

HACKNEY SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 294564

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1986-06-18

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

Contact

Address 26 Lower Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4BX

Phone 020 8505 8354

Email chair@hackneysingers.org.uk

Website www.hackneysingers.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS AND BY SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE SOCIETY THROUGH ITS COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Activities: The activities of the Society follow its objectives to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by other ways as determined by the Society through its Committee.

Classification

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

Geography

- Hackney

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£60,180	£51,527	-	-
2024-08-31	£42,606	£57,296	-	-
2023-08-31	£46,827	£33,428	-	-
2022-08-31	£37,547	£40,347	-	-
2021-08-31	£7,507	£9,865	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
William Charles Goodall	Chair	2025-02-20
Anthony John Willis Price		2025-11-19
Carole Sired		2020-02-06
Catherine Mary O'Driscoll		2020-02-06
Eleanor Megan Orpwood-Russell		2025-02-20
Jane Irene Gooding Gibson		2022-01-28
Jessica Catherine Norrie		2025-02-20
Jill Ellenby		2025-02-20
Judith Spours		2025-02-20
Martin William Stevenson		2025-02-20
Nazik Deniz Ucpinar		2025-02-20
Sally Williams		2022-01-28
Teresa Jane Brennan		2026-02-12

HACKNEY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294564

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

The Hackney Singers (the Choir) is a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 294564).

Charitable Objectives

The objectives of the Choir are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects, by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals; and to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit. The Choir is governed by its constitution, which is available on the Choir's website at www.hackneysingers.org.uk.

Management of the Choir

The Choir is managed by a Committee. The members of the Committee are the Trustees of the charity and are elected by the Members of the Choir at the AGM. The Committee may co-opt new Committee members (but no more than 25% of the elected Committee). The Committee engages a Music Team to facilitate the charitable objectives.

Public benefit

The trustees of the Hackney Singers have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing our aims for the public benefit, the Hackney Singers believes it impacts on people's lives in two ways. First, for members of the choir, we involve people in a creative, fulfilling and enjoyable educational activity. For many members, the choir provides a musical education that they haven't previously had access to, including the opportunity to develop vocal technique and performance skills and explore a wide repertoire. We also believe we provide a strong community, with many members developing important social networks that bring benefits both by attending rehearsals and through other social activities made possible by the relationships built through the choir.

Secondly, for our audiences, we present exciting and varied concerts, which include audience favourites, but also repertoire that will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

We also seek to develop relationships with other groups in our community, such as children's choirs, to provide positive musical experiences for both our members and others in our community.

The trustees of the Hackney Singers are conscious that the opportunities to benefit from our activities must not be unduly restrictive. We are a non-audition choir and welcome any



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

member who is willing to work towards and can maintain a certain standard. At times, we are unable to accept new members in some voice parts, due to the need to maintain a balance of voices to ensure a positive experience for both members and audiences. We offer significant concessionary rates to those who are receiving certain benefits or are on low income. We offer concessionary prices on tickets, and reduced prices for children.

Music Team

Dan Ludford-Thomas – Musical Director

Andrew Storey – Assistant Musical Director

Committee Members and Trustees during the year ended 31 August 2025

Chair -	Bill Goodall
Secretary -	Jill Ellenby
Treasurer-	Cathie O’Driscoll
Committee -	Carole Sired
	Jane Gibson
	Sally Williams
	Meg Orpwood-Russell
	Jessica Norrie
	Teresa Brennan
	Judy Spours
	Martin Stevenson
	N. Deniz Ucpinar



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Chair's Report for the year ended 31 August 2025

Hackney Singers' 2024–25 season of concerts opened on 19 October 2024 at St John of Jerusalem Church in Hackney, where the choir performed Poulenc's *Gloria* and *A Symphony of Psalms* by Stravinsky. This second piece was especially challenging, but with accompaniment by the Percussion Ensemble of London on the day the choir really rose to the occasion. The choir also performed *Deus in Adjutorium Meum* by Benjamin Britten, and we were also treated to a wonderful performance of an arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* for four hands played by our superb accompanists Cliodna Shanahan and James Orford. Anyone who was lucky enough to have been present will know how special that was, and we are very fortunate to be able to work with such accomplished musicians on a regular basis.

On Sunday 22 December we held our annual Carol Concert at our regular venue of St Peter's Church in De Beauvoir Town in Hackney. We had a good audience and were delighted to collect £1955 for our designated charity the Hackney Night shelter. The previous day, 21 December, a group of singers sang carols in Broadway Market where in total we collected more than £700 for the Hackney Speaker's charity. Thanks as always go to Mary, Cheryl and Lynne for organising the event and for arranging for the singers' refreshments at Off Broadway in the market.

On 12 February 2025, a little earlier in the year than we might have preferred, we returned to the Royal Festival Hall where we performed Brahms' *German Requiem* and the rarely heard *Hiob* by Fanny Hensel. Once again Hackney Singers joined forces with Lewisham Choral Society and, accompanied by the London Mozart Players, put on a performance of which we could all be very proud. The audience was lower than that of our previous appearance at the South Bank, in part due to the early scheduling, but nevertheless we were able to show a small profit from the performance. We have been performing with the Lewisham Choral Society at the Royal Festival Hall since 2012, and very much hope that we will continue to do so in future.

The early scheduling of our Spring concert, and the fact that it made a profit, meant that we were able to hold an event in the summer of 2025. This was dubbed the Hackney Singers Summer Soirée and was held on 14 June at St Mathias Church in Stoke Newington, another of our regular venues. By popular request from some members of the choir we reprised *Hiob* by Fanny Hensel, previously performed by us at the Royal Festival Hall, as well as Britten's *Deus in Adjutorium Meum* which formed part of the programme in our Autumn concert in 2024. In addition we included the fourth movement from Brahms' *German Requiem* and, by way of a preview of our forthcoming concert in Autumn 2025, the *Agnus Dei* from the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé. It wasn't all recycled material however, as the choir also performed Morten Lauridsen's *Nocturnes* and *O, Magnum Mysterium*. At the Soirée we were delighted to be joined by members of Vox Next Gen, the young artists' programme of Vox Urbane, who performed a selection of glorious polyphonic works by



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Hildegard von Bingen, Kerensa Briggs, William Byrd, Maddalena Casulana and Fernand Laloux. The performance by Vox Next Gen undoubtedly enhanced the concert, and we hope to be able to collaborate with them in the future. The concert was followed by a social event in the form of a barbecue in the church garden. The whole event was a great success and was enjoyed by all. As a result we hope to be able to include more summer events in the future.

My thanks, and that of the committee and the whole choir, go to our music team. Dan and Andy's commitment to the choir is hugely appreciated, far more than I'm able to put into words. Our rehearsals are (literally) conducted with professionalism and humour and are enjoyed by all, a fact reflected in the large numbers of members who attend each week. It is a tribute to the music team, and long may they remain with us.

This is my first year as Chair of Hackney Singers, and I would like to thank everyone in the choir, and especially Dan, for their support and for making my first year fairly painless. It really does mean a lot to me.

In all there were five changes to the committee this year, and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support as we all adjust to our new roles. All committee members play their part in ensuring that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes, but this year I would like to say a special word of appreciation to our Concert Manager Sally Williams and our Librarian Tony Price for their tireless commitment and professionalism to what are very demanding and complex roles.

Looking ahead, the highlight of our 2025–26 season promises to be a performance of J.S. Bach's St John Passion with period instrument accompaniment at Hackney Church on 28th March 2026.

Bill Goodall

[Bill Goodall \(Jan 8, 2026 10:07:11 GMT\)](#)

Bill Goodall
Chair

Date: 08/01/26



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st August 2025

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025 are presented to the members of the Hackney Singers. The accounts are attached.

Introduction

The main financial aims for the choir during the financial year 2024-2025 were to consolidate and maintain the membership level of the choir to around 150 people and to enable the choir to stage four events over the year with complete financial security. If successful, it was then intended to pursue the aim of four annual events into the ongoing future.

Membership

At the end of August 2023, paid membership stood at 142

At the end of August 2024, paid membership stood at 147

Events

During the year, four events were staged:

1. Autumn Concert 19.10.24. The concert cost £12,074.47 but raised £4,150 in ticket sales, **a loss of £7,924.47**
2. Carol Concert 22.12.25. This **cost the choir £2,102.78** but raised £1,955 for our designated charity, Hackney Night Shelter. The choir costs included the hire of the church hall for our Christmas social
3. Spring Concert 12.02.25 Royal Festival Hall
This concert was staged jointly with Lewisham Choral Society and the final accounts settlement for Hackney Singers was **£978.80 (profit)**
4. Summer Soiree 15.06.25 St Matthias Church with Vox Next Gen. This concert cost £8,469.71 but raised ticket sales of £4,846.94 **a loss of £3,622.77.**

Income and expenditure

Subscription income including Gift Aid and donations totalled £38,420. The costs of rehearsals, music and other overheads totalled £16,342. The four concerts resulted in a loss of £12,671.72.

Overall, we made a profit on the year of £8,653 and ended the year with £31,627.25 in the bank.



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Ongoing Risks and Opportunities

Our two main income streams come from membership fees (including Gift Aid) and concert ticket sales. We receive a relatively small income in donations. We note the increasing costs of all aspects of concert production but are keen to maintain the precedent of staging four concerts per year.

To be able to manage this safely, the committee have decided to undertake two measures:

1. To increase subscriptions for the year 2025/26 to £220 annually, concessions £100 annually.
2. To increase ticket prices for concerts and pursue a more proactive approach to marketing and ticket sales

Outlook

Overall, financially Hackney Singers is currently in good standing, and the committee members are trying hard to maintain the strength and stability of the choir into the future.



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Hackney Singers				
Receipt and Payments Account				
Year ended 31 August 2025				
		2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Receipts				
Gifts, donations and other voluntary receipts				
	Membership	£ 25,789	£23,337	£23,498
	Gift Aid refund from HMRC	£ 10,357		£4,617
	Donations	£ 44	£1,097	£2,097
	Charity Collections	£2,335	£2,721	
	Other		£1,038	
Membership receipts and Donations		£ 38,525	£ 28,193	£30,212
Receipts from trading activities				
	Charitable trading			
	Concert Income	£ 9,181	£11,234	£13,959
	Non-charitable trading	£ -		£ -
	Advertising in programmes etc	£ 1,330	£940	£2,020
	HS 50th party		£2,240	
	Trading receipts	£ 10,511	£ 14,414	£15,979
	Other receipts	£ 11,144		£636
Bank interest		£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 60,180	£ 42,607	£46,827
Payments				
	Music purchase & hire	£ 1,322	£2,160	£2,570
	Rehearsal costs	£ 14,820	£20,183	£15,485
	Concert costs	£ 18,973	£25,461	£11,028
	Publicity & fundraising costs	£ -	£1,218	£ -
	Management and administration	£ 1,420	£1,318	£1,109
Other payments				
	Costs of goods for resale (inc bar costs)	£ 451		£ -



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

	Disbursement of funds	£ -	£ -	
	Donations		£526	£1,609
	Subs refund	£ 200	£185	£902
	Charity donations	£2,230	£2,721	
	HS 50th party		£2,356	
	Other	£ 12,111	£416	£724
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 51,527	£ 56,544	£33,428
NET ANNUAL SURPLUS/SHORTFALL		£ 8,653	-£13,937	£13,399

Hackney Singers Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 August 2025

Cash Funds	2024-25	2023-24
Community Current Account		
Total Cash at bank	£31,627.25	£23,074.25
Other Assets		
Cash	£105	£0

Cathie O'Driscoll

Treasurer

Date: 08/01/26



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HACKNEY SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hackney Singers (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.

Jason Foxwell

[Jason Foxwell \(Jan 9, 2026 18:52:17 GMT\)](#)

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB

Date: 09/01/26







Hackney Singers Annual report 24-25

Final Audit Report

2026-01-09

Created:	2026-01-08
By:	Bill Goodall (billgoodall79@btinternet.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAPO5J6u-X6M-fbRSjEyWfn7ypNUSIDZ9J

"Hackney Singers Annual report 24-25" History

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HACKNEY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294564

Accounts

Hackney Singers

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st August 2024 Registered Charity number 294564

Charitable Objectives

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and to advance such other charitable purposes as the committee may from time to time decide. The Committee engages a Music Team to facilitate its charitable objectives.

Government arrangements

The Choir is managed by a committee. The members of the committee are the Trustees of the charity and are elected by the Members of the Choir at the AGM.

The Committee comprises the chair, treasurer, secretary and not less than two other members; the officers and the other committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at a general meeting and may co-opt new Committee members (but no more than 25% of the elected Committee). There shall be no more than 12 members of the committee.

Committee members and Trustees

Gary Greene (chair)
Sheila Ebbutt (treasurer)
Rhian Beynon (secretary)
Cathie O'Driscoll
Jonathan Koestle-Cate
Jane Gibson
Tony Price
Sally Williams
Yvonne Sired
Carole Sired
Arthur Davis

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Hackney Singers have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Activities and achievements

2023/24 was a highly successful season for the choir. Our repertoire, managed by our musical director Dan Ludford-Thomas, has proved successful at both attracting large audiences and improving the skills and range of the singers. The overall experience of membership of the choir, musically and socially and our growing reputation has maintained our membership at 142. The season started in Autumn 2023 with a concert at St Matthias church, Stoke Newington. It comprised pieces by eastern European composers Górecki, Dvořák and Kodály ranging from late 19th to early 20th centuries. They were diverse, exciting pieces which challenged the choir and entranced the large audience. Our usual Christmas concert at St Peter de Beauvoir and carol singing in Broadway Market raised over £2,000 for Hackney Night Shelter.

In spring 2024 we presented the Monteverdi Vespers supported by His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornets at the magnificent St John at Hackney. This was a monumental piece of great complexity. This was delivered with energy, power and drama. It was presented to a full house of over 600. St John at Hackney used to be a regular venue for the choir. We stopped using it for many years whilst it went through a complete refurbishment and its very

much a home for the choir and we plan to present regular concerts at this magnificent church. Membership remained at a high level throughout the year. The repertoire chosen for the spring concert proved to be a considerable draw and ended at 142 with a waiting list for some parts. The choir is still maintaining a no-audition policy. Open access is a fundamental ethos of the choir and it doesn't seem to inhibit the learning process nor performance. The teaching and practising are designed such that it works for both experienced members as well as new starters.

Community is a vital component of membership. The weekly rehearsals provide a much-needed opportunity for social engagement for many isolated members. In November, current and previous members attended the choir's 50th anniversary party. Many have been members for decades. The choir is a large part of some members' lives and contributes to their social as well as creative needs.

Financial review

Reserves.

We started the year with £37,764 in the bank and ended with £23,075. This level is significantly within the policy of having 6 months costs, or roughly 2 concerts. Each concert (apart from Royal Festival Hall) is budgeted to lose about £5,000 to £7,000. This is a function of increasing venue charges, the cost of hiring professional musicians and our policy of keeping ticket prices affordable.

The choir showed a deficit of £14,690 over the year. We consider this to be reasonable because we have not yet claimed our Gift Aid which we estimate will be about £5,000. This will be shown in next year accounts. Nor do we show any income from our biennial Royal Festival Hall concerts which historically have provided an additional income of over £6,000. This is planned for 2024/5. The ongoing financial viability of the Hackney Singers is based on the additional income every other year from concerts. This has traditionally been profitable although clearly there is no guarantee. As we have not identified other sources of revenue, there is a clear risk to the choir should the Festival Hall concerts cease to provide a strong positive source of income.

Membership fees were increased to £200 pa. The choir has a policy of having relatively low membership fees compared to other choirs in the locality and more broadly. The choir also has a policy of keeping ticket prices affordable. These are under annual review and in the short term will need to be increased.

Risks

As we have not identified other sources of revenue, there is a clear risk to the choir should the Festival Hall concerts cease to provide a strong positive source of income. The continual involvement of Dan Ludford-Thomas and Andrew Storey as a powerful music team is critical to the future of the choir in its current form. They set the tone and personality of the choir which is fundamental to its attraction to members and the high musical standard of performances.

Hackney Singers			
Receipt and Payments Account			
Year ended 31 August 2024			
Receipts		2023-24	2022-23
Gifts, donations and other voluntary receipts			
	Membership fees	£ 23,487	£23,498
	Gift Aid refund from HMRC	£ -	£4,617
	Donations	£ 1,097	£2,097
Membership receipts and Donations		£ 24,584	£30,212
	Charitable trading		
	Concert Income	£ 11,084	£13,959
	Non-charitable trading	£ -	£ -
	Advertising in programmes etc	£ 940	£2,020
	Trading receipts	£ 12,024	£15,979
	Charity collections	£ 2,721	
	Other receipts	£ 3,278	£636
	Bank interest	£ -	£ -
Total Receipts		£ 42,606	£46,827
Payments			
	Music purchase & hire	£ 2,160	£2,570
	Rehearsal costs	£ 20,628	£15,485
	Concert costs	£ 26,459	£11,028
	Publicity & fundraising costs	£ 1,034	£ -
	Management and administration	£ 661	£1,109

Other payments			
	Costs of goods for resale (inc bar costs)	£ -	£ -
	Disbursement of funds	£ -	£ -
	Donations	£ 2,721	£1,609
	Subs refund	£ 185	£902
	Other	£ 3,448	£724
Total Payments		£ 57,296	£33,428
NET ANNUAL SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)		£ (14,690)	£13,399
Assets and liabilities at 31 August 2024		£23,074	£37,764
Bank			
Other assets		nil	nil

Signed



Chair 14 January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HACKNEY SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hackney Singers (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

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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.



Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

PO Box 9846, Poole, BH15 9JZ

Date: 19 January 2025

HACKNEY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294564

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

The Hackney Singers (the Choir) is a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 294564).

Charitable Objectives

The objectives of the society are to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by other ways as determined by the Society through its Committee. The Choir is governed by its constitution, which is available on the Choir's website at www.hackneysingers.org.uk.

Management of the Choir

The Choir is managed by a committee. The members of the committee are the Trustees of the charity and are elected by the Members of the Choir at the AGM. The Committee may co-opt new Committee members (but no more than 25% of the elected Committee). The Committee engages a Music Team to facilitate the charitable objectives. There were no payments to any of the trustees or their commercial interests.

How we meet our Charitable Objectives

The trustees of the Hackney Singers have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Choir involves members in a creative, fulfilling and enjoyable educational activity. The choir provides a musical education that they haven't previously had access to, including the opportunity to develop vocal technique and performance skills and explore a wide repertoire. It also creates a strong community, with members developing social networks that bring benefits both by attending rehearsals and through other social activities made possible by the relationships built through the choir.

The choir presents exciting and varied concerts to the largely local public. The repertoire is chosen to introduce the audience to a wide variety of choral music which will extend their musical knowledge, educate them and sometimes challenge them.

The choir raises money for local charities at our concerts and street collections.

The choir accepts any member who is willing to work towards and can maintain a high standard. The need to maintain a balance of voices to ensure a positive experience for both members and audiences means that we might have to restrict new members.

Membership fees are affordable and we have low rates for those who find the full rate unaffordable. We offer concessionary prices on tickets.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Music Team

Dan Ludford-Thomas – Musical Director

Andrew Storey – Assistant Musical Director

Trustees and Committee members during the year ended 31 August 2023

Chair -	Megan Gray (stood down April 2023) Gary Greene – (interim Chair from April 2023)
Secretary -	Jessica Glynn
Treasurer-	Gary Greene (stood down April 2023) Yvonne Sired (from April 2023) Sheila Ebbutt (from August 2023)
Committee -	Cathie O’Driscoll – Rehearsal Manager Jonathan Koestle-Cate – Asst Concert Manager Carole Sired - Administrator Yvonne Sired – Asst Treasurer Jane Gibson – Membership Tony Price - Librarian Sally Williams – Concert Manager

The following people are members of the Managing Committee but are not Trustees.

Martin Stevenson (Bass Coordinator)

Judy Spours (Tenor Coordinator)

Anne-Barbara Brennells (Alto Coordinator)



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

Membership

The drop in membership over the covid period meant that we started the year with only 118 members. The planned concert of the Verdi Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall in April 2023 was a significant attraction and we ended the year with 145 members. This level of membership allows us a good level of income and a larger choice of repertoire. During the year we held 44 rehearsal sessions.

Events

In October 2022 we presented music by Cecilia McDowall and Lili Boulanger at St Matthias Church Stoke Newington. The concert was programmed to spotlight 2 modern female composers. This was not guaranteed to be a popular concert but turned out to be enthusiastically received by a large audience of 185 at the lovely St Matthias church. The loss of £6.5k was within budget.

Our regular Christmas Concert took place at St Peter's de Beauvoir - The choir's annual concert of Christmas carols and a few popular classics at St Peter's de Beauvoir. This is a regular event enjoyed by the many parishioners, the choir and friends of the choir members. £1,170 was raised which was donated to Hackney Night Shelter.

17 December 2022 – Carol Singing in Broadway Market raised £438 which was donated to the Hackney Migrant Centre.

12 April 2023 – Verdi Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall. This biennial event is presented jointly with Lewisham Choral society. It was a sell-out attended by 2,500 and was an outstanding artistic success. The Hackney Singers share of the profit was £9,789. The profit from these concerts subsidises most of the choir's other activities.

29 July – Stokebourne Festival at St Matthias church. This was an informal concert presenting a sample of the choir's music followed by barbecue. The choir presented a programme picked from some old and some new works.



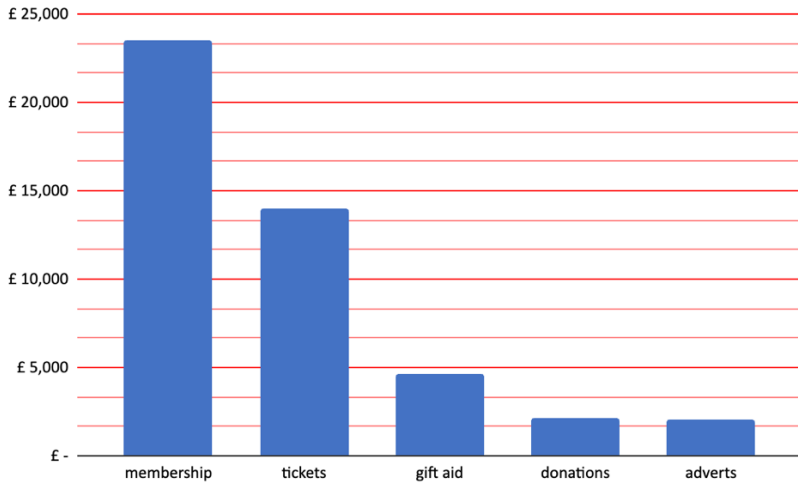
Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Financial Review

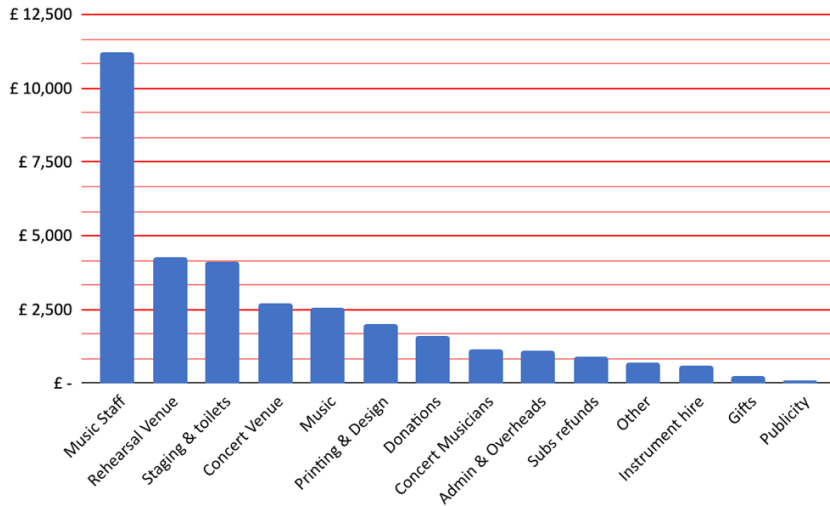
The formal accounts are attached.

We started the year with £ 23,614 in the bank and ended with £ 37,764.

Income = £46,827



Payments = £33,428



Reserves policy

The policy of the choir is to maintain sufficient reserves to cover 6 months running costs of the choir. This is estimated to be about £15,000.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Outlook

The high level of membership (145) and its associated income coupled with a better-than-expected profit from the performance of the Verdi Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall has left the choir in a strong financial position. Positive action to maintain membership levels combined with a popular concert in 2025 will be essential to continue to subsidise its presentations.

The success of the operation of the choir's rehearsals and performances is completely dependent on the outstanding work of Dan Ludford-Thomas and Andrew Storey. Their work is supported by the hard work and enthusiasm of all committee members. Our grateful thanks goes to all of them.

Signed:

Sheila Ebbutt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Ebbutt".

Treasurer

Gary Greene

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Greene".

Chair

1st December 2023



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Receipts and Payments Account Year for year ending 31 August 2023			
Receipts		2022-23	2021-2022
	Membership Fees	£ 23,498	£17,787
	Gift Aid refund from HMRC	£ 4,617	£4,681
	Donations	£ 2,097	£2,336
Membership receipts and Donations		£ 30,212	£24,805
Receipts from trading activities			
	Charitable trading		
	Concert Income	£ 13,959	£9,127
	Non-charitable trading	£ -	£1,070
	Advertising in programmes etc	£ 2,020	£2,011
	Trading receipts	£ 15,979	£12,208
	Other receipts	£ 636	£534
Bank interest		£ -	£0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 46,827	£37,547
Payments			
	Music purchase & hire	£ 2,570	£3,931
	Rehearsal costs	£ 15,485	£17,610
	Concert costs	£ 11,028	£15,419
	Publicity & fundraising costs	£ -	£82
	Management and administration	£ 1,109	£836
Other payments			
	Costs of goods for resale (inc bar costs)	£ -	£733
	Disbursement of funds	£ -	£0
	Donations	£ 1,609	£1,057
	Subs refund	£ 902	£300
	Other	£ 724	£378
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 33,428	£40,347
NET ANNUAL SURPLUS/-SHORTFALL		£ 13,399	-£2,801



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 August 2023

Cash Funds	2022-23	2021-22
Community Current Account		
Total Cash at bank	£ 37,764	£ 23,614
Other Assets		
Cash	£0	£0

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HACKNEY SINGERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hackney Singers (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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.



J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net
39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 11 December 2023

HACKNEY SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294564

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

The Hackney Singers (the Choir) is a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registered Charity Number 294564).

Charitable Objectives

The objectives of the Choir are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects, by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals; and to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit. The Choir is governed by its constitution, which is available on the Choir's website at www.hackneysingers.org.uk.

Management of the Choir

The Choir is managed by a Committee. The members of the Committee are the Trustees of the charity and are elected by the Members of the Choir at the AGM. The Committee may co-opt new Committee members (but no more than 25% of the elected Committee). The Committee engages a Music Team to facilitate the charitable objectives.

Public benefit

The trustees of the Hackney Singers have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

In pursuing our aims for the public benefit, the Hackney Singers believes it impacts on people's lives in two ways. First, for members of the choir, we involve people in a creative, fulfilling and enjoyable educational activity. For many members, the choir provides a musical education that they haven't previously had access to, including the opportunity to develop vocal technique and performance skills and explore a wide repertoire. We also believe we provide a strong community, with many members developing important social networks that bring benefits both by attending rehearsals and through other social activities made possible by the relationships built through the choir.

Secondly, for our audiences, we present exciting and varied concerts, which include audience favourites, but also repertoire that will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

We also seek to develop relationships with other groups in our community, such as children's choirs, to provide positive musical experiences for both our members and others in our community.

The trustees of the Hackney Singers are conscious that the opportunities to benefit from our activities must not be unduly restrictive. We are a non-audition choir and welcome any



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

member who is willing to work towards and can maintain a certain standard. At times, we are unable to accept new members in some voice parts, due to the need to maintain a balance of voices to ensure a positive experience for both members and audiences. We offer significant concessionary rates to those who are receiving certain benefits or are on low income. We offer concessionary prices on tickets, and reduced prices for children.

Music Team

Dan Ludford-Thomas – Musical Director

Andrew Storey – Assistant Musical Director

Committee Members and Trustees during the year ended 31 August 2022

Chair -	Julie Granger
Secretary -	Jessica Glynn
Treasurer-	Gary Greene
Committee -	Cathie O’Driscoll
	Jonathan Koestle-Cate
	Carole Sired
	Yvonne Sired (co-opted as assistant treasurer on 16th March 2021)
	Jane Gibson (co-opted)
	Tony Price (co-opted)
	Sally Williams (co-opted)
	Anne Marsh (resigned during year)



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

Chair's Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

The year started with the choir opening its doors and scores to one and all at our Come and Sing Mozart's Requiem at St Andrews Church Stoke Newington on 9th Oct 2021. Anyone, no matter their singing experience could attend and explore the piece (for a very reasonable fee). We spent an exciting and fun afternoon running through the Requiem. The concert in the evening, started with Haydn's *Insanae et Vanae Curae*, sung by Hackney Singers and anyone who knew it. We were then treated to James Offord playing Bach Toccata & Fugue in D. This was our first concert since COVID so was fizzing with energy. Many of those who had sung with us the first time, said how much they had enjoyed it. So much so quite a few decided to join the choir. We ran a successful bar and lots of members brought delicious food to sell. Many thanks to those friends and family who gave up their time to help.

On the 11th of December we performed our annual Carol Concert at St Peter's De Beauvoir in our fabulous red and gold outfits. With COVID still around audience numbers were still slightly down but we managed to collect over £800 for the winter night shelter. On the 18th of December, Mary and Lynne organised yet another very successful Carolling event at Broadway Market. There were two sessions with refreshments gratefully provided by Stephen Selby (Off Broadway). The event raised a whacking £550 for charity!

On 1st of April 2022 saw the choir return to a favourite venue, St John at Hackney for the first time since 2016. In this beautifully refurbished venue, the choir performed Arvo Part's *Which was the Son and Alleluia Tropus*. The orchestra performed *Fratres* and Helen Meyerhoff brought warmth and emotion to *My Hearts in the Highlands*. After the break we performed Handel's *Dixit Dominus* accompanied by Helen and Jennifer Cearns. This was an exhilarating and exciting hands-on-the-handle-bar roller coaster of a performance with an appreciative audience packing the stalls and the balconies. The choir is set to return Spring 2024.

With COVID still part of our everyday lives, membership has been affected but 2021-2022 saw us increase to 118 paid up members. This up from 85 the previous year.

As ever, Dan and Andy's, professionalism, dedication, humour (considering the time warp continuum that is the Blackwall Tunnel) and teamwork has once again ensured the choir has



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

been challenged, has enjoyed and been rewarded with a wonderful year of community choral singing. The committee and choir thank you.

There have been changes to the make-up of the committee as Sally Williams is now concert manager.

Thanks must go to the Section Coordinators (Jasmin Zohren and now Ann-Barbara Brenells, Martin Stevenson, Judy Spours and Cathie O'Driscoll) who ensure members are kept informed.

I would like to thank our Patron Phillip Glanville, the Mayor of Hackney, for his continuing support.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the choir who have supported the committee with their help and words of encouragement – it always means a lot.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of the committee.

Looking ahead, in 2023 we'll be returning to another favourite venue, The Royal Festival Hall where we will be performing Verdi's Requiem with our sister choir Lewisham Choral Society on 12th April.

Finally, I would like to say (this being my last chair's report after 5 years in the role) what an honour and enriching experience it has been for me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Granger'.

Julie Granger

Chair

9 November 2022



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st August 2022

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022 are presented to the members of the Hackney Singers. The accounts show all the monies received and all payments made by the choir during the year. They are presented in standard accounting format. These accounts are attached.

This was a partial get back to business-as-usual year. Membership grew so that our subscription income rose to £17,787 which with Gift Aid and donations gave us an income of £24,805. The costs of our rehearsals, music and other overheads however come to £24,541. So, whilst we have covered these costs, our 'Come and Sing' Mozart Requiem in October 2021 cost us £424 and the Spring 2022 concert at St John of Hackney lost £5,056. Losses on concerts are expected apart from the those we have at the Royal Festival Hall every other year. We will hopefully benefit from this next year.

Overall, we incurred a loss on the year of £2,801 and ended the year with £23,711 in the bank.

Financial Outlook

The fixed costs of running the choir and rehearsals are high and our concerts need subsidising (apart from those at the Festival Hall). Our costs are fixed whether we have many or few members. For the future, we will need to get back to about 140 members to have the ability to present the two major public performances we have historically staged. This year ended with 118 members. Our reserves have been reduced and will be further reduced over the next couple of years. If we have good membership growth, we should start to recover without too many problems but with some significant challenges.

Hopefully the attraction of singing at the Festival Hall next year might prove a sufficient incentive to increase our numbers. However, the committee is monitoring the level of our membership fees in the light of our numbers and costs.

I'd like to thank Yvonne Sired and all the other members of the committee and the choir for their help and support during what was a very difficult year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary Greene'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Greene, Treasurer

9th November 2022



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

Hackney Singers				
Receipt and Payments Account				
Year ended 31 August 2022				
			2021-22	2020-21
Receipts	Membership		£17,787	£7,098
	Gift Aid refund from HMRC		£4,681	£0
	Donations		£2,336	£332
	Membership receipts and Donations		£24,805	£7,430
	Receipts from trading activities			
	Charitable trading			
	Concert Income		£9,127	£0
	Non-charitable trading		£1,070	£0
	Advertising in programmes etc		£2,011	£0
	Trading receipts		£12,208	£0
	Other receipts		£534	£77
	Bank interest		£0	£0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£37,547	£7,507
Payments				
	Music purchase & hire		£3,931	£0
	Rehearsal costs		£17,610	£7,430
	Concert costs		£15,419	£0
	Publicity & fundraising costs		£82	£0
	Management and administration		£836	£1,462
	Other payments			
	Costs of goods for resale (inc bar costs)		£733	£0
	Disbursement of funds		£0	£0
	Website		£0	£0
	Donations		£1,057	£0
	Subs refund		£300	£130
	Other		£378	£843
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£40,347	£9,865
	NET ANNUAL SURPLUS/SHORTFALL		-£2,801	-£2,358



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021-22

Hackney Singers Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 August 2022

Cash Funds	2021-22	2020-21
Community Current Account		
Total Cash at bank	£23,711	£26,513
Other Assets		
Cash	£410	£0

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary Greene'.

Gary Greene
Treasurer

9th November 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HACKNEY SINGERS

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Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 22 November 2022