

SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

England & Wales · Charity number 500578

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1970-12-02

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

Contact

Address 101 Whirlowdale Road
Sheffield
S7 2NF

Phone 07958652534

Email admin@sheffieldoratorio.org.uk

Website www.sheffieldoratorio.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: We perform up to four major choral concerts a year, in Sheffield Cathedral and other venues. Member of Making Music. Currently around 85 singing members. We hold voice training workshops to improve the quality of our singing, and are exploring new ways to extend the range of our membership and reach new audiences.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED - IN PRACTICE SHEFFIELD.
- Sheffield City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£40,514	£38,422	-	-
2024-07-31	£40,182	£40,202	-	-
2023-07-31	£39,120	£37,729	-	-
2022-07-31	£23,105	£28,897	-	-
2021-07-31	£15,043	£8,457	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
HELEN ELIZABETH STANSFIELD LEDGER		2022-02-09
HILARY FAWCETT		2023-02-01
Helen Julia Smith		2023-02-01
LYDIA RUTH FIELDER-LORD		2010-11-17
Lois Ruth McGrath		2014-12-10
PHILIP HIRST		2022-02-09

SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 500578

Accounts



SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS
Registered Charity No. 500578
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 July 2025

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**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025**

Legal Information

Trustees August 2024 - July 2025

Elected Trustees

Philip Hirst	Chair
Helen Smith	Secretary
Helen Ledger	Treasurer
Lois McGrath	Concert Manager
Lydia Fielder Lord	Singing Representative
<i>Alison Bond</i>	<i>Singing Representative</i>
Hilary Fawcett	Singing Representative

Co-opted Members

Paul Clarke	Making Music Representative to September 2024
Director of Music	Alan East MA ARCO ARCM
Voice Coach	Dr Vivien Pike M Mus GRSM ARMCM LGSM FRSA
Accompanist	Peter Heginbotham

The Director of Music attends and reports to Committee meetings as a non-voting Member.

Registered Charity Number 500578

Principal Address

101 Whirlowdale Road
Millhouses
Sheffield
S7 2NF

Independent Examiner

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Bank

Natwest Bank plc

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025

Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005, in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted 16 September 1970 and amended 3 October 1979, 18 February 1987, 30 September 1992, 13 October 1993, 12 March 1997, 25 June 2003, 8 July 2009, 23 November 2016 and 7 July 2021.

The organisation's finances and policies are administered by the Trustees.

New Trustees are elected for three-year periods at the organisation's annual AGM or a Special General Meeting. The new members are given the information they need, including copies of the Constitution and policies and procedures. The Trustees from time to time may co-opt up to three further members, who attend committee meetings, but are not Trustees unless subsequently elected by the membership. The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2 of the report.

Objectives and activities

The main objects of the Chorus 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 such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

Review of activities

The Chorus had an interesting year.

Membership of the Chorus remained relatively stable despite attempts to encourage new members. The committee remains dedicated to trying to increase membership as numbers are still well below what they were before the pandemic.

Attendance at concerts was also lower than expected particularly in relation to the performance of Elijah in April. The committee is working on understanding what attracts audience to our concerts and the barriers that prevent people from attending. It is recognised that this will be due to a number of factors, not least the reduced membership of the choir bringing in fewer supporters.

The Chorus held a successful 'Come and Sing Elijah Choruses' event as part of the Classical Sheffield Weekend when we attracted a large number of non-members to an afternoon sing through in the centre of the city. Feedback from participants was very positive.

A recruitment process was carried out for an Assistant Musical Director to support the Musical Director with the appointment of Timothy Peters to the role from the start of the 2025/26 season. The Committee has taken this step to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the Chorus into the future. We are very excited about the appointment and look forward to welcoming Timothy to rehearsals.

The Chorus was pleased to receive a generous donation from an anonymous benefactor to be used for enhancing the orchestral accompaniment for concerts. This has enabled the engagement of high-quality orchestral forces for the 2025/26 season and beyond.

During the year our Vocal Coach, Dr Vivien Pike, resigned from her position after many years of providing outstanding support to the chorus both as an ensemble and as individual singers. Dr Pike was subsequently elected as an Honorary Vice-President of the Chorus.

Director of Music's Report 2024/25 Season

The 2024/25 season opened with a Remembrance concert in Ecclesall Church; the two works presented were Vaughan Williams Cantata "Dona nobis pacem", (a passionate plea for an end to warfare) given a moving and convincing performance by SOC and soloists Georgie Malcolm and Johannes Moore, and Karl Jenkins' "Requiem", for which we were joined by Froggatt Young Singers. For the Christmas concert also at Ecclesall) we were joined by four young singers from the Sheffield area, and performed the usual mix of choir carols, audience carols and Christmas solos, well performed by SOC and soloists.

For the Spring concert SOC returned to Sheffield Cathedral for a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah", a one-time crowd-puller and a dramatic and powerful work, given a fine performance by SOC and soloists, Debra Morley, Bethany Horak-Hallett, Timothy Peters and last-minute substitute Alistair Ollerenshaw, the only real disappointment being the size of the audience. For the summer concert, back in Ecclesall SOC held an afternoon Masterclass for young singers under the tutelage of Andrew Randall. This proved to be an informative and enjoyable afternoon. The singers were then invited to sing in the evening concert with SOC supplying some well-known classics as "I was Glad", "Blest pair of Sirens" (also by Parry) and Elgar's "Give unto the Lord".

During the season SOC's vocal coach Vivian Pike retired from her post. SOC is immensely grateful for her expertise and wise tutelage over the past few years. We wish her all the best and congratulate her on her elevation to Vice-President.

The forth-coming season begins with a classic concert of Haydn (Nelson Mass) and Bach's pre-Advent cantata "Sleepers Wake". For the Christmas Concert we are welcoming again the Lodge Moor Children's Choir, who delighted us all three years ago. Alexandra Middleton-Holland is their Conductor. We return to Sheffield Cathedral in March to present Handel's beautiful but rarely heard cantata "The Ways of Zion" and the austere and atmospheric cantata "The Company of Heaven" by Benjamin Britten (2026 is his 50th Memorial Year). We will also be welcoming back the Skipton Camerata for the November concert and the Northern Chamber Orchestra for the March concert.

We welcome a new addition to SOC's musical governance in the shape of Timothy Peters, who becomes assistant Musical Director and we look forward to his input to the season.

Thanks as ever go to Peter Heginbotham, our normal accompanist, Phil Hirst and the committee for their continued support.

Alan East. Musical Director

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025

Financial Review

This season saw our income remained stable at £40,514 due to consistent member subscriptions and fundraising, unfortunately our ticket sales were disappointingly reduced and our concert income declined from £8,547 to £7,723. We did however receive a restricted grant of £10,000 which we will spend over the next 2 years on orchestral expenses.

Expenditure decreased to £38,422 compared with the previous year's £40,202, careful management on the costs to be incurred enabled us to reduce the costs of Orchestras, venue and music hire. However additional expenses were incurred because of an increase in insurance costs and the need to move a piano from one venue to another.

Reserves policy

We began the year with total reserves of £36,574 and ended with £38,666 to underpin our future activities. The Chorus aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of £15,000. This represents a suitable amount to provide the necessary security for booking orchestras, soloists and venues at least a year ahead. The unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2025 were £28,574. See Fund breakdown on page 9 for full details.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus take our responsibilities seriously. We are confident that the society's activities meet the public benefit guidance of the Charity Commission, in particular our main object as stated above. Our singing members benefit considerably in terms of improved musical education and mental wellbeing associated with singing with a choir. We offer opportunities to young singers to develop their skills by participating in our concerts as soloists and we welcome audiences to enjoy our music with us.

The Membership fee for the 2024-25 season was at the rate of £160 per year. On the principle that no one should be excluded on grounds of cost, there is always a 50% reduction for members on low incomes.

**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025**

Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which show the state of affairs of the charity and of net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- State whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable the trustees to prepare the financial statements. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 14/1/26 and is signed on their behalf by:



14/1/2026

Phil Hirst
Chair

**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025**

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 10

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(2) 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 these 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:

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; and
 - 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.

Signed



Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date: 2/10/2025


Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
RECEIPTS				
Concert Income				
Ticket Sales - Concerts	7,723		7,723	8,547
Ticket Sales - Workshop			0	0
Programme Sales, Cushion hire, Refreshments	983		983	569
Music & Folder Hire & Sales	1,483		1,483	2,206
Sponsorship & Grants		10,000	10,000	4,089
Subs from Guest Singers	352		352	225
Total Concert Income	10,541	10,000	20,541	15,636
General Income				
Subscriptions from Members	12,654		12,654	12,926
Donations & Bequests	1,936		1,936	2,440
Fundraising	1,313		1,313	4,220
Gift Aid (HMRC Refund)	2,735		2,735	3,486
Bank Interest (COIF account)	1,334		1,334	1,474
Total General Income	19,973	-	19,973	24,546
Total Receipts	30,514	10,000	40,514	40,182
PAYMENTS				
Concert Expenditure				
Orchestras	7,118		7,118	8,269
Concert organists/pianists	1,377		1,377	1,380
Soloists	3,421		3,421	3,173
Concert Conductors	2,372		2,372	2,214
Other concert expenses & equipment	369		369	536
Venue Hire - concerts	3,365		3,365	3,718
Music Hire & Purchase	2,000		2,000	2,777
Publicity, programmes, tickets	1,365		1,365	1,869
Performing Rights fees	287		287	212
Total Concert Expenditure	21,675	-	21,675	24,148
General Expenditure				
Musical Director & Accompanists	10,397		10,397	9,829
Venue Hire - rehearsals	3,860		3,860	4,190
Education Costs			-	-
Publicity - Annual Brochure, website etc	468		468	504
Administration & minor equipment	717		717	402
Fundraising expenses	57		57	206
Accountancy	175		175	175
Gifts & Donations by SOC	373		373	167
Making Music (Annual sub and insurance premium)	700		700	581
Total General Expenditure	16,747	-	16,747	16,054
Total Payments	38,422	-	38,422	40,202
Surplus/Deficit (Net receipts/payments)	(7,908)	10,000	2,092	(20)
Fund balances brought forward 01/08/2024	36,482	92	36,574	36,594
Transfers between funds				
Fund balances carried forward	28,574	10,092	38,666	36,574

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 July 2025


	2025	2024
	£	£
Assets		
Balance at bank		
Current Account	7,483	7,051
Deposit Account (COIF)	30,000	29,000
Cash in hand	<u>1,187</u>	<u>523</u>
Total Assets	<u>38,671</u>	<u>36,574</u>
 Liabilities		
		-
		-
Accountancy & Independent Examination	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>
	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>
 Funds represented by		
General Fund	28,574	36,482
Restricted Funds:		
Grant for concert use	10,000	
Chamber Choir	<u>92</u>	<u>92</u>
	<u>38,666</u>	<u>36,574</u>

This report was approved by the Trustees on 14/1/26 and is signed on their behalf by:



 Phil Hirst
 Chair

14/1/2026



 Helen Ledger
 Treasurer

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025

Receipts and payments accounts

Because the level of income and expenditure is below £250,000 the group has opted for accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis. This is in line with the Charity Commissioners' guidelines for small charities and is seen as more appropriate for this organisation.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds held for the general purposes of the charity at the trustees' discretion.

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which trustees have earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Restricted funds represent funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise where the donor specifies or where the funds raised are for a particular restricted purpose.

Restricted funds brought forward to this financial year represented:

Chamber Choir	£92
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At the year-end sums carried forward in restricted funds amounted to:

Concert Orchestras	£10,000
Chamber Choir	£92

SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 500578

Accounts



**SHEFFIELD
ORATORIO CHORUS**

SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

Registered Charity No. 500578

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2024

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**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024**

Legal Information

Trustees August 2023 - July 2024

Elected Trustees

Lydia Fielder Lord	Co-Chair to February 24
Philip Hirst	Chair from February 24
Janet Smith	Secretary to February 24
Helen Smith	Secretary from February 24
Helen Ledger	Treasurer
Lois McGrath	Concert Manager
Lydia Fielder Lord	Singing Representative from February 24
Alison Bond	Singing Representative from February 24
Hilary Fawcett	Singing Representative
Helen Smith	Singing Representative to February 24

Co-opted Members

Paul Clarke Making Music Representative from April 23

Director of Music Alan Eost MA ARCO ARCM
Voice Coach Dr Vivien Pike M Mus GRSM ARMCM LGSM FRSA
Accompanists Peter Heginbotham and Robert Webb

The Director of Music and Voice Coach attend and report to Committee meetings as non-voting members.

Registered Charity Number 500578

Principal Address

101 Whirlowdale Road
Millhouses
Sheffield
S7 2NF

Independent Examiner

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
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Natwest Bank plc

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024

Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005, in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted 16 September 1970 and amended 3 October 1979, 18 February 1987, 30 September 1992, 13 October 1993, 12 March 1997, 25 June 2003, 8 July 2009, 23 November 2016 and 7 July 2021.

The organisation's finances and policies are administered by the Trustees.

New Trustees are elected for three-year periods at the organisation's annual AGM or a Special General Meeting. The new members are given the information they need, including copies of the Constitution and policies and procedures. The Trustees from time to time may co-opt up to three further members, who attend committee meetings, but are not Trustees unless subsequently elected by the membership. The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2 of the report.

Objectives and activities

The main objects of the Chorus 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 such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

Review of activities

The Chorus has had a successful year both musically and socially. The membership has seen a modest increase over the year and in addition there have been several 'guest singers' joining us for individual concerts. Our 5-year strategic development plan has been reviewed during the year and has identified ways of encouraging new members to join the chorus.

Our 4 concerts during the year had reasonable audience attendance but our strategic development plan also seeks to increase numbers and reach out to potential new audiences. Our concerts during the year included a performance of Haydn & Mozart masses in Ecclesall Church, our Christmas Carol Concert which faced challenges due to ill health of many members, Rutter & Le Fleming works in Sheffield Cathedral and a performance of Brahms' 'Schicksalslied' and 'Requiem' in the Victoria Hall. The latter concert saw the Oratorio Chorus join forces with the Sheffield Bach Choir for the first time in over twenty years with the musical directors of each choir conducting. This was regarded as a very successful collaboration.

Our financial position for the year was better than originally budgeted due in large part to very generous sponsorship of our Brahms concert by a former long-standing member and supporter, Laurence Coates, who sadly did not live to see the concert. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Laurence and his wife Liz.

The Chorus also held its first ever Autumn Craft Fair which was a very successful fundraising venture in a local church hall.

The committee continues to look ahead to the future through the implementation of its 5-year strategic plan. It undertook an extensive consultation with the membership with the objective of enhancing the rehearsal experience and has implemented a number of new practices and policies arising from this and previous consultations.

Director of Music's Report 2023/24 Season

The 2023/4 season opened with a Classical Concert consisting of Mozart's "Vespers and "Coronation Mass" along with Haydn's "Little Organ Mass". A trio of young soloists were joined by Debra Morley (soprano) making a welcome return to our solo platform. The organ solo was in the hands of Peter Heginbotham who has, once again, become our accompanist, and South Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra provided the accompaniment. An enjoyable and successful concert resulted. This was followed by the usual Christmas concert, again in Ecclesall Church. Guests on this occasion were the Steel City Choristers, formed from the Cathedral Choir of old.

For the Spring concert, we returned to Sheffield Cathedral for a programme of approachable 20th Century music ie John Rutter's "Requiem" and the under-rated "Five Psalms" of Christopher Le Fleming. This featured a small ensemble of the SYSO with soprano soloist Ruby Hendry and Peter Heginbotham on the organ. We also had an enjoyable interlude provided by Natalie Fooks, BBC Chorister of the Year, and daughter of one of our members. Despite off-stage problems this was another successfully delivered concert. The highlight of the season came with the final concert, for which we joined forces with the Sheffield Bach Choir to perform Brahms' "Requiem" and "Schicksalslied"(Song of Destiny). We were delighted to welcome baritone Darren Jeffery and internationally acclaimed soprano Elizabeth Watts. The Victoria Hall was a new venue for SOC. A near-full house made this a successful venture both musically and financially

We start the new season with a "Concert for Peace" on Remembrance Saturday. This will feature the Karl Jenkins "Requiem" and Vaughan Williams' Cantata "Dona nobis pacem" (Grant us peace). A semichorus of the Froggatt Young Singers will join us. We also welcome back the outstanding young soprano Georgie Malcolm and making his debut with SOC the young rising baritone "Johannes Moore". The venue is to be Ecclesall Church. For the Christmas Concert we hope to welcome some young soloists. In April we will return to Sheffield Cathedral for a performance of the ever-popular oratorio "Elijah", last performed by SOC 20 years ago. The season will close with a concert and masterclass with young singers in June.

My thanks go to musicians Vivien Pike for her work with voice trials and coaching and to Peter Heginbotham for his work as accompanist and assistant conductor. Thanks also to Phil and the Committee for their support and hard work in moving the Society forward.

Alan Eost. Musical Director

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024

Financial Review

This season saw an increase in income to £40,182 compared with £39,120 in the previous year and reflects an increase in subscriptions, fundraising and the re-charge arrangement agreed with the Sheffield Bach Society for costs related to the final concert of the year.

Expenditure increased to £40,202 compared with the previous year's £37,729 additional expenses were incurred due to inflation increases in areas such as publicity and printing costs, as well as an increase in the number of soloists used and the additional costs for our joint concert with the Sheffield Bach Society.

This year's concert costs were greatly helped by our successful fundraising including a craft fair held in the autumn of 2023 raising £1,180 and sponsorship of the July concert by Laurence Coates a retired member of the choir in memory of both himself and his wife. We also benefited from other donations, and fundraising efforts totalling £2,045

Reserves policy

We began the year with total reserves of £36,594 and ended with £36,575 to underpin our future activities. The Chorus aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of £15,000. This represents a suitable amount to provide the necessary security for booking orchestras, soloists and venues at least a year ahead. The need for reserves was illustrated in the past two years as the impact of a communicable disease is not covered by insurance. The unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2024 were £36,482. See Fund breakdown on page 9 for full details.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus take our responsibilities seriously. We are confident that the society's activities meet the public benefit guidance of the Charity Commission, in particular our main object as stated above. Our singing members benefit considerably in terms of improved musical education and mental wellbeing associated with singing with a choir. We offer opportunities to young singers to develop their skills by participating in our concerts as soloists and we welcome audiences to enjoy our music with us.

The Membership fee for the 2023-24 season was at the rate of £160 per year. On the principle that no one should be excluded on grounds of cost, there is always a 50% reduction for members on low incomes.

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024

Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which show the state of affairs of the charity and of net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- State whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable the trustees to prepare the financial statements. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

27 November 2024

This report was approved by the Trustees on [INSERT DATE] and is signed on their behalf by:



Phil Hirst
Chair

**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024**

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 9

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(2) 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 these 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:

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; and
 - 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.

Signed



Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date:

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Concert Income				
Ticket Sales - Concerts	8,547		8,547	8,610
Ticket Sales - Workshop	-		0	1,154
Programme Sales, Cushion hire, Refreshments	569		569	663
Music & Folder Hire & Sales	2,206		2,206	951
Sponsorship & Grants	3,589	500	4,089	3,460
Subs from Guest Singers	225		225	415
Total Concert Income	15,136	500	15,636	15,254
General Income				
Subscriptions from Members	12,926		12,926	12,400
Donations & Bequests	2,440		2,440	3,923
Fundraising	4,220		4,220	3,953
Gift Aid (HMRC Refund)	3,486		3,486	2,745
Bank Interest (COIF account)	1,474		1,474	845
Total General Income	24,546	-	24,546	23,866
Total Receipts	39,682	500	40,182	39,120
PAYMENTS				
Concert Expenditure				
Orchestras	6,769	1,500	8,269	9,764
Concert organists/pianists	1,380		1,380	1,050
Soloists	3,173		3,173	2,876
Concert Conductors	2,214		2,214	1,450
Other concert expenses & equipment	536		536	428
Venue Hire - concerts	3,718		3,718	3,357
Music Hire & Purchase	2,777		2,777	919
Publicity, programmes, tickets	1,869		1,869	1,234
Performing Rights fees	212		212	207
Total Concert Expenditure	22,648	1,500	24,148	21,285
General Expenditure				
Musical Director & Accompanists	9,829		9,829	10,064
Venue Hire - rehearsals	4,190		4,190	4,209
Education Costs			-	432
Publicity - Annual Brochure, website etc	504		504	457
Administration & minor equipment	402		402	314
Fundraising expenses	206		206	87
Accountancy	175		175	175
Gifts & Donations by SOC	167		167	162
Making Music (Annual sub and insurance premium)	581		581	544
Total General Expenditure	16,054	-	16,054	16,444
Total Payments	38,702	1,500	40,202	37,729
Surplus/Deficit (Net receipts/payments)	980	(1,000)	(20)	1,391
Fund balances brought forward 01/08/2022	35,594	1,000	36,594	35,203
Transfers between funds				
Fund balances carried forward	36,574	-	36,574	36,594

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 July 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Assets		
Balance at bank		
Current Account	7,051	7,470
Deposit Account (COIF)	29,000	29,000
Cash in hand	523	124
Total Assets	36,574	36,594
 Liabilities		
		-
		-
Accountancy & Independent Examinatic	175	175
	175	175
 Funds represented by		
General Fund	36,482	35,502
Restricted Funds:		
Chamber Choir	92	1,000
	36,574	36,594

27 November 2024

This report was approved by the Trustees on ~~[INSERT DATE]~~ and is signed on their behalf by:



Phil Hirst
Chairs



Helen Ledger
Treasurer

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024

Receipts and payments accounts

Because the level of income and expenditure is below £250,000 the group has opted for accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis. This is in line with the Charity Commissioners' guidelines for small charities and is seen as more appropriate for this organisation.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds held for the general purposes of the charity at the trustees' discretion.

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which trustees have earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Restricted funds represent funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise where the donor specifies or where the funds raised are for a particular restricted purpose.

Restricted funds brought forward to this financial year represented:

Concert Costs (June 2024 Sponsorship)	£1,000
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At the year-end sums carried forward in restricted funds amounted to:

Nil

SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 500578

Accounts



SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

Registered Charity No. 500578

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

Legal Information

Trustees August 2022 - July 2023

Elected Trustees

Bill Clarke	Chair to February 23
Lydia Fielder Lord	Co-Chair from February 23
Philip Hirst	Co-Chair from February 23
Janet Smith	Secretary
Margaret Thompson	Treasurer to February 23
Helen Ledger	Treasurer from February 23
Lois McGrath	Concert Manager
Lydia Fielder Lord	Singing Representative to February 23
Philip Hirst	Singing Representative to February 23
Helen Ledger	Singing Representative to February 23
Kirsten Cubitt Thorley	Singing Representative
Hilary Fawcett	Singing Representative from February 23
Helen Smith	Singing Representative from April 23

Co-opted Members

Richard Thompson	Making Music Representative to February 23
Paul Clarke	Making Music Representative from April 23

Director of Music	Alan Eost MA ARCO ARCM
Voice Coach	Dr Vivien Pike M Mus GRSM ARMCM LGSM FRSA
Accompanists	Peter Heginbotham and Robert Webb

The Director of Music and Voice Coach attend and report to Committee meetings as non-voting members.

Registered Charity Number 500578

Principal Address

101 Whirlowdale Road
Millhouses
Sheffield
S7 2NF

Independent Examiner

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatia
CA7 2EL

Bank

Natwest Bank plc

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005, in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted 16 September 1970 and amended 3 October 1979, 18 February 1987, 30 September 1992, 13 October 1993, 12 March 1997, 25 June 2003, 8 July 2009, 23 November 2016 and 7 July 2021.

The organisation's finances and policies are administered by the Trustees.

New Trustees are elected for three-year periods at the organisation's annual AGM or a Special General Meeting. The new members are given the information they need, including copies of the Constitution and policies and procedures. The Trustees from time to time may co-opt up to three further members, who attend committee meetings, but are not Trustees unless subsequently elected by the membership. The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2 of the report.

Objectives and activities

The main objects of the Chorus 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 such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

Review of activities

During the year the Chorus has continued to consolidate its position following the pandemic. Membership has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, the Chorus has been able to perform a more ambitious programme with a performance of Bach's 'St John Passion' marking its return to Sheffield Cathedral and a very well received performance of Will Todd's 'Mass in Blue' conducted by the composer and accompanied by Will Todd's jazz Trio. The 'Mass in Blue' performance was supported by the Sheffield Chamber Choir and also gave the opportunity for the Chorus to host a workshop day led by Will Todd which was attended by guest singers from across the UK.

The Committee membership changed significantly at the last AGM with the previous chair and treasurer reaching the end of their term of office and new Co-Chairs and Treasurer being elected as well as new singing representatives. The committee has met regularly through the year and has focussed on planning for the future development of the Chorus given its post-pandemic situation and taking account of the results of consultation with the membership.

Director of Music's Report

At the end of the 21/22 season SOC was strapped for cash, so the November concert had to be (unusually) without orchestra; this autumn concert then consisted of Britten's "Festival Te Deum" and "Hymn to St Cecilia", Chilcott's "Canticles of Light" and Victoria's "Missa O quam gloriosum est regnum". By using semichorus instead of soloists more money was saved. The concert was moderately successful, but it was hoped that financial pressures would ease somewhat and allow a return to a more "normal" autumn concert in future.

For the Christmas concert in Ecclesall church we welcomed the Lodge Moor Children's Choir who provided a delightful contrast to our traditional range of choral carols

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

The spring concert consisted of Bach's "St. John Passion" and we welcomed back the Northern Chamber Orchestra and an excellent sextet of young soloists to create a very good concert. An added bonus was our return to Sheffield Cathedral after three and half years away.

For the Summer concert we returned to Ecclesall church for an equally memorable evening performing Will Todd's "Mass in Blue" and Chilcott's "Nideros Jazz Mass". We also welcomed "Sheffield Chamber Choir" who joined us for the "Mass in Blue" and performed Martin's "Mass for double choir". With Will Todd conducting and his ensemble providing the accompaniment this was an exciting and lively evening for all concerned. There was the added bonus of a workshop with Will Todd, three weeks before the concert. This proved highly beneficial and enjoyable for those who took part.

For this season, in an effort to keep costs down and to allow instrumental support for all our main concerts we are engaging South Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra. In November we are offering Mozart's "Coronation" Mass and "Vespers". Completing the programme will be Haydn's "Little Organ Mass". This is a must for devotees of standard choral repertoire. For Christmas we welcome the Steel City Choristers, founded initially from the former Cathedral Choir. For the March concert we return to Sheffield Cathedral to offer Rutter's "Requiem" (now an established part of the choral repertoire) and Le Fleming's somewhat under-rated "Five Psalms". For the summer concert we are joining with Sheffield Bach Society to put on Brahms "Requiem". This will be our first joint concert with SBS since 1997 and will take place in the Victoria Hall

Last season, vocal support sessions were offered to all members as part of the Academy scheme to assist and improve aspects of vocal technique. This season there will be some further classes.

I would like to thank Bill Clarke, Chairman until last January for his support and leadership particularly in overseeing the Will Todd concert and workshop. Thanks also to Vivien Pike for her work with the Academy and support and also to our two accompanists, Peter Heginbotham and Robert Webb. Peter now returns as our full-time accompanist. Lastly, thanks to Lydia, Phil and the Committee for their support and assistance in driving the Society forward.

Alan East. Musical Director

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

Financial Review

This season saw an increase in income to £39,120 compared with £23,105 in the previous year and reflects an increase in tickets sales and donations.

Expenditure increased to £37,729 compared with the previous year's £28,897 additional expenses were incurred because we have completed a more ambitious concert programme this year including welcoming the Will Todd Ensemble, who joined us for the July concert.

This year's concert costs were greatly helped by our successful fundraising including a grant of £1,000 received from the JG Graves Charitable Trust and sponsorship of the July concert by members of the choir. We also benefited by another sponsored mountain climb, this time Ben Nevis by our Musical Director and friends. Donations, grants and sponsorship totalled £9,749.

Other fundraising activities comprising marmalade sales, the hamper raffle at the Christmas concert and interval cakes which raised a further £1,279.

Reserves policy

We began the year with total reserves of £35,203 and ended with £36,594 to underpin our future activities. The Chorus aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of £15,000. This represents a suitable amount to provide the necessary security for booking orchestras, soloists and venues at least a year ahead. The need for reserves was illustrated in the past two years as the impact of a communicable disease is not covered by insurance. The unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2022 were £35,502. See Fund breakdown on page 10 for full details.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus take our responsibilities seriously. We are confident that the society's activities meet the public benefit guidance of the Charity Commission, in particular our main object as stated above. Our singing members benefit considerably in terms of improved musical education and mental wellbeing associated with singing with a choir. We offer opportunities to young singers to develop their skills by participating in our concerts as soloists and we welcome audiences to enjoy our music with us.

The Membership fee for the 2022-23 Season continued at the rate of £150 per year. However after a review an increase to £160 per year, was agreed at a special AGM in June 2023, this will commence from the start of 2023-24 season. On the principle that no one should be excluded on grounds of cost, there is always a 50% reduction for members on low incomes.

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which show the state of affairs of the charity and of net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- State whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable the trustees to prepare the financial statements. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18/01/24 and is signed on their behalf by:



Lydia Fielder Lord
Co-Chair



Phil Hirst
Co-Chair

**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023**

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 10

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(2) 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 these 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:

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; and
 - 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.

Signed



Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date:

5/10/2023

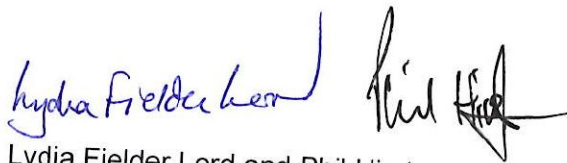
Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Concert Income				
Ticket Sales - Concerts				
Ticket Sales - Workshop	8,610		8,610	5,383
Programme Sales, Cushion hire, Refreshments	1,154		1,154	
Music & Folder Hire & Sales	663		663	430
Sponsorship & Grants	951		951	688
Subs from Guest Singers	2,460	1,000	3,460	-
Total Concert Income	415		415	375
General Income	14,254	1,000	15,254	6,876
Subscriptions from Members			12,400	11,937
Donations & Bequests	12,400		3,923	813
Fundraising	3,923		3,953	1,206
Gift Aid (HMRC Refund)	3,953		2,744	2,199
Bank Interest (COIF account)	2,744		845	74
Total General Income	845		845	74
Total Receipts	23,865	-	23,865	16,229
	38,120	1,000	39,120	23,105
PAYMENTS				
Concert Expenditure				
Orchestras			9,764	6,584
Concert organists/pianists	9,764		1,050	1,150
Soloists	1,050		2,876	2,043
Concert Conductors	2,876		1,450	2,050
Other concert expenses & equipment	1,450		428	-
Venue Hire - concerts	428		3,357	1,439
Music Hire & Purchase	3,357		919	1,458
Publicity, programmes, tickets	919		1,234	978
Performing Rights fees	1,234		207	-
Total Concert Expenditure	207		207	-
	21,285	-	21,285	15,702
General Expenditure				
Musical Director & Accompanists			10,064	8,630
Venue Hire - rehearsals	10,064		4,209	2,890
Education Costs	4,209		432	-
Publicity - Annual Brochure, website etc	432		457	580
Administration & minor equipment	457		314	432
Fundraising expenses	314		87	-
Accountancy	87		175	175
Gifts & Donations by SOC	175		162	106
Making Music (Annual sub and insurance premium)	162		544	382
Total General Expenditure	544		544	382
Total Payments	16,444	-	16,444	13,195
Surplus/Deficit (Net receipts/payments)	37,729	-	37,729	28,897
Fund balances brought forward 01/08/2022	391	1,000	1,391	(5,792)
Transfers between funds	35,203		35,203	40,995
Fund balances carried forward	35,594	1,000	36,594	35,203

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 July 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Assets		
Balance at bank		
Current Account	7,470	6,132
Deposit Account (COIF)	29,000	29,000
Cash in hand	124	71
Total Assets	36,594	35,203
 Liabilities		
Venue Hire for June 22 concert		660
PRS fee for December 21 Concert		42
Accountancy & Independent Examination	175	175
	175	877
 Funds represented by		
General Fund	35,502	35,111
Restricted Funds:		
Funds raised for June 2024 concert	1,000	
Chamber Choir	92	92
	36,594	35,203

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18/01/24 and is signed on their behalf by:



Lydia Fielder Lord and Phil Hirst
Co-Chairs



Helen Ledger
Treasurer

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023

Receipts and payments accounts

Because the level of income and expenditure is below £250,000 the group has opted for accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis. This is in line with the Charity Commissioners' guidelines for small charities and is seen as more appropriate for this organisation.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds held for the general purposes of the charity at the trustees' discretion.

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which trustees have earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Restricted funds represent funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise where the donor specifies or where the funds raised are for a particular restricted purpose.

Restricted funds brought forward to this financial year represented:

Chamber Choir	£92
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At the year-end sums carried forward in restricted funds amounted to:

Chamber Choir	£92
Concert Costs (June 2024 Sponsorship)	£1,000