



**Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir
Trustees' Annual Report
for the period
1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023**

Charity registration number: 506586

Season Summary

The choir continues to rehearse once weekly during school term times and has returned to the full schedule of four concerts and one Come and Sing per year. The choir continues to employ a Musical Director, Lee Dunleavy, and a professional pianist as accompanist, Colin Druce.

Concerts performed:

1. Masses for Our Time:
Missa Gaia by Libby Larsen, Credo by Margaret Bonds and Mass by Leonard Bernstein
Saturday 12th November, 2022 at King's High School Hall Warwick
2. A Bach Choir Christmas for all the family
Saturday 17th December, 2022 at Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa
3. J S Bach Mass in B Minor
Saturday 1st April, 2023 at St Mary's Church, Warwick
4. Rossini Petite Messe Solenne
Saturday 1st July, 2023 at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

Other Events:

1. Come and Sing, Masses by Martines and Mozart, Saturday 11th February 2023, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

Chairman's Report

We held a concert in November 2022 for the first time at the new King's High School Hall, Banbury Road, Warwick, with members of KHS Senior Chamber Choir. There were risks involved, which were both musical and financial, but the outcome amply justified them, with a really enthusiastic audience of 200 drawn to a new venue to hear two works and an arrangement never performed before in the UK.

Saturday 1st April was an important day for the choir – performing the Bach B minor mass at Saint Mary's, Warwick – our first B minor Mass since 2011, and our first visit to Saint Mary's since 2010. Reserved seats sold online was another first, and we were rewarded with a near-full house of around 240.

In July we presented Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle at Leamington Pump Rooms, to an enthusiastic near full house of 150.

We have been very pleased to welcome 22 new members to the choir since January, who have brought our numbers up to 85, plus three Associate Members, a new category created to recognise the contribution of long-standing members who have retired from singing but wish to keep close ties with us.

We have a big season ahead of us, building on all the successful work Lee has done with us since 2020. Steadily increasing membership, bigger audiences, new venues and new works, all are testament to Lee's musical leadership.

Treasurer's Report

Choir numbers continued to increase this season with 85 members with us by the summer. Audience numbers started to return to normal levels with about 200 at our Autumn and Spring Concerts, and 150 in the summer, although Christmas was disappointing with only 120 in attendance – possibly as a result of not teaming with a children's choir.

The Come and Sing attracted about 100 singers.

We had an ambitious programme, some large ensembles and some new expensive venues so our losses were expected to be large on the concerts, although this was mitigated with charitable grants in the Autumn and a generous member donation in the Spring.

The accounts within one season don't take into account prepayments made the previous season and PRS fees paid in arrears in the following Autumn, and grants and donations are shown in the general choir income. Adjusting for these to show the true concert losses shows that we were >£3k in deficit in the Autumn, ~£1k in deficit at Christmas, almost £4k in deficit in the Spring and ~£2.5k in deficit in the Summer with a surplus of £800 from the Come and Sing. Our overall concert loss was almost £10k which is on the high side, but we had planned for a big season with a view to attracting new members and new audience.

We had no lucrative performance fees last season compared to the previous, but we received just over £1,000 for hire of our staging at All Saints, nearly £300 in the sale of full sets of scores to local libraries (Bernstein) and £150 from Easy Fundraising and Amazon Fundraising.

Our net asset position has risen by ~£4.5k largely due to the receipt of three sets of Gift Aid which had not been claimed in the previous three years.

Our main costs – rehearsal and concert venues and professional fees – are rising significantly again and our income needs to keep up without putting members or audiences off altogether – it's a balancing act. With the choir funds looking healthy though, and with the budget for next season looking very manageable, we will not increase subs next year.

Governance

The Choir is governed by a constitution which sets out the Membership, Officers & Committee, Trusteeship, etc. Relevant extracts of the constitution are included here:

3) Membership

- i) The membership of the Society shall comprise
 - a) Patron
 - b) President
 - c) Vice Presidents
 - d) Members
 - e) Associate Members
- ii) The position of Patron may be offered to a suitable person by a resolution of a General Meeting.
- iii) The position of President shall be reserved for the Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa ex officio.
- iv) Vice Presidents may be elected by a General Meeting in recognition of exceptional service to the Society.
- iii) Applications for Member must be made using the prescribed form and are subject to appraisal by the Musical Director as to the applicant's musical suitability.
- iv) Associate Members may be appointed by the committee.
- v) The Committee shall ensure that a record is kept of the membership of the Society.
- vi) Communications with the membership will be made in electronic form except as the committee may direct otherwise.

4) Officers & Committee

- i) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall elect from among the Members of the Society a committee which shall manage the Society comprised as follows:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Publicity Officer
 - e) Librarian
 - f) Not more than five other committee members
- ii) A quorum at a committee meeting shall be not less than half the number of members and must include at least the Chairman or the Secretary or the Treasurer.
- iii) Casual vacancies may be filled by the Committee from among the Members of the Society.
- iv) The committee may co-opt not more than two additional persons as members at any time.
- v) The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote at committee meetings only.
- vi) A committee meeting may be called at any appropriate time by the Secretary.
- vii) All committee members shall be eligible to stand for re-election except that no Member shall hold the office of Chairman for more than three years in immediate succession.

5) Musical Director

The Society may engage and remunerate a suitably qualified Musical Director whose duties shall include rehearsing the choir, conducting the choir at public concerts, appraising the musical suitability of applicants for membership, proposing for the approval of the committee a programme of music for performance which will advance the objects of the Society, and other duties as may be agreed from time to time.

13) Trusteeship

- i) All music or other property purchased by or presented to the Society shall be vested in the committee.
- ii) For the purposes of charitable registration, the trustees of the Society shall be the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- iii) No trustee or committee member or any connected person shall receive any financial benefit from the Society except that
 - a) Out-of-pocket expenses incurred in conducting any approved business of the Society shall be reimbursed.
 - b) As provided by the Charities Act 2011 Section 185 a financial benefit may be given to a trustee or committee member or connected person in return for services provided under a written contract if the trustees and the committee agree that the best interests of the Society are thereby served and that in no circumstances do a majority of trustees or committee members receive any such benefit.

Adopted 31st January 1945 and last amended Day Month 2022.

Ref: v2

Other Matters

Trustees have been made aware of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Financial Review

Accounts at end August 2023

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR							
ANALYSIS OF CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE							
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023							
	Autumn	Xmas	Workshop	Spring	Summer	Total	
Ticket sales	3,132	1,769	1,978	4,187	2,385	13,451	
Programme sales	256	0	0	235	224	715	
Programme advertising	35	0	0	35	35	105	
Music sale/hire	445	239	0	291	225	1,200	
Other concert income	0	119	227	316	0	662	
Total income	£ 3,868	2,127	2,205	5,063	2,869	16,133	
Orchestra/instrumentalists	3,106	1,100	400	5,957	750	11,313	
Soloists/conductor	1,034	450	240	2,025	1,972	5,721	
Music/instrument hire	3,227	346	100	299	262	4,234	
Venue hire/staging costs	1,313	625	550	480	1,309	4,277	
Concert printing/advertising	547	168	55	518	520	1,809	
Other concert expenses	0	150	25	45	58	278	
Total expenditure	£ 9,227	2,839	1,370	9,324	4,870	27,630	
Concert surplus/deficit	£ (5,359)	(712)	836	(4,261)	(2,001)	(11,498)	

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR									
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023									
	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	
Total concert income as per attached schedule	16,133	12,141	571	12,283	14,022	9,991	10,320	12,515	
Members' subscriptions incl Gift Aid recovery	21,772	10,630	5,155	15,014	14,804	11,364	9,459	8,825	
Friends' subscriptions	683	1,179	710	1,240	1,028	1,060	1,220	900	
Performance Fees	16	1,200	480	-	-	-	-	-	
Grants, donations, fundraising & bequest	4,041	2,773	2,199	1,979	56	-	0	570	
Refreshments and raffles	1,044	1,127	72	1,548	1,824	1,495	1,232	1,126	
Bank deposit interest received	175	18	39	38	20	15	24	32	
Miscellaneous income/Advance on next season	5	2450	347	395	-1349	204	218	0	
Total income	£ 43,869	31,518	9,572	32,497	30,405	24,129	22,473	23,968	
Total concert expenditure as per attached schedule	27,630	19,297	2,248	11,144	15,772	15,647	16,246	17,997	
Rehearsal venue	2,423	2,343	172	1,586	577	1573	1240	1,490	
Conductor/accompanist	7,678	7,174	6,076	6,143	6458	5571	5265	5,787	
Printing/publicity/website	499	577	393	2,626	307	68	172	350	
Miscellaneous (inc prepayments)	3,490	2,118	1,634	639	648	453	803	305	
Insurance, PRS & Making Music	846	578	718	567	586	583	572	600	
Depreciation of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	331	438	438	
Total expenditure	£ 42,566	32,086	11,241	22,703	24,348	24,225	24,736	26,967	
Surplus/deficit for the year	£ 1,302	(569)	(1,668)	9,794	6,057	(96)	(2,263)	(2,999)	
Funds brought forward at 1 September	£ 23,598	24,166	25,834	16,040	9,983	10,079	12,342	15,341	
Funds carried forward at 31 August	£ 24,900	23,598	24,166	25,834	16,040	9,983	10,079	12,342	

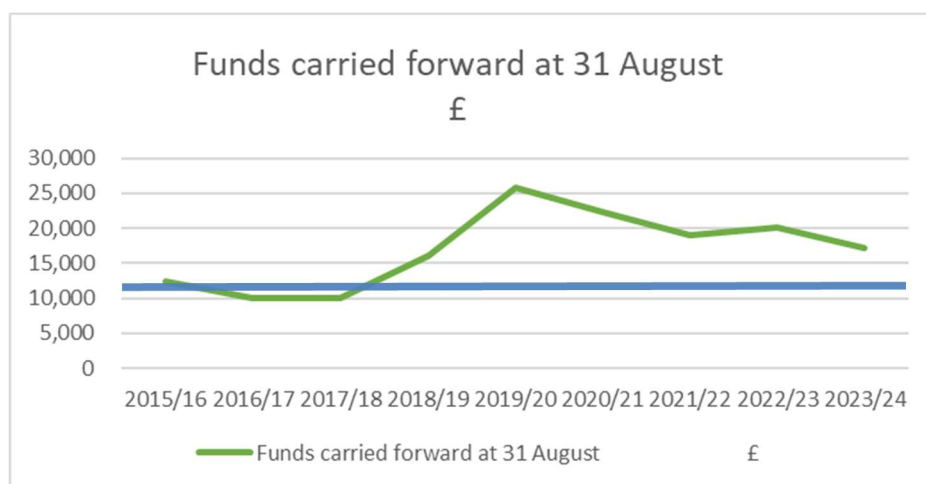
Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir Trustees' Annual Report, Season 2022 to 2023

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR								
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023								
	31.08.23	31.08.22	31.08.21	05.08.20	31.08.19	31.08.18	31.08.17	31.08.16
Equipment								
At cost at 1 September	4,482	4,482	4,542	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482
Additions in year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation to date	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,542)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,151)	(3,713)
	0	0	0	0	0	0	331	769
Working capital								
Debtors, advance payments & cash floats	170	170	170	170	824	580	1,201	1,372
COIF charity deposit	5,503	5,328	5,310	5,309	5,271	5,251	5,237	7,213
Lloyds current account	19,228	18,100	18,686	21,881	10,752	4,614	3,900	3,388
	24,900	23,598	24,166	27,360	16,847	10,445	10,669	12,742
Income in advance and creditors	0	0	0	1,526	808	296	756	400
Net asset position	£ 24,900	23,598	24,166	25,834	16,039	10,149	9,913	12,342
Surplus funds as per previous page	£ 24,900	23,598	24,166	25,834	16,040	9,983	10,079	12,342

The accounts were independently reviewed by Ms Yasmi Roberts of 40 Priorsfield Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1DB.

Reserves

It is the policy of the choir to maintain a balance of funds in the current account of £12,000, which equates to the typical level of professional fees for an average concert. This level was recently re-established during the period of the pandemic when no concerts and very limited rehearsals were held. The budget for the next season sees this level being maintained.



The choir also maintains an emergency COIF Charities Deposit Fund with CCLA Investment Management. The balance of this fund at 1st September 2023 was £5,503.

Choir Officers

Chairman	Richard Taulbut	Autumn 2021 to present
Secretary	Jude Robinson	Autumn 2019 to present
Treasurer	Nicola Deards	Autumn 2019 to present

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR

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Equipment							
At cost at 1 September	4,482	4,482	4,542	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482
Additions in year	0	0	0	60	0	0	0
Depreciation to date	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,542)	(4,542)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,151)
	0	0	0	0	0	0	331
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Approved on 10.01.24

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR

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ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR

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Total concert income as per attached schedule	16,133	12,141	571	11,563	14,022	9,991	10,320
Members' subscriptions incl Gift Aid recovery	21,772	10,630	5,155	15,014	14,804	11,364	9,459
Friends' subscriptions	683	1,179	710	1,240	1,028	1,060	1,220
Performance Fees	16	1,200	480	-	-	-	-
Grants, donations, fundraising & bequest	4,041	2,773	2,199	1,765	56	-	0
Refreshments and raffles	1,044	1,127	72	1,310	1,824	1,495	1,232
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

506586

Set out on pages

See below

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

Yasmi Roberts

Date:

25th January 2024

Name:

Yasmi Roberts

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

Retired bank manager with experience of reviewing audited accounts for lending purposes.

Address:

40 Priorsfield Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1DB