



The Academy Choir Wimbledon
Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31 December 2023

Registered Charity No. 299069
Give As You Earn Registration No. 012910

Trustees' Report 2023

The Academy was founded in 1980 and became a charity pursuant to a meeting of its members held on 13 March 1988 (number 299069). The committee members (who acted as the trustees) during 2023 were:

- Daniel Whitehead – Chairman
- Geoff Woodhouse – Treasurer
- Cathie Jones – Secretary
- Alan Maries
- Tracy Lees
- Lucy Singah
- Sophia Cheung (elected 2 September 2023)

The address to which any correspondence regarding the Academy should be sent is 13 Haydon Park Road, Wimbledon SW19 8JQ.

Report on Activities

The nation's major event in 2023 was the coronation of King Charles III in May and we were delighted to "do our bit" of getting the country in celebratory mood with a performance of Handel's *Coronation Anthems* alongside a selection of works by JS Bach (*Cantata 4* and the motet *Der Geist hilft*) for which we were joined by the Academy Baroque Players who themselves performed JS Bach's *Suite No. 3 in D*. The weather likewise was in celebratory mood and we were delighted that this concert was supported by a very large and enthusiastic audience. Indeed, many members of our Friends scheme were also able to join us for our annual Friends reception after the concert which provided a very enjoyable opportunity to thank our Friends in person for the huge support that they give to us.

Earlier in the year we had given a performance of Beethoven's *Mass in C* and Brahms's *Song of Destiny* and *Alto Rhapsody* at St John's church in March. We were joined by the London Mozart Players and first class soloists in mezzo-soprano Kathryn Rudge, soprano Sarah Gilford, tenor Richard Pinkstone and the returning bass, Thomas D Hopkinson.

We concluded the year in our traditional manner, giving a concert as part of the Wimbledon International Music Festival in Sacred Heart Church. We took the opportunity to continue our sequence of Handel Oratorios with a performance of his *Israel in Egypt* with the Academy Baroque Players and another group of wonderful soloists. This performance was preceded by an engaging and well-attended talk by Dr Ruth Smith, a leading Handel scholar, who had spoken compellingly before our performance of *Solomon* in a previous season. Dr Smith also kindly wrote a programme essay for us, all of which added greatly to everyone's enjoyment of the occasion.


The choir has continued to benefit from the generous support of our Friends, without which we could not perform the concerts that we do. We were unfortunate during the

course of the year to lose the support of a long-standing corporate sponsor (our only one), income that has yet to be replaced. The attached income and expenditure account shows an increase in our deficit on concerts from £20,131 (2022) to £21,903 (2023) (before taking into account Lord Moore's generous bequest).

This has reduced the surplus from £47,598 (2022) to £43,287 (2023). This is clearly both a strong position and also a decline which we must work hard to arrest. This is in turn a greater decline than that which we experienced between 2021 and 2022 (£2701) and this acceleration adds further concern, especially should it continue next year.

Every concert we put on incurs a deficit, which is intended to be met by our Friends and supporters. It therefore remains critically important to build the breadth and strength of the Friends to ensure our choir's long-term survival.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Matthew Best and to each member of the committee for the unstinting hard work of every single one of them. Much of this work goes unseen but it must never go unthanked. We share the vision of making our choir the very best that it can be and through that to sustain a love of high quality choral music in our existing audience as well as to develop that same appreciation in those who have yet to discover just how enjoyable and rewarding it can be. This cannot happen without exemplary commitment and focus. Thank you.



Daniel Whitehead
Chairman
10 June 2024

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023				
		2023		2022
		£		£
CONCERT INCOME				
	Box Office and related income	10,652		12,551
	Bar receipts (gross)	311		0
	Sponsorship	0		500
	Donations	200		1,037
		11,163		14,088
CONCERT DIRECT COSTS				
	Professional costs ⁽¹⁾	9,000		8,500
	Soloists	2,680		7,650
	Orchestra/Organist/Orch. Mgmt	13,216		9,531
	Accompanists	1,790		1,560
	Instrument and Music Hire	1,215		1,920
	Venue hire (rehearsals and concerts)	2,763		2,420
	Refreshments	231		0
	Posters, Programmes, Publicity	2,172		2,638
	Travel expenses	0		0
		33,067		34,219
DEFICIT ON CONCERTS⁽²⁾		-21,903		-20,131
OTHER INCOME / -EXPENSE				
	Choir subscriptions	4,729		4,300
	Friends' contributions	10,701		10,640
	Income Tax repayment	3,258		3,214
	Donations received	392		269
	Interest received	276		19
	Website	-91		-72
	Fundraising costs	-334		0
	Auditions	-648		-501
	Making Music subscription	-471		-440
	Admin (purchase SUMUP, music storage bags)	-220		
OVERALL SURPLUS / -DEFICIT for the year		-4,310		-2,701
SURPLUS brought forward		47,598		50,299
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		43,287		47,598
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023				
Assets:				
	Cash at bank	13,287		12,598
	Bank deposit	30,000		35,000
Liabilities:				
	Nil	0		0
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		43,287		47,598
Of which Restricted Fund ⁽³⁾		0		2,500

Notes to the Accounts

These accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis under Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

- (1) Professional costs are the fees for the conductor and for concert management.
- (2) The Deficit on Concerts for each of 2022 and 2023 is before taking into account transfers from Restricted Reserves relating to a bequest of £10,000 received in 2020. See also Note 3.
- (3) The Restricted Fund represents an amount of £10,000 given in 2020 to help finance the performance of works by JS Bach. £7,500 of this Restricted Fund was used for the performance of Bach's St. John Passion in March 2022; the remaining balance of £2,500 was used for the performance of three Bach pieces, including Cantata 4 *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, in May 2023.

During 2023 the Choir had two own promotion concerts and one concert for which a fee was received from the Wimbledon International Music Festival. Our present financial position is healthy, but the Choir continues to depend disproportionately upon a small number of large one-off donations, including a restricted bequest of £10,000 received in 2020. Use of this bequest defrayed a significant amount of the deficit incurred by the two Bach concerts referred to in Note 3.

As costs increase, we cannot continue to put on two substantial concerts a year of our own promotion unless we obtain more income through Friends' subscriptions, other donations and regular sponsorship at the same time as attracting large audiences. Our reserves are considered adequate to allow us time to do this.

Independent examiner's report

Report to the trustees of The Academy Choir Wimbledon (charity number 299069) on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, set out on pages 4&5.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



10/06/24

Ann F Orton

18 Church Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 8NN