

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES

For the academic year 2023/2024 To be presented to the AGM, 14/07/2025

Registered charity number 299109

Legal and Administrative information Trustees Lydia Vella Chair Geoff Sutton Treasurer Catherine Wearden Honorary Secretary Matthew Brown Maria Finnis Jerome Finnis Rob Legg Arabella Saer Alex Silverman

Music staff Richard Vendome Musical Director Amy Chang Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Colin Daskin Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Margaret Lingas Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Lucia Boué Prep Choirs Teacher Hannah Rhodes Prep Choirs Teacher Izzie Mohan Accompanist

Administrator Colin Daskin

Chair's Report Trustees For 2023 - 2024, the committee of Trustees was chaired by Lydia Vella, with Geoff Sutton continuing as treasurer. Catherine Wearden kindly offered, and was voted in, to fulfil the role of the Honorary Secretary. We were delighted to welcome Arabella Saer, Rob Legg and Matthew Brown as Trustees in June and July 2024.

Staff Matters Richard Vendome (Musical Director) retired in July 2024, having founded and directed the choir since 1984. Under his direction, the choirs achieved an outstanding reputation for musical accomplishment and education, with several members going on to professional careers in music. We are grateful to Richard for his 40 years of dedication to the choir and wish him well in his retirement. In preparation for Richard's retirement, the Trustees advertised to appoint a new Musical Director to start in September 2024. Several strong candidates with excellent credentials were interviewed and auditioned for the role. We were delighted to appoint Benedict Goodall to the role. Ben is a professional singer who specialises in musical education and choral conducting. We look forward to working with Ben in the next chapter for the choir. Hannah Rhodes returned from maternity leave to resume her role as a teacher to the Prep choirs for 2023 - 2024, and resigned at the end of the year. Hannah worked with the choir for 11 years and we thank her for her service to the choir.

The Year's Events in Summary In December 2023, the choir performed two Christmas concerts at St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Littlemore. These concerts were warmly received and the event was structured around a lunch to foster the sense of continuity and community between the choirs. In February 2024, the Junior and Senior choirs were excited to contribute backing vocals to a pop song composed by Frannie B, a former member of the

choir and musician. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing in a studio , which was new for many of them, and were pleased to hear the results on Spotify! In March 2024, the Junior and Senior Choirs performed Aesop's Fables, an original composition by John Whitaker. The performance was filmed at St Andrew's Church, Oxford, and included an ensemble of professional musicians. Our Prep choirs performed their own repertoire at the event, which was well attended with excellent feedback. In April 2024, the Junior and Senior Choirs sang in the children's chorus for two performances of the St Matthew Passion, directed by John Lubbock. These performances afforded the children the opportunity to sing with an adult choir and orchestra and in particularly beautiful venues: St John The Evangelist Church (SJE) Oxford, and Dorchester Abbey. Our main event of 2024 was an anniversary concert at SJE to celebrate 40 years of Richard's direction of the choir. This was a spectacular musical occasion - with exceptional performances from Roderick Williams and Colin Good and the alumnae, as well as the current choirs. We hope that Richard enjoyed the event and that it was a fitting tribute to all he has achieved with the choir! Finally, we held our summer concert in July 2024 at Cherwell School, our rehearsal venue. This concert celebrated the work of all the choirs and ended in a shared lunch for all. **Looking Forward** As we looked forward to the Year 2024-2025, the committee prepared to support the transition from Richard's direction to Ben's. We considered approaches to expand the membership and raise funds for the choir, which had both suffered during the covid lockdowns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the singers, parents, teachers, trustees and patrons for all they do and their parts in the success of the year above, as well as their drive and commitment to meet the challenges ahead. Lydia Vella Chair of Trustees
AGM 14/07/2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS For the Years 2023/2024

To be presented to the AGM, Saturday, 7.30pm, 14th July 2025

The charity made a modest surplus in the 2023-2024 financial year, thanks to generous donations and a big fund-raising concert to celebrate Richard Vendome's 40 years as musical director. Membership fee income excluding donations remained stable compared with the previous year at £25329. Donations and concerts boosted overall income up to £37602, a drop of about 9% compared with the previous year's income of £41183. Turning to costs, our teaching costs dropped further from £20818 to £19131, actually down 31% over two years, a major cost saving achieved while maintaining the quality of our teaching. Other non-teaching costs increased slightly from £12596 to £14039, due to increased administration costs. Thankfully rent costs remained stable due to no rent increase at Cherwell.

The final result was a surplus, down from 2022/2023 of £2652 to £1303 for 2023/2024.

Choir numbers remained stable. Fees again were kept constant to aid recruitment given there are a large number of choirs now operating in the same market sector within Oxford.

Loveadmin continues to serve the choir well, reducing the administration load and administration overhead.

Looking ahead, the main risks still facing the charity are problems in recruiting sufficient members to keep the charity afloat and increasing costs. The good news is that membership of the younger choirs is holding up while the bad news is that the senior choir membership continues to remain small in size. Fees will increase for 2025/26 along with a long overdue increase in teacher hourly rates.

In terms of future viability, I can confirm that the choir has the reserves to get through the next year to September 2025.

The choir has no employees in 2023/24 and had none in 2022/23 and 2021/22.

Expenses were reimbursed to the treasurer, for expenses incurred by credit card, December 2023 £445 for Making Music membership. Our Chair, Dr Lydia Vella, received £53.50 in April 2024 for one session accompanying the prep choirs. One of our trustees, Alex Silverman received £81.40 in December 2023 for supporting one session of the senior choir.

I reported last year that Inland Revenue gave permission for the choir to reclaim giftaid on membership fees. Using Loveadmin to administer the giftaid permissions, the choir will be claiming giftaid from now on where permitted provided membership fee payments are made direct to the choir's bank account. A lot of membership payments in the past have come through Loveadmin, payment partner, Go Cardless, this means that a lot of payments that we previously thought would qualify for Giftaid, won't now qualify as we learnt recently that only membership payments made direct into the choir's bank account qualify. Steps have now been taken to ensure as many membership payments as possible go direct into the choir's account.

We continue to bank with CAF Bank, part of HSBC Group, with a second account at Barclays Bank.

Geoff Sutton
Treasurer
AGM 14th July 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Oxford Youth Choirs

299109

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

8/16/2023

To

9/15/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	25,329	-	-	25,329	25,031
Donations	5,493	-	-	5,493	5,427
Concerts and events	5,092	-	-	5,092	4,186
Gift aid	1,418	-	-	1,418	1,446
Bank interest	270	-	-	270	93
Insurance refund: piano	-	-	-	-	5,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,602	-	-	37,602	41,183
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,602	-	-	37,602	41,183
A3 Payments					
Music tuition fees	19,131	-	-	19,131	20,818
Concert and event expenses	3,129	-	-	3,129	5,767
Administrator expenses	4,263	-	-	4,263	1,728
Rent and storage costs	7,599	-	-	7,599	8,862
Other running costs	2,177	-	-	2,177	1,465
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	36,299	-	-	36,299	38,640
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	36,299	-	-	36,299	38,640
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,303	-	-	1,303	2,543
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,441	-	-	15,441	12,898
Cash funds this year end	16,744	-	-	16,744	15,441

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,385	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	5,959	-	-
	Barclays Bank	400	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,744	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Gift Aid (figure not yet available)	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent Examiner's fee	Unrestricted	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/09/2024 (13 months)

**Charity no
(if any)** 299109

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 15/09/2024.

**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.

Signed: Peter J. Stevenson.

Date: 23/06/2025

Name: Peter J Stevenson

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

Address: Flat 25, Cherwell Court, Banbury Road,
Kidlington
OX5 2BG