024

The committee presents this report and the financial statements for the University of Essex Choir (Registered Charity No. 285079) for the period **July 2023 to July 2024**

Objects

The object of the Society shall be to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other such lawful activities as are necessary for the furtherance for the above objects.

Structure, Governance and Management

The society is governed by its constitution and is managed by the committee consisting of elected officers and other members. The officers are elected at the AGM. The committee meets regularly during the concert season. The conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark attends the committee on an ex-officio basis.

Chairman's Report

This has been another very successful year for choir. On 9 December we performed a Baroque Christmas Spectacular in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall. The first part of the programme was: *Magnificat in B flat major* by Francesco Durante, *Das Neugeborne Kindelein*, *In Dulci Jubilo* by Dietrich Buxtehude and *Laudate Pueri Dominum* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. After the interval we sang *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem* by Henry Purcell followed by *On Christmas Night* by Bob Chilcott. We concluded the concert with Community Carols which included the Twelve days of Christmas and We wish You a Merry Christmas.

On 4 May we performed the *St. John Passion* by JS Bach. We were accompanied by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

During the summer we continued to do the summer singing and it was well supported. It is an opportunity for new people to check us out, and for us to raise some revenue. This makes Andrew very happy.

The committee continues to work well together for the choir. Sarah Greatorex who held the secretary role for about 25 years has decided to step back from the committee. Sarah is the sort of person who volunteers for any task, just to support the choir and it has been much appreciated. She has always been very unobtrusive and so most people would not be aware of just how much she was doing behind the scenes. Pauline and Anna agreed to take on some of Sarah's roles in her absence and I am pleased to say that, now we have Catherine Price as our new Secretary. All of our committee are very generous with their time and expertise and are willing to help out if any difficulties arise. Thank you all so very much.

We also have others, who are not on the committee but who also continue to support the choir: Alex Bartholomew our librarian who does such a brilliant job, Tim Parker silently running the website and helping Alex out too, Thalia Vog and Angela Lait producing posters and programmes, Chris Holmes sorting out the Folders and set-up, and Lesley Scordellis searching out rehearsal tracks and suggesting fund raising ideas.

A huge thank you of course, goes to Ben and to Caroline for making our Thursday evenings such fun! We are so lucky to have both of them. Thank you very much.

Jan Cullum Nasta 21 November 2024.

University of Essex Choir Charity Number 285079– Financial Report for Season 2023-24

This report covers the 23-24 season which included the two main concerts, and the continuation of the Summer Singing sessions post the May concert.

At the start of the season the committee approved a budget predicted deficit of just £4.7k for the two concerts originally planned. Due to geopolitical events in the Middle East in October we were required by Snape to change our programme for the concert in May from Israel in Egypt to Bach St John Passion. As a result, costs were higher than expected for soloists but as will be covered later in the report due to a number of factors the financial results were far better than expected.

The financial highlights are that we had a surplus of £4,556 at the end of the season which means that we enter 24-25 with an opening cash balance of £38,187 in the bank.

Income includes a number of “one off” items

- We received a legacy from the estate of Ian Cook relating to royalties on his book - £638
- Following a request by Ben for sponsorship of the soloists, choir members donated £1,095,
- Julia put the choir in touch with a grant giving trust and following a submission by Sarah the choir was awarded a grant of £1,500 to be used for promotion of singing amongst younger people as part of our outreach. This will primarily be used to fund the teaching time of the young choirs who will be joining for Carmina Burana in December 2024.

Shown below is a table showing the sources of income and expenditure.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
Subscriptions	19,094.72	37.1%	Orchestra costs	18619.98	39.8%
Ticket sales net of Box Office fees	16,870.66	32.8%	Professional fees	14194.09	30.3%
Grants	5,000.00	9.7%	Soloists	4640.30	9.9%
Tax Refunds	3,898.13	7.6%	Concert halls, lighting, staging	4473.04	9.6%
Music sale and rental	1,912.12	3.7%	Music purchase (for sale)	1279.48	2.7%
Specific Donations	1,095.00	2.1%	Other non orchestral, prof.costs	830.00	1.8%
Programme sales	1,054.86	2.1%	Advertising (incl Web-site and Recruitment)	586.60	1.3%
Transport	850.00	1.7%	Transport costs (choir)	560.00	1.2%
Legacies	637.92	1.2%	Music hire	491.60	1.0%
Interest	316.37	0.6%	Subscriptions and Fees	392.00	0.8%
Sponsorship	300.00	0.6%	Programme and ticket costs	315.52	0.7%
Donations, Patrons	200.00	0.4%	Insurance	283.00	0.6%
Misc	120.00	0.2%	Presentations	83.30	0.2%
Music hire	95.00	0.2%	Misc	78.89	0.2%
	51,444.78			46827.80	

Compared to the prior year, Receipts increased by just under £1k from £50k to £51k, one off legacies from the previous year being compensated for primarily by the 3 items mentioned above and increased ticket sales, up by £2,500.

Expenditure increased from £44k to £47k, mainly due to increased orchestral and soloist costs offset by reductions in advertising and programme printing as new and cheaper ways were found to promote the choir.

Ticket sales for both concerts were higher than in 2022-23 with just over £4k of ticket sales in Ivor Crewe matching the prior year while net receipts at Snape were £12.6k. Thanks goes to Pauline Skerritt for continuing to mastermind this part of the choir's activities. We did take the decision to sell directly through Snape this year which did cost approximately £1,400 in fees but we did get marketing via Britten Pears Arts.

The committee has tried to keep ticket prices at a sensible level but is something we have reviewed for Snape for 2025 as comparing to other choirs our tickets are relatively cheap for the standard of performance we put on.

Subscriptions were slightly down compared to the prior year. As previously announced, we have taken the decision after many years to increase the subscription levels for 24-25 season to reflect growing cost pressures if we wish to main the standard of concerts at both the University and external venues. Note student rate is maintained at 10% of the main rate.

Gift Aid was higher due to a number of new choir members being able to Gift Aid and also being able to claim Gift Aid on the specific donations. Gift Aid continues to be a useful source of income, and we hope it continues into the future.

We continue to be thankful that the University provide a grant to the choir of £3,500 in addition to the other support such as the rehearsal space.

On advertising and marketing, we did spend less this year but still produced excellent material, thanks particularly to Angela who produced the programmes and sourced a much-reduced printing cost and to Thalia for the posters, again produced at a much-reduced cost. With excellent sales of programmes particularly at Snape total income was on a par with last year even though we took the decision not to seek adverts this time.

Alex Bartholomew, with help from Tim Parker and from Chris Holmes (Folders) have also helped generate a surplus on the sale & rental of music. This varies from year to year depending on whether Chris has had to purchase folders, otherwise we aim to cover the costs of the buying in or renting of the music.

Other income streams which aren't doing so well include: -

Our Patrons/Friends income stream had dried up, we no longer have any, this is an area which we must look at with more vigour. Julia has suggested a type of scheme comparable with another local choir society, but as we need a volunteer to pick this up and run with it.

Sponsorship is an area which we have continued to struggle with in recent years like many other organisations, despite the efforts of a few people,

Turning to Expenses you can see that as usual the largest cost is for the orchestra, as with 22-23 we had the OAE at Snape, in December we had the organ hired in with wonderful Ed Picton-Turbervill as the organist.

On Venue Hire, costs at the Ivor Crewe were lower than last year as Louise from Event Essex did manage to get this cost down by having the event classified as a prime University event – there is no guarantee this will happen again so we must budget for higher costs in Dec 2024 but it is still a cheap venue compared to other which we have looked at.

For this year Snape maintained their previous rates, we discovered after all the years of going to Snape that hiring the hall from 1pm onwards rather than all day saves money and had no impact on our rehearsal time.

Other expenses were in line with expectations, Ben negotiated some good rates with the orchestras and soloists especially for the St John. Professional fees were slightly higher due to Ed coming to act as accompanist during the rehearsals for the St John Passion during Caroline's enforced absence but as a choir this was really worthwhile.

For the Independent Audit thanks to Pauline for approaching Nick Skinner (CPFA) who has conducted the Independent Review and found no issues and I thank him for this. It was important that we found an examiner not directly connected to the choir, and while we are small enough not to require an audit it is still best practice especially when we receive money from the University and Grant giving bodies.

Looking forward to 24-25 season, with Snape being available after all, the committee have agreed a budget which will allow us to perform a programme which we haven't done before. The expected deficit will be approximately £10k but this still leaves us entering 25-26 with a cash balance around £28k.

I am grateful to Nick Taylor for agreeing to take over as Treasurer from 1st September next year which will allow me to close the 24-25 Accounts and arrange the audit before handing over.

Andrew Dickerson
Treasurer

Notes

The two attached documents are what we submit to the Charity Commissioners along with this report once they have been approved at the AGM.

The Income & Expenditure details where we have received and spent our money during the year. The Balance Sheet shows how much cash we have in the bank and any money owing to the choir(debtors) or money the choir owes to other people (creditors) – for the current year we have neither of these. They also show a comparison to the prior year. If anyone wishes to have copies, please let me know.

From: Chrisnick Skinner chrisnickskinner@googlemail.com
Subject: Re: University Choir Independent Audit
Date: 20 August 2024 at 15:12
To: Andrew Dickerson apdickerson@me.com



Hello Andrew

I have completed the examination of the University Choir accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024 and I am happy for you to add my name to the declaration of examination of the accounts. The wording is fine by me.

The name for you to add is N.A.Skinner CPFA.

The only information missing was a copy of each of the bank statements showing the balances held at 31st July 2024 so if you could send these through that would be great.

King Regards

Nick

On 5 Aug 2024, at 10:24, Andrew Dickerson <apdickerson@me.com> wrote:

Thanks Nick
Regards
Andrew

On 5 Aug 2024, at 10:16, Chrisnick Skinner <chrisnickskinner@googlemail.com> wrote:

Thanks Andrew

I am not feeling too bad. I am sure having the vaccinations helps.

Good to know that I'm not under pressure to do the examination but I expect to do it in the next couple of weeks.

Best wishes

Nick

On 5 Aug 2024, at 09:27, Andrew Dickerson <apdickerson@me.com> wrote:

Nick

Oh dear sorry to hear about Covid, seems to be on the rise again, hope it's not too bad

In terms of the audit the AGM of the choir is usually in November but be good to have them signed off by October when we recommence choir so I can give an update to members in advance of the AGM.

Thanks, in advance

Regards

Andrew

On 5 Aug 2024, at 07:57, Chrisnick Skinner <chrisnickskinner@googlemail.com> wrote:

Dear Andrew

All information relating to the examination of the University Choir accounts received thanks.

I will do the examination of these accounts as soon as possible but I have just tested positive for Covid which may delay matters.

Could you please give me an indication of your deadline for completing the examination.

Best wishes

Nick

On 2 Aug 2024, at 10:27, Andrew Dickerson <apdickerson@me.com> wrote:

Dear Nick,

I understand from Pauline that you are willing to perform the independent audit on the University Choir Accounts this year. I very much appreciate that you are willing to do this as it's always difficult to find someone outside of the choir.

I closed the accounts on 31st July and will send across on separate emails the following for review - hopefully all the Excel in one email and the PDF file of the invoices received in another

Excel Files

A valued version of the Excel file which is the accounts package designed by a previous treasurer, you can see the input sheets (the bank accounts and petty cash plus the sheets the data feeds into plus the final Balance Sheet and I&E report), there is also a forecast sheet which I use with the committee showing agreed budget, forecast and two future years' estimates with information as we know today to show that the choir is a going concern. There are some hidden sheets which we don't use anymore but I haven't removed from the file just in case it does something unforeseen.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31/07/2024

LIABILITIES	31/07/2024	31/07/2023	ASSETS	31/07/2024	31/07/2023
	£	£		£	£
Accumulated fund			Bank & cash		
110 Balance brought forward	33,631.05	27,367.62	315 Bank accounts	38,140.04	33,613.56
120 Surplus/(deficit) for year	4,555.98	6,263.43	350 Petty cash	46.99	17.49
100 Total accumulated fund	<u>38,187.03</u>	<u>33,631.05</u>	310 Total Bank & Cash	<u>38,187.03</u>	<u>33,631.05</u>
Sundry creditors			Sundry debtors		
220 Accruals	0.00	0.00	367 Other monies receivable	0.00	0.00
250 Account adjustments	0.00	0.00	365 Income tax repayments due	0.00	0.00
257 Deposits for music	0.00	0.00	369 Prepayments	0.00	0.00
878 PRS from previous year	0.00	0.00			
210 Total Sundry Creditors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	360 Total Sundry debtors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>38,187.03</u>	<u>33,631.05</u>		<u>38,187.03</u>	<u>33,631.05</u>

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN

I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Assets and Liabilities of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2024.

N A Skinner CPFA

20th August 2024

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079									
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS									
For the twelve months to:		31-Jul-24							
		31/07/2024	31/07/2023			31/07/2024	31/07/2023		
RECEIPTS		£	£	PAYMENTS		£	£		
Voluntary sources	410	Grants	5,000.00	3,500.00	Concert directly related				
	420	Subscriptions	19,094.72	19,272.00					
	430	Sponsorship	300.00	250.00		810	Orchestra costs	18,619.98	14,503.61
	440	Tax Refunds	3,898.13	3,206.79		820	Soloists	4,640.30	3,621.44
	451	Specific Donations - Winter	0.00	0.00		840	Concert halls, lighting, staging	4,473.04	5,148.84
	453	Specific Donations - Summer	1,095.00	13.00		830	Programme and ticket costs	315.52	1,080.20
	455	Donations, Patrons	200.00	200.00		850	Music hire	491.60	197.60
	458	Legacies	637.92	6,029.74		860	Transport costs (choir)	560.00	540.00
	460	Bursary Fund	0.00	0.00		870	Other non orchestral, prof.costs	830.00	1,582.82
	470	Donations for non-concert Presentations	0.00	0.00		880	Advertising (incl Web-site and Recruitmer	586.60	1,499.22
	475	Other Donations	0.00	0.00		890	Presentations	83.30	115.99
	480	Income from Fund-raising events	0.00	0.00					
	490	From Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00				30,600.34	28,289.72
Trading activities - concerts			30,225.77	32,471.53					
	520	Ticket sales net of Box Office fees	16,870.66	14,233.86					
	530	Programme sales	1,054.86	696.61					
	550	Advertising	0.00	398.50	Other Expenses				
	560	Income Received from Co-performers	0.00	0.00		901	Money owed to Co-Performers	0.00	0.00
	510	Music hire	95.00	0.00		910	Music purchase (for sale)	1,279.48	1,289.45
	540	Transport	850.00	540.00		920	Refreshments	0.00	0.00
						930	Raffle costs	0.00	0.00
			18,870.52	15,868.97		940	Bursaries & Singing lessons	0.00	0.00
Trading activities - other						950	Professional fees	14,194.09	13,529.96
	610	Music sale and rental	1,912.12	2,010.95		960	Rehearsal hall hire & Piano Tuning	61.00	120.00
	620	Refreshments	0.00	0.00		970	Subscriptions and Fees	392.00	365.00
	630	Raffle ticket sales	0.00	0.00		975	Insurance	283.00	269.00
	640	Misc	120.00	0.00		980	Misc	78.89	334.80
						990	Non-concert presentations	0.00	0.00
						1000	Fund-Raising Events	0.00	0.00
			2,032.12	2,010.95		1020	Extra Concert Costs	0.00	0.00
Other income								16,288.46	15,908.21
	710	Interest	316.37	109.91					
	369	Prepaid Rent					Total expenses	46,888.80	44,197.93
			316.37	109.91					
							Surplus/(deficit) for year	4,555.98	6,263.43
								0.00	
		Total receipts	51,444.78	50,461.36				51,444.78	50,461.36
								0.00	
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN									
I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Income and Expenditure of Charity 285079									
N A Skinner CPFA									
20th August 2024									

THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 285079

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR AGM 23 November 2023

The committee presents this report and the financial statements for the University of Essex Choir (Registered Charity No.285079) for the period **July 2022** to **July 2023**

Objects

The object of the Society is to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other such lawful activities as are necessary for the furtherance of the above objects.

Structure, Governance and Management

The society is governed by its constitution and is managed by the committee consisting of elected officers and other members. The officers are elected at the AGM. The committee meets regularly during the concert season. The conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark attends the committee on an ex-officio basis.

Chairman's Report

This has been another successful year for the choir. In the December 2022 concert, in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall at the university, we performed two of the *Motets pour le temps de Noel* by Francis Poulenc, *Make We Merry* by David Bednell and *Mass of the Children* by John Rutter. For this concert, the soloists were soprano Milly Forrest and baritone Felix Kemp. We were accompanied by Matthew Jorysz who impressively is the assistant organist at Westminster Abbey. We were also joined by the Wivenhoe Youth Choir which is also led by Ben Vonberg-Clark. The contribution by the children and the 6.15 choir, which was mainly students, gave the evening a broad range of music and was much enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience.

In April 2023 we performed Bach's *Mass in B Minor* at Snape Maltings This is a very challenging piece and we all worked hard to produce a very successful concert. The soloists were Hilary Cronin, Nancy Cole, David De Winter and Malachy Frame. We were accompanied by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. We were very excited to have such a prestigious orchestra for the concert. Despite the impressive reputation of the orchestra, they all seemed very happy to be with us and were very complimentary about our singing. This kindness with Ben's seemingly relaxed confidence made the performance so very enjoyable for the choir. We received many compliments from the audience.

The committee continues to work very hard for the choir with some people filling more than one post. This year Samantha Coburn-Kett and Tamasin Davis stood down from the committee. They both worked so hard for the choir; despite being

very busy people. Together they headed up the Marketing Committee. Julia Campbell, who has worked with the marketing group for a number of years, has thankfully stepped up to take on Communication and Marketing. Jill Holliday has left her post at the university and is now in London. She has been such a very good friend to the choir, in her capacity as choir/university liaison. Thankfully Anna Hughes has agreed to take on this essential role for us and we are very grateful. We did have a problem in that there was still nobody to take on Tamasin's splendid work in producing the programmes. Fortunately Angela Lait has stepped up and has produced the Christmas programme in record time. We do however have another empty space. We need somebody to take on fund-raising. If you think you can help please let us know. You don't have to be on the committee. Tim Parker quietly gets on liaising with the university to produce the website but prefers not to attend meetings. Other people who are essential for the running of the choir, but who quietly just get on with it are: Alex Bartholomew our librarian (where would we be without her?) Thalia Vog who produces our unique and very professional posters and Chris Holmes who runs the folders and much more; he has even been known to give up his seat on the coach to Snape, to help a student out.

An additional thank you must go to Clive Joyce who has audited our accounts for many years. He has given us some very sound advice and his wisdom and kindness has been much appreciated. Clive feels someone outside the choir should undertake this role in the future. Thank you so very much Clive.

A big thank you must go to Ben and Caroline. They make the rehearsals such fun; we are so very pleased to have them lightening up our Thursday evenings. This summer they extended their commitments to running the madrigal evenings which were also a great success. Andrew was particularly pleased with the extra revenue raised.

I am so very grateful to Andrew Dickerson, our treasurer, Sarah Greatorex, our Secretary and Pauline Skerritt, our Membership Secretary and Ticket Administrator for all their expertise, professionalism, hard work and kindness; between them they really keep the choir going!

Thank you everyone.

Jan Cullum Nasta 23 November 2023

this part of the choir's activities. The committee has tried to keep ticket prices at a sensible level, but it is something which we will look at going forward into the new season as costs for the venues are expected to increase this year. As the table above shows it is important, we aim to fill the concert halls.

Subscriptions were higher than expectations primarily because of the summer singing which brought in subscriptions of just under £3k and brought several new people to the choir. It is hoped that summer singing will become a regular activity.

Gift Aid was in line with expectations, and I will look to renew the Gift Aid register this year to make sure we are achieving the maximum we can from this.

We continue to be thankful that the University provide a grant to the choir in addition to the other support such as the rehearsal space.

Thanks to the Marketing Team for securing Programme Sponsorship and Adverts which help offset the cost of the programmes.

Alex Bartholomew, with help from Tim Parker and from Chris Holmes (Folders) have also helped generate a surplus on the sale & rental of music. This varies from year to year depending on whether Chris has had to purchase folders, otherwise we aim to cover the costs of the buying in or renting of the music.

Other income streams which aren't doing so well include: -

Our Patrons/Friends income stream had dried up, we no longer have any, in the past this has contributed at least £1k a year.

Sponsorship is an area which we have struggled with in recent years like many other organisations, despite the efforts of a few people, particularly Sarah Greatorex in the last year. If anyone know of any person or business who would like to sponsor us, please let us know

Turning to Expenses you can see that as usual the largest cost is for the orchestra, this year covered the cost of the OAE at Snape only as in December we had the wonderful organ hired in.

On Venue Hire, costs at the Ivor Crewe went up primarily because of the hall set up cost which is now done outside normal hours for Estates. Louise from Event Essex did manage to get this cost down it is still a cheap venue compared to other which we have looked at. For this year Snape maintained their previous rates, we discovered after all the years of going to Snape that hiring the hall from 1pm onwards rather than all day saves money and had no impact on our rehearsal time.

Other expenses were in line with expectations, Ben negotiated some good rates with the orchestras and soloists. We had to pay PRS fees for the Winter concert and also retrospective PRS for Snape 2022 – they missed them from the original invoice but as we performed Bach this year there were no PRS fees for this year from Snape. We also spent more on local advertising for the Snape concert this year as publications offered some good deals on the price for adverts.

Clive Joyce has once again conducted the Independent Review and found no issues and I thank him for this. It is Clive's last year of doing the Independent Review so if any choir member knows of an accountant who may be willing to carry out the review on a pro bono basis or for a small fee in August 2024, please let me know. While we are a small enough charity not to require an audit the committee feels it is good practice to carry this on.

Turning to future seasons, we have agreed budget for 23-24 which will result in a deficit £6k. This allows the two performances planned in Ivor Crewe and Snape. While the committee feel it is appropriate for 23-24 season as it will still mean we enter 24-25 with £28k in the bank, it is not sustainable to lose money over the longer term as it makes planning the following season difficult and we cannot as a charity run out of money. The alternative is that the nature of our concert performances will have to change to fit within a smaller cash envelope.

Andrew Dickerson
Treasurer

Notes

The two attached documents are what we submit to the Charity Commissioners along with this report once they have been approved at the AGM.

The Income & Expenditure details where we have received and spent our money during the year. The Balance Sheet shows how much cash we have in the bank and any money owing to the choir (debtors) or money the choir owes to other people (creditors) – for the current year we have neither of these. They also show a comparison to the prior year. If anyone wishes to have copies, please let me know.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31/07/2023

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	31/07/2023	31/07/2022	<u>ASSETS</u>	31/07/2023	31/07/2022
	£	£		£	£
Accumulated fund			Bank & cash		
110 Balance brought forward	27,367.62	35,003.83	315 Bank accounts	33,613.56	27,363.18
120 Surplus/(deficit) for year	6,263.43	(7,636.21)	350 Petty cash	17.49	4.44
100 Total accumulated fund	<u>33,631.05</u>	<u>27,367.62</u>	310 Total Bank & Cash	<u>33,631.05</u>	<u>27,367.62</u>
Sundry creditors			Sundry debtors		
220 Accruals	0.00	0.00	367 Other monies receivable	0.00	0.00
250 Account adjustments	0.00	0.00	365 Income tax repayments due	0.00	0.00
257 Deposits for music	0.00	0.00	369 Prepayments	0.00	0.00
878 PRS from previous year	0.00	0.00			
210 Total Sundry Creditors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	360 Total Sundry debtors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>33,631.05</u>	<u>27,367.62</u>		<u>33,631.05</u>	<u>27,367.62</u>

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN

I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Assets and Liabilities of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2023.

C R Joyce

CLIVE JOYCE (formerly ACMA & FMAAT, now retired)

5 September 2023

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the twelve months to:

31-Jul-23

RECEIPTS

Voluntary sources

	31/07/2023 £	31/07/2022 £
410 Grants	3,500.00	7,000.00
420 Subscriptions	19,272.00	15,043.50
430 Sponsorship	250.00	250.00
440 Tax Refunds	3,206.79	4,075.89
451 Specific Donations - Winter	0.00	0.00
453 Specific Donations - Summer	13.00	0.00
455 Donations, Patrons	200.00	1,572.00
458 Legacies	6,029.74	0.00
460 Bursary Fund	0.00	0.00
470 Donations for non-concert Presentations	0.00	0.00
475 Other Donations	0.00	0.00
480 Income from Fund-raising events	0.00	0.00
490 From Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00
Total	32,471.53	27,941.39

Trading activities - concerts

520 Ticket sales net of Box Office fees	14,233.86	11,597.89
530 Programme sales	696.61	362.00
550 Advertising	398.50	358.50
560 Income Received from Co-performers	0.00	0.00
510 Music hire	0.00	0.00
540 Transport	540.00	465.00
Total	15,868.97	12,783.39

Trading activities - other

610 Music sale and rental	2,010.95	2,475.69
620 Refreshments	0.00	0.00
630 Raffle ticket sales	0.00	0.00
640 Misc	0.00	0.00
Total	2,010.95	2,475.69

Other income

710 Interest	109.91	6.85
369 Prepaid Rent		
Total	109.91	6.85

Total receipts **50,461.36** **43,207.32**

PAYMENTS

Concert directly related

	31/07/2023 £	31/07/2022 £
810 Orchestra costs	14,503.61	22,750.00
820 Soloists	3,621.44	3,178.00
840 Concert halls, lighting, staging	5,148.84	5,106.28
830 Programme and ticket costs	1,080.20	835.06
850 Music hire	197.60	1,698.76
860 Transport costs (choir)	540.00	395.00
870 Other non orchestral, prof.costs	1,582.82	505.20
880 Advertising (incl Web-site and Recruitmer	1,499.22	740.28
890 Presentations	115.99	156.08
Total	28,289.72	35,364.66

Other Expenses

901 Money owed to Co-Performers	0.00	0.00
910 Music purchase (for sale)	1,289.45	1,680.21
920 Refreshments	0.00	0.00
930 Raffle costs	0.00	0.00
940 Bursaries & Singing lessons	0.00	0.00
950 Professional fees	13,529.96	12,069.96
960 Rehearsal hall hire & Piano Tuning	120.00	106.70
970 Subscriptions and Fees	365.00	365.00
975 Insurance	269.00	257.00
980 Misc	334.80	0.00
990 Non-concert presentations	0.00	1,000.00
1000 Fund-Raising Events	0.00	0.00
1020 Extra Concert Costs	0.00	0.00
Total	15,908.21	15,478.87

Total expenses **44,197.93** **50,843.53**

Surplus/(deficit) for year **6,263.43** **(7,636.21)**

0.00

50,461.36 **43,207.32**

0.00

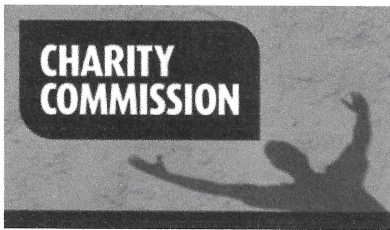
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN

I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Income and Expenditure of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2023.

C R Joyce

CLIVE JOYCE (formerly ACMA & FMAAT, now retired)

5 September 2023



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name
University of Essex Choir

On accounts for the year ended

3 1 0 7 2 3

Charity no (if any)

2 8 5 0 7 9

Set out on pages

1 - 4.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (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;
 - 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

Clive Robert Joyce

Date

05/09/23

Name

CLIVE ROBERT JOYCE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

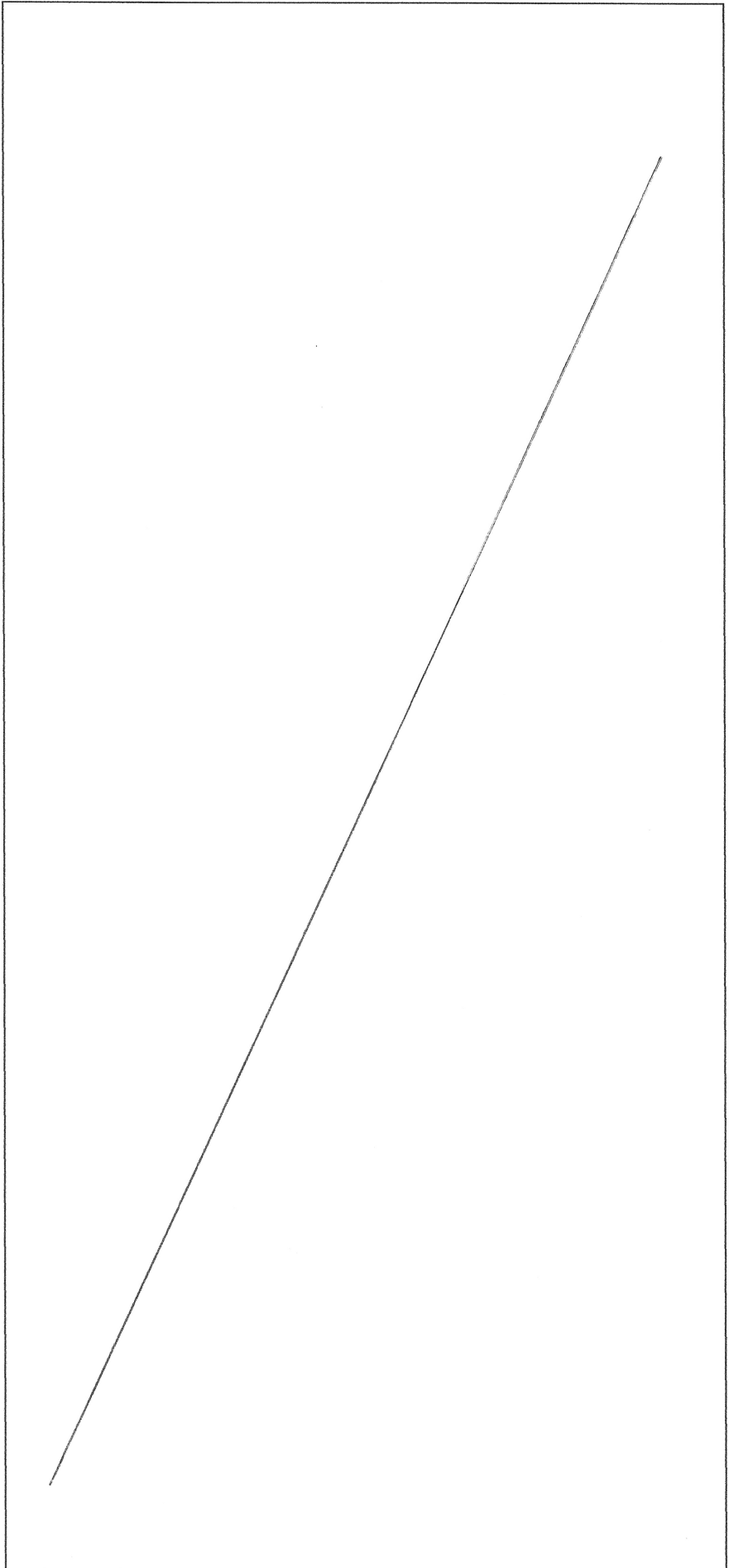
Formerly ACMA & FMMT, now retired.

Address

9 Blackwater Avenue
Colchester
CO4 3UY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose



CRIB
5 September 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 285079

Accounts

For those of you who have not been to an AGM before, this is the formal procedure by which the committee provides a report for the choir. It is a position statement; both looking back to the period July 2021 and July 2022 and forward to the future.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR AGM 3 NOVEMBER 2022

The committee presents this report and the financial statements for the University of Essex Choir (Registered Charity No.285079) for the period **July 2021 to July 2022**

Objects

The object of the Society is to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other such lawful activities as are necessary for the furtherance of the above objects.

Structure, Governance and Management

The society is governed by its constitution and is managed by the committee consisting of elected officers and other members. The officers are elected at the AGM. The committee meets regularly during the concert season. The conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark attends the committee on an ex-officio basis.

Chairman's Report

This year was not as challenging as last year but covid continued to affect the business of the choir. We had to introduce covid procedures for the rehearsals: air filters, masks, testing before arriving at the rehearsals, open windows and many more. Some members had covid more than once and this affected the attendance. The concert in the Ivor Crewe was therefore a bit of a step into the unknown. We were worried about numbers attending the concert and we had also changed some of the concert format. The concert, however, was a triumph! We had lots of positive feedback from the audience, some of whom then joined the choir!

The programme was: Christus Natus Est and A Winter's Night by Cecilia McDowell and then in the second half we sang the Christmas Oratorio by Bob Chilcott. The choir were accompanied by the City of London Sinfonia. Our accompanist Caroline Finley also joined them on our electric organ. The soloists were: Carolyn Holt mezzo-soprano, David de Winter tenor and Michael Hickman baritone. We also had a children's choir from years 5 and 6 at Millfields Primary School in Wivenhoe led by Sarah Barnard. Ben visited the school to rehearse and generally entertain the children too. The children all looked as though they had really enjoyed themselves. The

linking of a local school with the university is very pleasing outreach activity. Long may it last and the plan is that it will.

Our second concert was at Snape Maltings Concert Hall on 30 April. The works we sang were Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Felix Mendelssohn's Wie der Hirsh schreit (psalm 42) and Joseph Haydn's Paukenmesse (Missa in tempore belli). The orchestra was the London Mozart Players. The soloists were: James Way tenor, Michael Lafferty baritone, Amy Lyddon mezzo soprano and Charlie Swann soprano. We all really enjoyed being back at Snape, which I am sure, contributed to the success of the concert.

We need to thank all of the committee who work so hard for the choir. I am sure you have noticed that some people do more than one job. Sadly Tamasin and Samantha are giving up at the end of this season after leading the publicity team for so long, I can't remember how long it is. Typically they are giving a year's notice, so if anyone feels they could take over, you have a year to learn the ropes now is your chance to join them. Tamasin has also been working on the website transfer to being much more linked to the university. This is not a job she sought out but somehow ended up doing. If there is anyone who has that sort of expertise and is willing to run the website please come forward and see her. Pauline Skeritt is also doing two jobs brilliantly: Membership and Tickets. Both these require an immense amount of time. Pauline has given notice that she does not want to be Membership Secretary after this season so there is another vacancy for someone. Thankfully Pauline is continuing to do the tickets. There are members of the committee who have been in their roles for more than 10 years, and one for 20 years. It is clear we need new people to come forward for the vacancies that will exist next year.

As you know there are people who are not on the committee but who quietly get on with things. We all see Alex Bartholomew at the beginning and the end of rehearsals with the scores but maybe some of us haven't noticed that she has only just started to join in the rehearsals as in the early rehearsals she was busy sorting out the money and the mistakes made by the publishers sending the wrong copies! Brexit hasn't helped the supply of scores either. Tim Parker and Chris Holmes continue to always be on hand when anything needs doing. I am very grateful to both of them. Thalia is yet another non-committee person. She has taken over doing the posters and has produced a cracker for this year.

Finally, what about the dream team of Ben and Caroline? They both make it all such fun.

Thank you both very much.
Jan Cullum Nasta

University of Essex Choir Charity Number 285079– Financial Report for Season 2021-22

As this is my first report since taking over from Richard Mason, I'd like to start with my thanks to him for his long tenure as treasurer and thank him for the handover last year which took longer than expected due to a few issues with the choir's bank in processing the changes. We have put in place a process so that these issues should not be faced when changing treasurer next time.

With the ending of Covid 19 restrictions the committee were able to plan two concerts during the year.

The committee approved a budget for the year which gave a predicted loss of £8.1k allowing Ben to choose works with orchestra in both locations. The actual loss for the year was £7.6k which means that we enter 22-23 season with an opening balance of £27,368 in the bank.

Shown below is a table showing the main sources of income and expenditure.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS Year ending 31st July 2022

Subscriptions	15,043.50	35%	Orchestra costs	22,750.00	45%
Ticket sales	11,597.89	27%	Professional fees	12,069.96	24%
Grants	7,000.00	16%	Concert halls, lighting, staging	5,106.28	10%
Tax Refunds	4,075.89	9%	Soloists	3,178.00	6%
Music sale and rental	2,475.69	6%	Music hire	1,698.76	3%
Patrons/Donation	1,572.00	4%	Music purchase (for sale)	1,680.21	3%
Transport	465.00	1%	Non-concert presentations	1,000.00	2%
Programme sales	362.00	1%	Programme and ticket costs	835.06	2%
Advertising	358.50	1%	Advertising (incl Web-site and Recruitment)	740.28	1%
Sponsorship	250.00	1%	Other non orchestral, prof.costs	505.20	1%
Interest	6.85	0%	Transport costs (choir)	395.00	1%
	43,207.32		Subscriptions and Fees	365.00	1%
			Insurance	257.00	1%
			Presentations	156.08	0%
			Rehearsal hall hire & Piano Tuning	106.70	0%
Loss	7,636.21			50,843.53	

While the loss for the year was in line with our original budget there were a few areas where income was much lower than planned offset by a couple of one-off receipts.

Ticket sales were disappointing and as this is one of the key income streams for the choir it is an area which we all need to address for future concerts if the choir wishes to continue operating and performing in the current way. The committee is always open to ideas of how to increase sales.

Snape ticket sales came in close to estimate at £9k sales, the December concert only achieved £3k in sales which was 50% of expectation but can be put down to the continued impact of Covid 19 and hesitancy from the public of attending events in large numbers. We have heard that our Snape audience, while only about 50% is still one of the larger audiences they have had since the ending of restrictions. Thanks to Pauline Skerritt for managing the ticket sale process.

Subscriptions were in line with expectations, the number of people who can Gift Aid is lower than in previous years, the HMRC gift aid reclaim for 21-22 was just under £3k. We also received 20-21 reclaim which was only £1k due to the much lower subscriptions paid during our year on Zoom.

Offsetting this we did receive two years payments from the University of their grant covering 20-21 and 21-22. We continue to be thankful that the University can provide this grant.

There are several income streams which as a choir we need members to try and help secure more income.

While we received a one-off donation last year the number of Patrons has dwindled to just 2 from a highpoint a few years ago of 15-20. If anyone has any ideas or know of anyone who may wish to become a patron, please let us know

Sponsorship is another area which we have struggled with in recent years like many other organisations, despite the efforts of a few people, particularly Sarah Greateorex in the last year. If anyone know of any person or business who would like to sponsor us, please let us know

Just a point on the net profit on choir music hire and sales which looks high this year, this is mainly because of us finding about 50 copies of the Haydn Mass in the cupboard which Alex Bartholomew was able to sell to choir members. Normally we break even on this activity.

Turning to Expenses you can see that as usual the largest cost is for the orchestras, particularly at Snape this year although the total in line with the original budget excluding Music Hire which I will come onto

The cost areas which was higher than budgeted were:

Cost of Snape which now comes in around £5k per performance once you take account of the hall hire plus the box office fees. This compares to Ivor Crewe which costs us zero to hire as a venue and approximately £600 for the Events Essex staff to prepare the hall both before and after the concert. As mentioned before to continue to be able to sing in venues like Snape we need to be selling more tickets, getting more sponsorship. Sarah has investigated other venues around the Colchester area, and they all cost in the region of £3-4k to hire or the spaces are too small to fit us in.

Orchestral Music Hire – normally when we have hired orchestras in the past their quotes include the cost of music hire. For the December concert it was quoted separately. Modern music is expensive to hire, and it was therefore a much larger than any of us expected.

Other expenses were in line with expectations, Ben negotiated some good rates with the orchestras and soloist, and we have finally presented Richard Cooke with his leaving gift which has been sitting in the choir's account for nearly 2 years.

Clive Joyce has once again conducted the Independent Review and found no issues and I thank him for this.

Just turning to future seasons, the committee has agreed a budget for 22-23 which is for a loss of £3k. This allows the two performances planned in Ivor Crewe and Snape. While the committee feel it is appropriate for 22-23 season as it will still mean we enter 23-24 with £24k in the bank, it is not sustainable to lose money over the longer term as it makes planning the following season difficult. The alternative is that the nature of our concert performances will have to change to fit within a smaller cash envelope.

Andrew Dickerson
Treasurer

Notes

The two attached documents are what we submit to the Charity Commissioners along with this report once they have been approved at the AGM.

The Income & Expenditure details where we have received and spent our money during the year. The Balance Sheet shows how much cash we have in the bank and any money owing to the choir (debtors) or money the choir owes to other people (creditors) – for the current year we have neither of these. They also show a comparison to the prior year.



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

On accounts for the year ended Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
 The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement
 My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
 In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below)~~.

(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;
- 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed Date

Name

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

Address

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079						
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS						
For the twelve months to:		31-Jul-22				
		31/07/2022	31/07/2021			31/07/2022
RECEIPTS		£	£	PAYMENTS		£
						£
Voluntary sources	410 Grants	7,000.00	0.00	Concert directly related		
	420 Subscriptions	15,043.50	5,791.00			
	430 Sponsorship	250.00	0.00	810 Orchestra costs	22,750.00	0.00
	440 Tax Refunds	4,075.89	7,120.36	820 Soloists	3,178.00	200.00
	451 Specific Donations - Winter	0.00	0.00	840 Concert halls, lighting, staging	5,106.28	0.00
	453 Specific Donations - Summer	0.00	0.00	830 Programme and ticket costs	835.06	0.00
	455 Donations, Patrons	1,572.00	200.00	850 Music hire	1,698.76	0.00
	458 Legacies	0.00	0.00	860 Transport costs (choir)	395.00	0.00
	460 Bursary Fund	0.00	0.00	870 Other non orchestral, prof. costs	505.20	1,992.00
	470 Donations for non-concert Presentations	0.00	0.00	880 Advertising (incl Web-site and Rec	740.28	393.46
	475 Leaving Gifts for R Cooke	0.00	10.00	890 Presentations	156.08	0.00
	480 Income from Fund-raising events	0.00	0.00			
	490 From Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00			
Trading activities - concerts		27,941.39	13,121.36		35,364.66	2,585.46
	520 Ticket sales	11,597.89	0.00			
	530 Programme sales	362.00	0.00			
	550 Advertising	358.50	0.00	Other Expenses		
	560 Income Received from Co-performers	0.00	0.00	901 Money owed to Co-Performers	0.00	0.00
	510 Music hire	0.00	0.00	910 Music purchase (for sale)	1,680.21	238.61
	540 Transport	465.00	0.00	920 Refreshments	0.00	0.00
				930 Raffle costs	0.00	0.00
Trading activities - other		12,783.39	0.00	940 Bursaries & Singing lessons	0.00	0.00
	610 Music sale and rental	2,475.69	0.00	950 Professional fees	12,069.96	10,626.63
	620 Refreshments	0.00	0.00	960 Rehearsal hall hire & Piano Tuning	106.70	0.00
	630 Raffle ticket sales	0.00	0.00	970 Subscriptions and Fees	365.00	365.00
	640 Misc	0.00	0.00	975 Insurance	257.00	248.00
				980 Misc	0.00	0.00
				990 Non-concert presentations	1,000.00	0.00
				1000 Fund-Raising Events	0.00	0.00
		2,475.69	0.00	1020 Extra Concert Costs	0.00	0.00
Other income						
	710 Interest	6.85	2.33		15,478.87	11,478.24
	369 Prepaid Rent			Total expenses	50,843.53	14,063.70
		6.85	2.33			
				Surplus/(deficit) for year	(7,636.21)	(940.01)
					0.00	
	Total receipts	43,207.32	13,123.69		43,207.32	13,123.69
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN						
I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Income and Expenditure of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2022.						
<i>C R Joyce</i>						
CLIVE JOYCE (formerly ACMA & FMAAT, now retired)						
17 August 2022						

Receipts & Payments UofE Choir 2021-22 IND EXAM.xlsx

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31/07/2022

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	31/07/2022	31/07/2021	<u>ASSETS</u>	31/07/2022	31/07/2021
	£	£		£	£
Accumulated fund			Bank & cash		
110 Balance brought forward	35,004	40,427	315 Bank accounts	27,363	34,155
120 Surplus/(deficit) for year	<u>(7,636)</u>	<u>(940)</u>	350 Petty cash	4	179
100 Total accumulated fund	<u>27,368</u>	<u>39,487</u>	310 Total Bank & Cash	<u>27,368</u>	<u>34,335</u>
Sundry creditors			Sundry debtors		
220 Accruals	0	(180)	367 Other monies receivable	0	0
250 Account adjustments	0	(3,923)	365 Income tax repayments due	0	0
257 Deposits for music	0	0	369 Prepayments	0	669
878 PRS from previous year	0	(380)			
210 Total Sundry Creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,483)</u>	360 Total Sundry debtors	<u>0</u>	<u>669</u>
	<u>27,368</u>	<u>35,004</u>		<u>27,368</u>	<u>35,004</u>

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN

I am satisfied that this Statement represents a fair and accurate view of the Assets and Liabilities of Charity 285079 for the year ended 31 July 2022.

C R Joyce

CLIVE JOYCE (formerly ACMA & FMAAT, now retired)
17 August 2022