



**Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir  
Trustees' Annual Report  
for the period  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**Charity registration number: 506586**

**Season Summary**

The choir continues to rehearse once weekly during school term times and performs 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. Mozart Requiem and associated works
2. Bach Choir Christmas Family Concert
3. Considering Matthew Shepard – Johnson
4. Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610

Other Events:

1. Come and Sing Messiah
2. Choral Evensong at St Paul's

**Chairman's Report**

On 11th November 2023 we sang Mozart's Requiem to a full house at All Saints', Leamington. We were joined by the Beauchamp Sinfonietta for the first time since 2019. At Christmas we returned to Holy Trinity for an afternoon concert including David Bednall's Make We Merry, and selections from our collection of carols by past musical directors of the choir, accompanied by Colin Druce and ARC Brass. Also singing in the Christmas concert were eight of the nine men who had successfully completed our twelve-week Sing Together Leamington training programme, led by Peter Wilman during the Autumn term. The Mayor of Leamington Spa, Cllr Alan Boad, presented each graduate with a certificate, and we are delighted that five have joined the choir as full members.

In January this year we began rehearsing a very different piece. Considering Matthew Shepard is a modern oratorio by Craig Hella Johnson, exploring themes of intolerance, prejudice and hope in musical styles drawn from Broadway, Arvo Pärt and JS Bach. The concert on 16th March, 2024, was scheduled for King's High School Hall, but with less than a month to go the school discovered they had double-booked us, so the whole show had to be squeezed into the Bridge House Theatre instead. For a UK premiere of a work with a challenging theme, we were pleased to have a good audience of 180 on the night.

On 11th May, Lee led a successful Come & Sing Messiah at St Marks, Rugby Road, with Colin Druce accompanying.

A week later, the choir sang the evening service at All Saints, Leamington, and the following day, Monday 20th May, 2024, travelled to London to sing evensong at Saint Paul's Cathedral, with Lee directing and Colin playing. A large congregation heard music by Herbert Howells and a new anthem written specially by David Bednall. A tremendous occasion for everyone who took part.

The last concert of the season, was Lee's last concert with us as Musical Director, on 13th July, 2024. Another full house at Saint Mark's, Rugby Road, heard us sing Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610, with Charivari Agréable accompanying.

We recruited a new MD in the summer after a process which began at Christmas. 24 candidates applied, we interviewed 9 and auditioned 3. James Bate was the very clear winner, and we are delighted that he is joining us in September 2024.

## **Treasurer's Report**

We welcomed 95 paying members throughout the year, which is fantastic! Member subs are up, reflecting the growth in our choir family. Concert Income is on the rise due to good audience numbers and Concert Expenditure is holding steady.

We delivered another ambitious program without overspending, thanks in large part to some generous grants from the Cadbury Trust and Josephine Baker Trust. Overall, our concert loss was around £7k, well below the anticipated £11k.

This year, we also had some special events like St Paul's and Lee's Leaving celebrations, which added a little complexity to the accounts and added about £2.5k going in and out of the account.

Our fundraising efforts paid off. We received £1,000 from hiring out our staging at All Saints, £300 from selling scores to local libraries and £250 from Easy Fundraising and Amazon contributions.

While our net asset position dropped by about £700, we see no need for concern.

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> January 1945 and last amended 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 2024

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR										
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024										
	31.08.24	31.08.23	31.08.22	31.08.21	05.08.20	31.08.19	31.08.18	31.08.17	31.08.16	
<b>Equipment</b>										
At cost at 1 September	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	4,482	
Additions in year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Depreciation to date	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,482)	(4,151)	(3,713)	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	331	769	
<b>Working capital</b>										
Debtors, advance payments & cash floats	170	170	170	170	170	824	580	1,201	1,372	
COIF charity deposit	5,790	5,503	5,328	5,310	5,309	5,271	5,251	5,237	7,213	
Lloyds current account	18,239	19,228	18,100	18,686	21,881	10,752	4,614	3,900	3,388	
	24,199	24,900	23,598	24,166	27,360	16,847	10,445	10,669	12,742	
Income in advance and creditors	0	0	0	0	1,526	808	296	756	400	
<b>Net asset position</b>	<b>£ 24,199</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,598</b>	<b>24,166</b>	<b>25,834</b>	<b>16,039</b>	<b>10,149</b>	<b>9,913</b>	<b>12,342</b>	
<b>Surplus funds as per previous page</b>	<b>£ 24,199</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,598</b>	<b>24,166</b>	<b>25,834</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>9,983</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>12,342</b>	

## Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir Trustees' Annual Report, Season 2023 to 2024

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR									
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024									
	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Total concert income as per attached schedule	21,711	16,133	12,141	571	12,283	14,022	9,991	10,320	12,515
Members' subscriptions incl Gift Aid recovery	22,092	21,772	10,630	5,155	15,014	14,804	11,364	9,459	8,825
Friends' subscriptions	677	683	1,179	710	1,240	1,028	1,060	1,220	900
Performance Fees & Special Events	2,678	16	1,200	480	-	-	-	-	-
Grants, donations, fundraising & bequest	3,319	4,041	2,773	2,199	1,979	56		0	570
Refreshments and raffles	1,248	1,044	1,127	72	1,361	1824	1495	1232	1,126
Bank deposit interest received	288	175	18	39	38	20	15	24	32
Miscellaneous income/Advance on next season	146	5	2,450	347	395	-1,349	204	218	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>52,159</b>	<b>43,869</b>	<b>31,518</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>32,310</b>	<b>30,405</b>	<b>24,129</b>	<b>22,473</b>	<b>23,968</b>
Total concert expenditure as per attached schedule	26,105	27,630	19,297	2,248	11,144	15,772	15,647	16,246	17,997
Rehearsal venue	3,748	2,423	2,343	172	1,586	577	1573	1240	1,490
Conductor/accompanist	12,126	7,678	7,174	6,076	5,955	6458	5571	5265	5,787
Printing/publicity/website	559	499	577	393	2,626	307	68	172	350
Special Events	2,340								
Stock Purchases, Equipment, Asset Maintenance	815								
Miscellaneous (inc prepayments)	6,143	3,490	2,118	1,634	639	648	453	803	305
Insurance, PRS & Making Music	1,025	846	578	718	567	586	583	572	600
Depreciation of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	331	438	438
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>52,860</b>	<b>42,566</b>	<b>32,086</b>	<b>11,241</b>	<b>22,515</b>	<b>24,348</b>	<b>24,225</b>	<b>24,736</b>	<b>26,967</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>(701)</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>(569)</b>	<b>(1,668)</b>	<b>9,795</b>	<b>6,057</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>(2,263)</b>	<b>(2,999)</b>
<b>Funds brought forward at 1 September</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,598</b>	<b>24,167</b>	<b>25,835</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>9,983</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>12,342</b>	<b>15,341</b>
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 August</b>	<b>24,199</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,598</b>	<b>24,167</b>	<b>25,835</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>9,983</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>12,342</b>

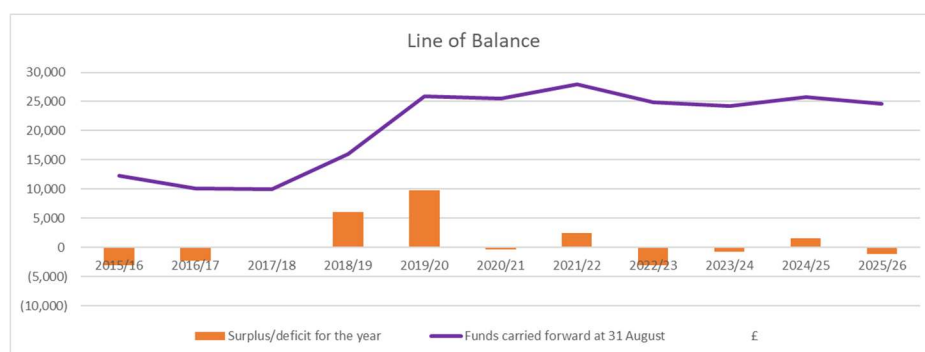
ANALYSIS OF CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024						
	Autumn	Xmas	Workshop	Spring	Summer	Total
Ticket sales	4,831	2,366	1,550	3,057	4,195	15,998
Programme sales	346	0	0	247	294	888
Programme advertising	60	0	0	60	60	180
Sponsorship / Grants	0	1,000	0	0	990	1,990
Music sale/hire	520	212	0	435	549	1,715
Other concert income	212	203	270	0	254	940
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£ 5,969</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>3,799</b>	<b>6,343</b>	<b>21,711</b>
Orchestra/instrumentalists	2,270	1,670	420	2,060	4,930	11,350
Soloists/conductor	1,680	480	390	1,781	2,555	6,886
Music/instrument hire	129	1,252	100	610	687	2,778
Venue hire/staging costs	715	625	326	815	319	2,800
Concert printing/advertising	491	225	108	546	506	1,875
Other concert expenses	82	93	0	122	120	417
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£ 5,367</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>9,117</b>	<b>26,105</b>
<b>Concert surplus/deficit</b>	<b>£ 603</b>	<b>(565)</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>(2,134)</b>	<b>(2,774)</b>	<b>(4,395)</b>

The accounts were independently reviewed by Ms Yasmi Roberts of 40 Priorsfield Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1DB on x 2024.

## 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 below line of balance shows future years as estimates.



The choir also maintains an emergency COIF Charities Deposit Fund with CCLA Investment Management. The balance of this fund at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 was £5,790.45.

## Choir Officers

Chairman	Richard Taulbut	Autumn 2021 to October 2024
Secretary	Jude Robinson	Autumn 2019 to October 2024
Treasurer	Nicola Deards	Autumn 2019 to present

Note that Chairman and Secretary have stood down from their posts and are handing over to new members currently.

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ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR																			
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 August 2024

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

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:

23rd November  
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