

## **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).

<b>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>					
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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Andrew Dickerson  
Treasurer

Date: November 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

#### 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

Accumulated fund

110 Balance brought forward	38,187.03	33,631.05
120 Surplus/(deficit) for year	(3,733.52)	4,555.98
100 Total accumulated fund	<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>

Sundry creditors

220 Accruals	0.00	0.00
250 Account adjustments	0.00	0.00
257 Deposits for music	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>

34,453.51 38,187.03

ASSETS

Bank & cash

315 Bank accounts	34,436.52	38,140.04
350 Petty cash	16.99	46.99
310 Total Bank & Cash	<u>34,453.51</u>	<u>38,187.03</u>

Sundry debtors

367 Other monies receivable	0.00	0.00
365 Income tax repayments due	0.00	0.00
369 Prepayments	0.00	0.00
360 Total Sundry debtors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

34,453.51 38,187.03

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

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CHOIR Registered Charity No. 285079  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the twelve months to:

31-Jul-25

RECEIPTS

Voluntary sources

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
410 Grants	3,000.00	5,000.00
420 Subscriptions	21,447.86	19,094.72
430 Sponsorship	0.00	300.00
440 Tax Refunds	4,297.50	3,898.13
451 Specific Donations - Winter	0.00	0.00
453 Specific Donations - Summer	330.00	1,096.00
455 Donations, Patrons	200.00	200.00
458 Legacies	1,345.80	637.92
460 Bursary Fund	0.00	0.00
470 Donations for non-concert Presentations	0.00	0.00
475 Other Donations	175.00	0.00
480 Income from Fund-raising events	0.00	0.00
490 From Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00

Trading activities - concerts

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
520 Ticket sales net of Box Office fees	17,709.44	16,870.66
530 Programme sales	617.22	1,054.86
550 Advertising	400.00	0.00
560 Income Received from Co-performers	0.00	0.00
510 Music hire	35.00	95.00
540 Transport	690.00	850.00

Trading activities - other

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
610 Music sale and rental	3,591.27	1,912.12
620 Refreshments	0.00	0.00
630 Raffle ticket sales	0.00	0.00
640 Misc	0.00	120.00

Other income

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
710 Interest	417.82	316.37
369 Prepaid Rent		

Total receipts

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	54,256.71	51,444.78

PAYMENTS

Concert directly related

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
810 Orchestra costs	22,073.40	18,619.98
820 Soloists	7,111.20	4,640.30
840 Concert halls, lighting, staging	5,786.93	4,473.04
830 Programme and ticket costs	200.06	315.52
850 Music hire	99.00	491.60
860 Transport costs (choir)	580.00	560.00
870 Other non orchestral, prof costs	2,399.38	830.00
880 Advertising (incl Web-site and Recruitment)	461.21	586.60
890 Presentations	113.98	63.30

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	38,845.16	30,600.34

Other Expenses

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
901 Money owed to Co-Performers	0.00	0.00
910 Music purchase (for sale)	3,724.98	1,279.48
920 Refreshments	0.00	0.00
930 Raffle costs	0.00	0.00
940 Bursaries & Singing lessons	0.00	0.00
950 Professional fees	14,532.59	14,194.09
960 Rehearsal hall hire & Piano Tuning	0.00	61.00
970 Subscriptions and Fees	411.00	392.00
975 Insurance	289.00	283.00
980 Misc	187.50	78.89
990 Non-concert presentations	0.00	0.00
1000 Fund-Raising Events	0.00	0.00
1020 Extra Concert Costs	0.00	0.00

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	19,145.07	16,288.46

Total expenses

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	57,990.23	46,888.80

Surplus/(deficit) for year

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	(3,733.52)	4,655.98

	7/31/25 £	7/31/24 £
	54,256.71	51,444.78

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

N.A. Skinner

**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]

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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