

Registered number: 01850803
Charity number: 515660

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report

30 September 2023

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

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National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Reference and administrative details

Year ended 30 September 2023

Trustees

David Andrew Roper, Chair
Rebecca Helen Driver
James Simon Olley
Michael John Strutt
Georgina Alison Robb
Gregor Stanley Watson
Margaret O'Shea
Gillian Frances Hillier
Siu-Wai Ng
Thomas Hughes-Hallett (appointed 3 May 2023)

Company registered number

01850803

Charity registered number

515660

Registered office

The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Key management team

Ben Parry, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor (resigned 31 December 2022)
Lucy Hollins, Creative Director (appointed 3 April 2023)
Robert Colbert, Director of Development
Anne Besford, Chief Executive
Mark Anyan, General Manager

Independent auditor

UNW LLP
Chartered Accountants
Citygate
St James' Boulevard
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4JE

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Holmfirth
Huddersfield
HD9 2DW

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report

Year ended 30 September 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

More than just a choir: we are a community with a shared passion for singing and the life-changing opportunities it can offer.

Our vision: Through excellence in singing, creating music, training and support, we help young people develop the confidence and skills to realise their greatest potential.

The National Youth Choir is the place to come to for all aspiring singers who want to be inspired, stretched, challenged and nurtured. We want to be a household name, which young people nationwide who love singing together aspire to join, from the widest range of backgrounds.

Our mission: Nurturing talent, reaching new audiences and inspiring new ambitions.

Our mission is to build a nurturing nationwide community where young people can explore a diverse range of music, enjoy singing together and share their creativity. We champion the power of singing, opening up opportunities so that more young people from all walks of life can find and use their voice.

To achieve our mission we are:

1. **Striving for excellence in everything we do**, delivering inspiring, ambitious and relevant creative and learning programmes with young people at their heart.
2. **Expanding our reach**, opening up opportunities for young singers and emerging professionals from all backgrounds across the UK to develop their talent and potential.
3. **Raising the public profile of National Youth Choir**, our purpose, values, and the impact of singing, increasing awareness and engagement.
4. **Developing organisational resilience**, ensuring we have resources, capacity and structures to achieve ambitions and show our impact.

Activities for achieving objectives

Founded in the North of England in 1983, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (trading as National Youth Choir) has evolved from a single choir of 100 outstanding young singers to become a nationwide community and champion for youth singing, standing for artistic excellence, creative diversity, and openness and relevance to all.

We are driven by the passionate belief that all children and young people, regardless of individual circumstance, should be able to make music with others. Each one of them should have the opportunity and support to discover and explore their musical potential, achieving excellence at the highest levels.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Over the last ten years, the National Youth Choir has been on a transformational journey, putting young people right at the heart of our community. We have expanded our profile, national reach, educational and creative programmes, and created new pathways in music progression for young people and aspiring professionals. We have taken direct action to be more representative and inclusive, delivering against ambitious aims to open up access and achieve life-changing musical and personal impact for more young people from a wider range of backgrounds.

Our creative and learning programme now comprises four interconnected strands:

I. Education: National Choirs

Offering over 900 of the country's most talented singers aged 9 to 25 musical, personal and educational development through intensive residential and online training and workshops with professional conductors, musicianship and vocal coaches and guest artists as part of our four national choirs. From autumn 2023 these choirs are National Youth Choir: 18-25 years; National Youth Choir: 15-18 years (previously Training Choir); and two ensembles under our National Youth Choir: 9-15 years umbrella (previously Girls' and Boys' Choirs).

II. Performance

A unique programme of opportunities for participants to create and share music with audiences through a range of creative outputs: live concerts; broadcasts; festivals; special events; digital recordings and music videos. This also includes co-creating and performing new works from leading and emerging composers. We continue to grow exciting partnerships and collaborations, bringing our music to wider audiences – over 70,000 people through live performance and over two million people through streams and broadcasts.

III. Learning and Engagement

Open access opportunities for young people to be inspired by singing together, discovering and progressing their vocal talent through joined up regional and national pathways, with a particular focus on engaging young people in areas of higher deprivation and with access to fewer creative opportunities. Engaging over 3,500 young people each year, this programme comprises long-term strategic partnerships to reach more young people and create more sustainable singing opportunities in targeted priority areas, and a national on-demand programme of inspirational singing workshops and events.

IV. Emerging Professionals

Training programmes supporting exceptionally talented young choral musicians, leaders and composers – particularly those under-represented in the sector – to develop sustainable music careers. Between 8 and 12 emerging professional musicians are supported each year through our Fellowship and Young Composers schemes, developing skills and creative practice, creating new work and growing their professional profile and networks.

Supporting young people and equipping them with the tools and experiences to fulfil their potential musically, educationally and socially is at the heart of all our work. We aim to lead the way in choral music, developing accessible creative and learning approaches and ambitious, diverse and representative programming, which will inspire, challenge and engage many more young people from all backgrounds and at all stages of their development. Programmes are young people-centred and inclusive, relevant to and informed by young people themselves, who we value and empower as co-creators.

National Youth Choir has an agreed strategic plan for the period 2022 to 2027 setting out our organisational vision, values and strategy. Our agreed aims and objectives are delivered by a dedicated core staffing team, together with a pool of over 120 freelance creative, pastoral and project management specialists.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

National Youth Choir is a National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation supported by Arts Council England and the Department for Education, with renewed three-year funding for the period April 2023 to March 2026. In October 2022 we were pleased to be awarded renewed NPO funding for the three-year period April 2023 to March 2026.

Activities undertaken for public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

As the National Youth Choir entered its 40th year in 2023, we reached a point of inflection, with ambitions to build on the strong strategic, operational and creative foundations laid over the last decade, and to grow our national community becoming even more effective, relevant and impactful for young people from the widest range of backgrounds.

Following a period of consultation with our participants, audiences and stakeholders, in 2022-23 we agreed and implemented a new five-year strategic plan, which has set out a roadmap to achieve our ambitions.

Auditions

We recruit widely for our national choirs, by auditioning young people from across the breadth of the UK. 625 auditions took place as part of our open online auditions programme, a 10% increase on the previous year. As part of our work to remove barriers and engage with more young people in state education we piloted targeted auditions, seeing a further 57 candidates. Changes to our auditions process and promotion since 2020 continue to have a visible impact on addressing under-representation – 26.5% of all candidates were from Black, Asian or other ethnically diverse backgrounds compared with just 16% three years ago. 75% of candidates were successful in being awarded places to join the choirs or to progress into the next choir. Overall, our membership pool after auditions remained consistent with the previous year.

Courses and Training

Across the four national choirs, we delivered a full programme of training and progression opportunities, including an annual programme of four projects for the flagship National Youth Choir, and 7 residential courses for our 9-18 choirs in venues from Suffolk to York. In total we recorded 1,118 participants in membership activities across the year, a 3.2% increase.

In celebration of the National Youth Choir's 40th anniversary, in spring 2023 we ran four residencies concurrently, leading into a very special joint concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 11th April. As well as rehearsing and performing a huge range of repertoire from across the 40 years, the choirs premiered a specially commissioned 40-part piece *One Long Song* by outgoing Principal Conductor and Artistic Director, Ben Parry. They performed this alongside choir alumni, Fellows, learning and engagement participants, staff members and even the 3000-strong audience!

Celebrations continued through the summer with a series of nationwide residencies and concerts. Highlights included the National Youth Choir's collaboration at Snape Maltings with the Swingles, London Youth Choirs and Friday Afternoons who were all celebrating milestone anniversaries this year; and the National Youth Training Choir's collaboration with Britten Sinfonia at Ely Cathedral. As well as their usual packed programmes of music and learning, the National Youth Girls' and Boys' Choirs also took part in audio and video recording projects creating tracks for release on National Youth Choirs digital platforms. Across the year, the choir programmes included 169 training sessions across 61 activity days.

National Youth Choir has remained committed to ensuring a diverse balance of musical programming and has continued to champion music composed or arranged by artists who have historically been under-represented in the choral music sector. Through member forums and discussions, we encourage our young people to explore the wider context of choral music and deepen their understanding beyond the notes on the page.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Performances, Commissions and Recordings

During 2022-23 we continued to deliver live and digital performance outcomes, showcasing the breadth and brilliance of the national choirs and their work to a wider audience, and challenging perceptions of what choral can be.

The National choirs gave a total of 29 live performances in 2022-23 to a total audience of 77,386, including end of course showcases and concerts nationwide (Ely Cathedral, Snape Maltings, York University etc), chamber choir performances and collaborations with partners. This included 'Celebrate!' our spectacular 40th Anniversary showcase of four decades of music-making with nearly 1,000 performers at the Royal Albert Hall in April.

Digital creative outputs reach a much wider public audience each year and included 25 audio tracks and 10 videos released on our digital platforms YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music, receiving 106,000 streams and views. We continued to secure broadcasts on radio across ClassicFM, BBC Radio 3 and Scala Radio and the Chamber Choir performed on Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg on BBC1. Streams and views across our full digital catalogue reached over 2.66 million people worldwide, representing a 43% annual increase.

National Youth Choir continues to commission and create innovative new choral music by, for and with young people, with commissions including:

- One Long Song by Ben Parry with lyrics by Anoushka Lucas – a 40-part commission for our 40th anniversary celebrations, premiered by all the national choirs.
- Kong Guan by 2022 graduate Young Composer Sun Keting, premiered by the National Youth Training Choir at Ely Cathedral.
- 8 new pieces by our Young Composers 2023, to be released in January 2024.

We continue to receive industry recognition for the quality and innovation of our new music programme. Young Composer Ben Nobuto won a prestigious Ivor Novello award for his piece Sol, performed by the Fellowship.

Learning and Engagement

Through our national work with schools and communities we aim to inspire more young people in state education and from a wider range of backgrounds to discover and progress their passion for singing, through inclusive and high quality regional and national opportunities. Using our unique musical and educational expertise, we seek to understand barriers and challenges for young people and work with partners including schools, Music Education Hubs and music organisations to create bespoke singing programmes that meet local needs and help remove regional inequalities in singing provision and develop sustainable progression pathways. All opportunities are free at the point of access for young participants.

Our major development in 2022-23 was the launch of the SING! programme, which provides targeted pathways and support for young people to develop their singing and build their confidence, progressing to audition for the national choirs if they choose. Our flagship SING! programme was delivered in the North East where we worked with the regional Music Hubs and engaged 75 young people aged 9-15 from state schools across the region over two terms of activity.

Across all of our Learning and Engagement activities we engaged and inspired nearly 3,000 young people, family groups, teachers and music leaders. In addition, 1,300 audience members attended showcase events to support the achievements of participants. We worked with local partners across Trafford, Wigan, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and London boroughs (through Ark Schools) as well as in the North East, where we continued to deliver the Gillian Dickinson Young Singers programme. We continued to blend live participatory activities with online CPD sessions and digital resources to maximise the reach and impact of our work. We were also delighted to continue to offer opportunities for National Youth Choir members to develop peer leadership skills through volunteering to support regional learning activities.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Professional support and development

As part of the National Youth Choir's sector leadership role, we support the professional development of emerging, young choral artists, nurturing talent from the widest diversity of backgrounds and shaping the future of choral music to be vibrant, innovative and relevant.

In 2022-23 we delivered our Emerging Professional Artists programme, including launching the eighth Fellowship training programme and the fifth Young Composers scheme. We support eight young professionals from diverse cultural, geographical and musical backgrounds each year, through hybrid programmes of online and in-person training and mentorship by leading representatives from the choral and wider music sector. This included industry workshops by Steinberg about music technology and Dorico software, music publishing by Stainer and Bell, and creative retreats supported by Britten Pears Arts.

Fellows participated in live, recorded and broadcast performances and paid opportunities to work on National Youth Choir activities. The Young Composers continued to play a central role in supporting our commitment to new music, undertaking creative collaborations with the Fellows and our choirs and creating eight new pieces released on an album by NMC Recordings.

Access and financial assistance

National Youth Choir believes that all young people should have the opportunity to sing, and that access to membership of the national choirs should be on the basis of talent and potential alone. No young person should be prevented from taking part in our programmes because of their financial circumstances. All fees to take part in National Youth Choir activities are subsidised by around a third and we actively and visibly promote the availability of generous financial assistance for young people from lower-income families to support the cost of audition and residential course fees, travel expenses, tickets and other costs.

We continue to see a growth in demand for financial assistance awards. In 2013-14 we assisted 115 young people with 126 awards; in 2022-23 this has increased to 275 awards made to 167 recipients. The total direct value of these awards was £136,194 – a 26% increase on the level of awards made in the previous year. This represented essential support for around one in five of our membership and was equivalent to 12.6% of our overall income from fees.

With the ongoing effects of high inflation and cost of living pressures, we continue to plan for the need to remove financial barriers for more young singers. In 2022-23 we reviewed our financial assistance programme to simplify applications and to provide an increased level of support, particularly for families with the lowest incomes.

Inclusion and Representation

National Youth Choir is committed to building an inclusive, representative and welcoming community and to ensuring that young people from all backgrounds are able to participate in ensemble singing and musical experiences of the highest quality. We have an important, sector-leading role to play as a champion of inclusive practice, influencing wider change in choral music and addressing social injustice. We recognise that we must commit over the long term to see the change we want within the sector.

In spring 2023, we reviewed and updated our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan, refreshing our priorities across all areas of our work for the next two years to continue work to:

- become more inclusive and representative;
- create and promote a culture of belonging within the organisation and the wider music sector;
- be more relevant to young people; and
- champion best practice so that anyone who wants to be part of the choral music sector is encouraged and supported to maximise their true potential.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Key actions we have taken to deliver against these priorities this year have included:

- Committing to regular team discussions about EDI issues and approaches, aiming to create an open, supportive culture of belonging within National Youth Choir;
- Reviewing the future structure and naming of the 9-18 choirs to support inclusive practice;
- Expanding youth voice opportunities within the choirs including through regular forums with choir members aged 15-18;
- Piloting targeted auditions approaches and committing to expanding these in 2023-24;
- Revised our financial assistance scheme to offer more support to those who need it most and to simplify the awards process;
- Implementing our branding review, including ongoing work to ensure that communications are accessible, inclusive and welcoming;
- Development of key EDI;
- Participation in national partnerships, conversations and networks to share inclusive practice and identify opportunities for joint-working; and
- Updating demographic information for workforce and governance to inform targeted recruitment in 2024.

Impact – Changing Lives

Young people are supported to realise their highest ambitions in singing with the National Youth Choir. No matter what their background or future ambitions, every singer makes a unique contribution to our community and walks away with a life-changing experience.

We firmly believe that the benefits of singing extend far beyond the development of musical expertise. As young people continue to face incredibly challenging times, singing with us supports the growth of skills and attributes including confidence, aspiration, teamwork, communication and leadership skills, as well as improving health and wellbeing. We enable young people to go out into the world as confident, bright, engaged and empowered individuals who are valuable additions to any organisation or career path, whether or not connected to music.

The feedback we receive from our beneficiaries, partners, stakeholders and alumni provides overwhelming evidence of these many benefits. Members in 2023 reported an average score of 8.8/10 for enjoyment of our programmes and 9/10 for feeling a sense of belonging to the National Youth Choir community. 60% said that taking part had significantly improved their musical skills and abilities, and 91% said that it had positively impacted on their happiness and wellbeing. Qualitative feedback gathered from our young people adds depth to these metrics.

Principal sources of funding

National Youth Choir fundraises from public and private sources by making funding applications to trusts, foundations and public bodies, running public campaigns and regular giving schemes, and soliciting corporate, individual, and legacy donations. National Youth Choir's fundraising is carried out by a specialist in-house development team employed directly by the organisation, with support from other staff members and a small number of volunteers.

National Youth Choir is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and all fundraising activities comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice. We are open and transparent in our fundraising communications and treat donors and supporters fairly and ethically, following best practice in cultivating new supporter relationships. We process personal data in accordance with GDPR and clearly set out how we use personal data in our Privacy Policy, which is reviewed annually. During 2022-23 National Youth Choir did not receive any complaints relating to our fundraising activities.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

The trustees are very grateful to all our funders who have supported the National Youth Choir this year and record their particular thanks to major supporters: Arts Council England and the Department for Education; Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; The Leverhulme Trust; Garfield Weston Foundation; Peter Sowerby Foundation; The Ofenheim Trust; Gillian Dickinson Trust; PRS for Music Foundation; John S Cohen Foundation; John James Bristol Foundation; and The Radcliffe Trust. We are also pleased to recognise successful ongoing corporate partnerships with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Stainer & Bell and Steinberg Media Technologies (Dorico).

National Youth Choir was successful in securing a range of grants from further regional and national trusts and foundations and the Trustees wish to pay thanks to:

Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation; Andor Charitable Trust; Baron Davenport's Charity; The Beerling Foundation; CHK Foundation; Doris Field Charitable Trust; D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust; The Earl of Chester's Fund; The Elmley Foundation; The Emily Fund; Gerald Finzi Trust; The Gwendoline & Margaret Davies Charity; Hadrian Trust; Holbeck Charitable Trust; The H.R. Taylor Charitable Trust; Joseph Strong Frazer Trust; Sir James Knott Trust; The Lord Belstead Charitable Settlement; The Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust; Mercers' Company; Michael Cornish Charitable Trust; Millichope Foundation; The Overstone Fund; The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust; Payne Gallwey Charitable Trust; The Reed Foundation; Scarfe Charitable Trust; Stainer & Bell, Steinberg Media Technologies (Dorico); Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust; The Florence Turner Trust; Vaughan Williams Foundation; Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust.

Valuable in-kind support was provided during the year by a number of our partners, including: Britten Pears Arts (Young Composers' residential retreats); NMC Recordings (production of Young Composers album); Royal Albert Hall and ABRSM (free use of their spaces); Stainer & Bell (mentoring and publishing support) and Steinberg Media Technologies (free Dorico software and training).

In December 2022, National Youth Choir took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge raising funds to support 50 financial assistance recipients. 170 people generously donated just over £30,000, and we would like to thank them and our two match funders The Reed Foundation and The Emily Fund who matched donations £ for £.

This year the National Youth Choir would like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors of our 40th Anniversary Concert and music commission:

- **Ruby Sponsors:** The Emily Fund.
- **Gold Sponsors:** Atom Bank; John S Cohen Foundation; David Roper; Georgina Robb; Greg Watson & Elfreda Tealby-Watson.
- **Silver Sponsors:** Steinberg Media Technologies, Dorico; Alireza Zaimi.
- **Bronze Sponsors:** J&S Asquith Charitable Trust; Natalie Campbell-Chandra; Kieran Cooper; The Delap Family; Anne Gallacher; Professor C.F. Higgins; The Munden Family.

The trustees would like to extend their gratitude to all the following people who most generously donated their time or money to National Youth Choir in 2022-23. We would also like to thank all our kind supporters who have chosen to remain anonymous.

- **Impresario Supporters:** Prof. Christopher Higgins; Ben Parry; David Roper; Greg Watson & Elfreda Tealby Watson.
 - **Fortissimo Friends:** Garth & Lucy Pollard.
 - **Forte Friends:** The J&S Asquith Charitable Trust; Kieran Cooper; The Hillier Family; Estate of Mrs Elizabeth A Main; Adrian Melrose; The Munden Family; Polly Penter; Michael & Tina Strutt; Mr & Mrs R Tett; Mr & Mrs D von Preyss.
 - **Mezzo Forte Friends:** Bryony Coapes; Kate Davies; Andrew Evans; Andy Farris; Julian Forbes; Mr and Mrs Foulkes; Catherine Green; Scott and Simone Green; Christian Grobe; The Kilpatrick Family; Samara Kirapaty; Geoff Mountfield; Stephen & Lydia Pierce; Janet Reid; Alan Renwick; Gareth Saunders; Michael Seeney; Malcolm Smith; Carole Varney; Tracy & Robert Watson; Mike Wright; Fiona Yeomans.
 - **Alumni Champions Committee:** Andy Farris; Anna George; Bryony Coapes; Charlotte Brosnan; Charlotte Dougan; Liz Hurran.
 - **Campaign Committee:** Angela Au; Chris Chaney; Andy Farris; Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett; Helen Kihmm von-Preyss; David Roper; Greg Watson; Anne Besford Tim Croall Rob Colbert Blythe Day; Lucy Hollins; Martin Kaufman (consultant).
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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Financial review

Financial position

The statement of financial activities for 2022-23 shows an overall annual deficit of £144,530, against a planned budgeted deficit of £186,565. This includes a £16,941 increase in the value of invested funds during the year.

National Youth Choir has continued to grow levels of activity post-pandemic in 2022-23, in particular principal income-generating activities – residential courses and performances. Consequently, we saw an increase in earned income from fees and charges and a corresponding increase in the associated expenditure relating to these activities including venue hires and staffing costs. Fundraised income streams from grants and individual giving also grew during the year, with the highest level of income achieved since 2017. We remain hugely grateful for the help and financial support of donors, funders, participants, partners and government, which has directly contributed to the National Youth Choir's ongoing financial stability.

The reported annual deficit is in line with budgeted plans to invest from designated reserves in key areas of business development and staffing capacity over a three-year period, in order to support longer-term resilience and growth. In particular, this included investment in an expanded Creative Director role, additional fundraising and project management capacity and a new learning and engagement post to support expanded work in schools and communities. Reserves were also invested in the delivery of an outstanding creative and learning programme during our 40th anniversary year, including the costs of commissioning and delivering a flagship celebration event for all our choirs and participants at the Royal Albert Hall in April.

The National Youth Choir has responded to ongoing high levels of inflation and cost of living pressures facing many of our beneficiaries. In 2022-23, Trustees committed to supporting access and inclusion ambitions and reducing the impact of inflation by limiting increases in fees and charges for all participants to 5%, well below the rate of inflation. Trustees also endorsed making greater provision for financial assistance support, particularly for those most in need, increasing the available pot by 34% on the previous year.

Looking ahead, with ongoing inflationary pressures impacting into 2023-24, Trustees continue to recognise the importance of balancing the carefully planned investment of funds to achieve charitable objectives and organisational resilience, with sustaining a suitable level of cash reserves to provide future security and address any unforeseen challenges.

Reserves policy

Total reserves at 30 September 2023 were £537,904. Future planning is fundamental to the National Youth Choir's operation, combining the seasonal nature of annual activities with the necessity of planning programmes more than one year ahead, to link with the advance schedules of partner organisations and guest artists. The reserves policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support advance planning over longer timescales, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that plans are soundly based and funded.

Trustees have previously agreed the need to hold sufficient reserves to cover a suitable period of salary and other operational costs as a budget and cash flow contingency in the event of a significant loss of income. The suitable amount was reviewed in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and, in 2021-22, a balance of £410,000 was designated to this purpose, reflecting the equivalent of 12 months' core staffing costs. This continues to be considered a suitable sum to enable the National Youth Choir to manage the organisation through potential future changes in the economic climate or other exceptional events and commit to longer-term planning.

A Founder's Fund of £106,749 is restricted to providing financial assistance supporting National Youth Choir members to take part in exceptional activities such as international touring, in accordance with donor wishes.

In 2018-19, the trustees designated a fixed asset fund reflecting the expected amortisation costs of the CRM system over the following five years. The amortisation for the current year amounts to £15,836, and the asset is now fully amortised, reducing the balance of the fund to £nil.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Trustees recognise their responsibility to ensure that funds are allocated appropriately towards the achievement of the National Youth Choir's charitable objectives. As part of work to develop the current strategic plan for the period 2022-2027, trustees identified areas where future investment would be needed. Designated funds aligned with our mission and priorities are allocated as follows:

- £14,155 to support the costs of new staff posts, which will support the growth of more sustainable income streams.
- £7,000 as an Access and Inclusion fund, which provides dedicated resources to underpin the delivery of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan and enable us to support costs of specific access needs.

Excluding balances tied up in designated funds which included a contingency fund as set out above, restricted funds, and fixed assets, the National Youth Choir's total free reserves are £nil.

A substantial proportion of reserves are required as working capital, which is the cash held to enable the organisation to meet its commitments throughout the year.

The experience gained during the period since March 2020, reinforces the need for sufficient reserves to ensure the future of the organisation is sustainable and trustees will continue to review the reserves position on an annual basis.

Investments

During 2018-19 the trustees agreed to invest a proportion of reserves to provide a longer-term income stream for two key purposes:

1. To support the increasing need for access initiatives as National Youth Choir widens its reach and raises its profile.
2. To invest in the development of exceptional creative projects and programmes, particularly where sources of income are not otherwise available.

In October 2019 an initial investment of £200,000 was used to purchase units in the CCLA COIF Charities Investment fund, which comprised the Founders Fund and a proportion of the National Youth Choir's designated budget and cash flow contingency. In 2022 trustees approved the incremental investment of a further £150,000 in the fund. At 30 September 2023 National Youth Choir holds 1,770 units valued at £406,027, an increase of £16,941 over the year. Our policy is to invest for long-term growth and this gain remains unrealised and invested in the COIF fund.

Going concern

Trustees have given careful consideration to the matter of financial sustainability and the National Youth Choir's viability. Trustees have reviewed a number of different budget assumptions, scenarios and cashflow projections in setting a budget for 2023-24, which continues to balance investment in organisational growth and long-term sustainability. Trustees have also undertaken a detailed assessment of financial and organisational risks. This means we are confident in our financial projections and equipped to mitigate risks if they materialise.

Trustees agree that the National Youth Choir currently retains a suitable level of reserves to help mitigate immediate financial pressures and manage anticipated cashflow needs in the coming year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2023

Financial risk management objectives and policies

Our management team and Finance Committee robustly monitor financial risks including regular review of a comprehensive budget risk assessment. This ensures appropriate risk mitigation strategies can be implemented and contingency plans made. Management of risks is underpinned by a strong reserves policy. This approach ensures that National Youth Choir (as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee) meets its legal and charitable financial compliance and probity requirements. The control environment and framework are appropriate for the current and planned future scale of the organisation and assure a strong platform of financial governance and control to National Youth Choir funders and stakeholders.

To support prudent financial management and mitigation of financial risk, trustees have carefully considered and agreed an investment strategy, described above.

Plans for future periods

By 2030 we want the National Youth Choir to be the go-to organisation for any young singer in the country who wants to be inspired, challenged and nurtured. We aim to provide unparalleled opportunities for young people from the widest diversity of backgrounds through performance, education and regional, national and international engagement opportunities. We want the National Youth Choir to be a household name that all talented young singers, from the widest possible range of backgrounds, and from every part of the UK, aspire to join.

Strategic Plan 2022-27

National Youth Choir Trustees approved a new strategic plan for the period October 2022 to September 2027 in autumn 2022. The plan is a live document, updated annually, and it sets out a clear and compelling vision and ambition for how we plan to build our community and develop our reach and impact. The plan is based on consultation with audience and stakeholder groups to ensure our plans and priorities are relevant, inspiring, inclusive and sustainable. Core strategic aims are to strive for excellence; expand our reach; raise our public profile and develop our resilience.

In 2023-24 the programme of activities will contribute towards the delivery of the stated organisational and charitable aims and objectives. Plans will be reviewed and refreshed regularly by management and trustees and we remain flexible in responding to external factors and their impact on our programme and beneficiaries.

Courses, Training and Professional Development

Nine residential courses are currently planned for 2023-24 for National Youth Choir: 9-15 years and National Youth Choir: 15-18 years. Alongside this we will deliver the annual programme of activity for National Youth Choir 18-25 years. We aim to engage at least 1,200 participants across the choir programmes.

We are committed to continuing to refine and develop our creative and learning programmes, ensuring that our training remains at the forefront of excellent choral practice and is inspiring, relevant and inclusive. We will be piloting a new approach to delivery of the 9-15 choirs, with parallel courses and shared performance outcomes for female, male and non-binary singers. As part of this we will be developing and testing a new evaluation framework for the choir programmes.

Our highly respected development programmes will continue with delivery of the 2024 Emerging Professional Artists, which will grow to include a new strand for Young Conductors and engage 10 participants in total.

Performances, Commissions and Recordings

Seeking to continue to offer members unbeatable creative opportunities, we aim to deliver a programme of 20 concerts/performances, at least 12 digital recording releases and 2 broadcasts across our ensembles in 2023-24. The programme will build on partnerships with the London Handel Festival, the Royal Albert Hall and the BBC, and will include the release of the fifth Young Composers album by NMC Recordings. 3 new commissions/collaborations are planned: internationally renowned composer Jo Marsh will collaborate with National Youth Choir: 18-25 years; Kristina Arakelyan will write for our 9-15 choirs and we will commission one of our graduate Young Composers from 2023 to create a new work for our 15-18 choir.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Learning and Engagement

In 2023-24 we will continue to grow our national Learning and Engagement work, with a particular focus on developing the SING! Programme to support young singers and create strong progression pathways across four regions, including the North East, Greater Manchester and Mansfield, and expanding our targeted auditions. We will also continue to develop new partnership programmes and projects, and offer our wider national programme of workshops, discovery events and CPD, aiming to engage over 4,000 participants in total. We also plan to develop and pilot a strand of digital learning and engagement resources and activities. This programme is critical to achieving our aim to expand our reach and open up opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to develop their singing and reap the associated benefits.

Access, Inclusion and Representation

National Youth Choir is committed to being an inclusive and representative organisation, championing high-quality singing opportunities for all young people. We passionately believe that all children and young people with the widest range of backgrounds and regardless of individual circumstance should be able to make music with others and have the opportunity to discover and explore their musical talent, achieving at the highest levels.

We will prioritise ongoing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, taking action to identify and remove barriers for potential participants, audiences, staff and trustees, so that the National Youth Choir is a welcoming and inclusive community. Key activities include a focus on access planning, new auditions approaches, growing our financial assistance programme, developing our work around young people's voice, and taking proactive steps to develop a more inclusive and representative workforce. We will also be developing partnerships with specialist organisations to inform this work and act as critical friends.

Budget

For 2023-24 trustees have made the strategic decision to set a deficit budget, with a planned deficit of £112k for the year. In addition to progressing activities supported by the current designated funds described in the financial review above, this will support our strategic aims to widen our reach and impact and to develop an inclusive community where all young people feel they belong, through investment in financial assistance and capacity for growth. Trustees are planning for National Youth Choir to return to a breakeven position in the following year and to grow reserves thereafter.

In 2023-24 the National Youth Choir will also launch a four-year fundraising campaign, with the aim of nearly doubling this income stream by 2027. This will support investment in our learning and engagement and access initiatives, development of creative initiatives and projects, and support organisational sustainability.

Arts Council England and Department for Education

The National Youth Choir will continue to receive funding for the period April 2023 – March 2026 as part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio investment programme and the Department for Education's National Youth Music Organisations network. We are committed to embedding Arts Council's Investment Principles across the organisation and these principles are aligned with our strategic objectives

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (trading as National Youth Choir) was established in 1983 and registered as a charity and incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 1984. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association, renewed and revised in 2010.

Effective governance

The trustees are committed to ensuring the effective governance of the National Youth Choir and in 2023 completed a biennial review to ensure voluntary compliance with the Charity Governance Code. Following the review process the trustees were satisfied that the National Youth Choir met the key requirements of the code and identified actions to further enhance the National Youth Choir's approach to governance. The charity is a member of the Cultural Governance Alliance, a national network championing governance best practice.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and, under the company's Articles, are known as members of the Board of trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board of trustees are elected to serve for a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the next meeting of trustees. Trustees are elected for a maximum of three cycles.

The Board of trustees seeks to ensure that its members possess the range of skills, expertise and perspectives required to benefit the diverse range of work the company undertakes. In the event of particular skills, expertise or perspectives being lost due to retirement, a recruitment process is undertaken comprising open advertisement alongside targeted approaches to identify appropriate individuals for election to the Board of trustees. Trustee recruitment is led by a Nominations Committee, which is a sub-committee of the board.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of trustees

On appointment trustees participate in an established induction process and meet with the senior management team to understand the workings of the charity and their roles. All trustees are required to undertake safeguarding training and further training is provided on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees are responsible for setting the remuneration level for the senior team, which is done taking account of the financial position of the charity and prevailing market rates for similar roles.

Organisational structure and decision-making

The National Youth Choir has a Board of trustees which meets quarterly and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily. Any expenses claimed by the trustees from the charity are set out in note 8 to the financial statements.

The trustees employ a Chief Executive and a Creative Director as an Executive team, with overall responsibility for a team of creative and operational staff (including the General Manager, Executive Producer, Director of Development, and Head of Communications) to develop and implement the vision of the charity and its activities.

The Board, with detailed work carried out by its Finance Committee, approves the draft annual budget. The Chief Executive and Creative Director are afforded full creative and operational control subject to the budgeting limits set by the Board.

Risk management

The Board of trustees and the management committee regularly undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is or may be exposed. Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks that the charity is facing or may face.

Appropriate policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with legislative requirements, which include employment laws, equality duties, child protection policies, data protection policies and health and safety of members, staff, and volunteers.

It is National Youth Choir policy that 'all persons be accorded full and equal consideration on the basis of merit or other relevant, meaningful criteria, regardless of any potential source of discrimination.' We aim to achieve this by nurturing a culture of mutual respect and trust, fairness and dignity, and positive, inclusive behaviour.

Following a comprehensive review of our safeguarding practices by NSPCC in 2013, we have prioritised 'youth voice', ensuring that any young person participating in our programmes has the means and opportunity to express themselves and be heard. To support this the National Youth Choir employs a permanent Head of Safeguarding who is responsible for delivering a safeguarding training programme to all staff members and volunteers and working with staff to ensure appropriate future plans are put in place for young people, especially those with protected characteristics where and when required.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2023

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- that trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

Pursuant to section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006, the auditor will be deemed to be reappointed and UNW LLP will therefore continue in office.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 1 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



David Roper
Chair

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities Year ended 30 September 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



David Roper
Chair

Date: 1 February 2024



Independent auditor's report to the members of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ('ISAs (UK)') and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



Independent auditor's report to the members of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



Independent auditor's report to the members of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identified areas of law and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general and sector experience and through discussions with the directors and other management (as required by Auditing Standards) and from inspection of the company's legal correspondence and we discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures in place regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Firstly, the company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies legislation), distributable profits legislation and taxation legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect; health and safety, employment law, data protection, environmental law, safeguarding and child protection and certain aspects of company legislation, recognising the nature of the academy's activities. Auditing Standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance material to the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.



Independent auditor's report to the members of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Anne Hallowell

Anne Hallowell BSc FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UNW LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Newcastle upon Tyne

1 February 2024

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) Year ended 30 September 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	258,934	304,612	563,546	518,550
Charitable activities	4	958,470	-	958,470	871,418
Investments		5,338	-	5,338	318
Total income		1,222,742	304,612	1,527,354	1,390,286
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	115,108	-	115,108	94,727
Charitable activities	6	1,269,105	304,612	1,573,717	1,353,195
Total expenditure		1,384,213	304,612	1,688,825	1,447,922
Net expenditure before net gains/(losses) on investments		(161,471)	-	(161,471)	(57,636)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	16,941	-	16,941	(12,556)
Net movement in funds		(144,530)	-	(144,530)	(70,192)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		575,685	106,749	682,434	752,626
Net movement in funds		(144,530)	-	(144,530)	(70,192)
Total funds carried forward		431,155	106,749	537,904	682,434

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet

At 30 September 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	9	-	15,836
Tangible assets	10	-	883
Investments	11	406,027	389,086
		<u>406,027</u>	<u>405,805</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	65,812	48,938
Cash at bank and in hand		274,975	379,080
		<u>340,787</u>	<u>428,018</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(208,910)	(151,389)
Net current assets		<u>131,877</u>	<u>276,629</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>537,904</u></u>	<u><u>682,434</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	106,749	106,749
Unrestricted funds	14	431,155	575,685
Total funds		<u><u>537,904</u></u>	<u><u>682,434</u></u>

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 01 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



David Roper
Chair

Company registration number 01850803

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows

Year ended 30 September 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	16	(109,443)	(98,691)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of investments		-	(150,000)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		5,338	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		5,338	(150,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(104,105)	(248,691)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		379,080	627,771
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17	274,975	379,080

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

As set out in more detail in the trustees report, the trustees have reviewed a number of different budget assumptions, scenarios and cashflow projections in setting a budget for 2023-24, which continues to balance investment in organisational growth and long-term sustainability.

Consequently the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income, including course fees and grant income, is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donated goods or services are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by the third party.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company. They include governance costs, which are those incurred in connection with the administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Intangible assets and amortisation

Intangible assets are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided at the following rates:

Software	-	5 year straight line basis
Website	-	3 year straight line basis

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases

Office equipment	-	5 year straight line basis
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1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the statement of financial activities.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.12 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

1.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

In preparing these financial statements the directors do not consider there were any significant areas of judgment that were required in applying the company's accounting policies as set out above.

Estimates included within these financial statements include depreciation and asset impairments. None of the estimates made are considered to carry significant estimation uncertainty, nor to bear significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	120,836	27,964	148,800
Grants	118,000	276,648	394,648
Membership fees	20,098	-	20,098
	<u>258,934</u>	<u>304,612</u>	<u>563,546</u>

Donations comprise donations from individuals of £101,667 and from corporate partners of £31,351.

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	101,667	31,351	133,018
Grants	97,125	265,165	362,290
Membership fees	23,242	-	23,242
	<u>222,034</u>	<u>296,516</u>	<u>518,550</u>

Donations comprise donations from individuals of £58,447 and from corporate partners of £28,000.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Course fees	851,070	851,070
Audition fees	9,846	9,846
Sales of merchandise	1,853	1,853
Concert and performing fees	34,726	34,726
Ticket sales and contributions - concerts	46,415	46,415
Other income	14,560	14,560
Total 2023	958,470	958,470

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Course fees	776,724	776,724
Audition fees	10,980	10,980
Sales of merchandise	5,471	5,471
Concert and performing fees	42,619	42,619
Ticket sales and contributions - concerts	17,146	17,146
Other income	18,478	18,478
Total 2022	871,418	871,418

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

5. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising - other costs	25,091	25,091
Wages and salaries	78,707	78,707
National Insurance	9,260	9,260
Pension costs	2,050	2,050
	<u>115,108</u>	<u>115,108</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fundraising - other costs	10,081	10,081
Wages and salaries	73,650	73,650
National insurance	8,946	8,946
Pension costs	2,050	2,050
	<u>94,727</u>	<u>94,727</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	<u>1,423,362</u>	<u>150,355</u>	<u>1,573,717</u>

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Year ended 30 September 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	Direct costs 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable activities	1,204,269	148,926	1,353,195

Analysis of direct costs

	Charitable activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	361,701	361,701
Courses accomodation, music	888,022	888,022
Insurance	6,094	6,094
Travelling expenses	42,554	42,554
Advertising, website, promotion and printing	35,432	35,432
Legal and professional	3,000	3,000
Consulting and training	17,660	17,660
Office costs	55,206	55,206
Bank charges	13,693	13,693
	<u>1,423,362</u>	<u>1,423,362</u>

	Charitable activities 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	267,377	267,377
Courses accomodation, music	781,068	781,068
Insurance	8,982	8,982
Travelling expenses	28,142	28,142
Advertising, website, promotion and printing	26,519	26,519
Consulting and training	16,847	16,847
Office costs	62,902	62,902
Bank charges	12,432	12,432
	<u>1,204,269</u>	<u>1,204,269</u>

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6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	97,719	97,719
Legal and professional fees	13,791	13,791
Rent and rates	21,791	21,791
Governance costs	335	335
Amortisation & depreciation	16,719	16,719
	<u>150,355</u>	<u>150,355</u>

	Charitable activities 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	94,203	94,203
Legal and professional fees	11,402	11,402
Rent and rates	23,712	23,712
Amortisation & depreciation	19,609	19,609
	<u>148,926</u>	<u>148,926</u>

7. Auditor's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	9,220	7,750
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of: Other services	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

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8. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	491,307	403,348
Social security costs	46,232	26,966
Other pension costs	11,898	15,912
	<u>549,437</u>	<u>446,226</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Average no. of employees	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Staff	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>

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Year ended 30 September 2023

8. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are deemed to be those having authority and responsibility, delegated to them by the trustees for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. During 2022/23 they were:

Director - Ben Parry (Resigned in December 2022)
Creative Director - Lucy Hollins (Appointed in April 2023)
Director of Development - Robert Colbert
Chief Executive - Anne Besford
General Manager - Mark Anyan

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £243,489 (2022: £236,031).

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration during the current or prior year.

During the year, one trustee (2022: no trustees) received reimbursed expenses of £4,051 (2022: nil) in respect of travel and subsistence costs, covering a number of previous years, which was subsequently donated to the charity.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

9. Intangible assets

	Software £
Cost	
At 1 October 2022	92,496
At 30 September 2023	<u>92,496</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 October 2022	76,660
Charge for the year	15,836
At 30 September 2023	<u>92,496</u>
Net book value	
At 30 September 2023	<u>-</u>
At 30 September 2022	<u>15,836</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 October 2022	15,119
At 30 September 2023	15,119
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2022	14,236
Charge for the year	883
At 30 September 2023	15,119
Net book value	
At 30 September 2023	-
At 30 September 2022	883

11. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2022	389,086
Revaluations	16,941
At 30 September 2023	406,027
Net book value	
At 30 September 2023	406,027
At 30 September 2022	389,086

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	15,477	7,842
Other debtors	1,920	1,920
Prepayments and accrued income	48,415	39,176
	<u>65,812</u>	<u>48,938</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	63,216	9,741
Other creditors	30,694	22,418
Accruals and deferred income	115,000	119,230
	<u>208,910</u>	<u>151,389</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 October 2022	86,746	125,459
Resources deferred during the year	98,383	44,371
Amounts released from previous periods	(86,746)	(83,084)
	<u>98,383</u>	<u>86,746</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
General contingency & budget	410,000	-	-	-	410,000
CRM / API project	15,836	-	(15,836)	-	-
Access and inclusion initiative	30,000	-	(23,000)	-	7,000
40th Anniversary initiative	40,000	-	(40,000)	-	-
Organisational development initiative	42,857	-	(28,702)	-	14,155
Brand review initiative	4,400	-	(4,400)	-	-
	<u>543,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(111,938)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>431,155</u>
General funds					
General Funds	<u>32,592</u>	<u>1,222,742</u>	<u>(1,272,275)</u>	<u>16,941</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>575,685</u>	<u>1,222,742</u>	<u>(1,384,213)</u>	<u>16,941</u>	<u>431,155</u>

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted funds

Founder's Scholarship Fund	106,749	-	-	-	106,749
Arts Council England	-	108,020	(108,020)	-	-
Gillian Dickinson Trust	-	9,375	(9,375)	-	-
The Leverhulme Foundation	-	63,800	(63,800)	-	-
Emeley Foundation	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
Offenheim	-	13,000	(13,000)	-	-
Other small grants and donations	-	106,917	(106,917)	-	-
	<u>106,749</u>	<u>304,612</u>	<u>(304,612)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,749</u>
Total of funds	682,434	1,527,354	(1,688,825)	16,941	537,904

The CRM / API fund has been designated by the trustees to represent the amount tied up in intangible assets, and consequently transfers are made from general funds representing any additions in the year. Amortisation is charged against the fund.

In celebration of the National Youth Choir's 40th anniversary, the fund has been allocated for the special joint concert and celebration events during the year.

As part of work to develop the current strategic plan, trustees identified areas where future investment would be needed. Designated funds aligned with the mission and priorities are allocated as follows:

Access and Inclusion fund which provides dedicated resources to underpin the delivery of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan and enable to support costs of specific access needs.

Organisational development initiative which support the costs of new staff posts, which will support the growth of more sustainable income streams.

NYCGB will continue to seek specific funding for designated funds, however this designation ensures that each initiative is underwritten.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
General contingency & budget	410,000	-	-	-	-	410,000
CRM / API project	34,329	-	(18,493)	-	-	15,836
Access and inclusion initiative	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
40th Anniversary initiative	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
Organisational development initiative	70,000	-	-	(27,143)	-	42,857
Brand review initiative	20,000	-	-	(15,600)	-	4,400
	<u>604,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18,493)</u>	<u>(42,743)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>543,093</u>
General funds						
General funds	<u>41,548</u>	<u>1,093,769</u>	<u>(1,132,912)</u>	<u>42,743</u>	<u>(12,556)</u>	<u>32,592</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>645,877</u>	<u>1,093,769</u>	<u>(1,151,405)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(12,556)</u>	<u>575,685</u>

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted funds

Founder's Scholarship Fund	106,749	-	-	-	-	106,749
Arts Council England	-	122,158	(122,158)	-	-	-
Gillian Dickinson Trust	-	1,964	(1,964)	-	-	-
The Leverhulme Foundation	-	36,040	(36,040)	-	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-
PRS Foundation	-	14,000	(14,000)	-	-	-
Other small grants and donations	-	97,354	(97,354)	-	-	-
	<u>106,749</u>	<u>296,516</u>	<u>(296,516)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,749</u>
Total of funds	<u>752,626</u>	<u>1,390,285</u>	<u>(1,447,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(12,556)</u>	<u>682,434</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	299,278	106,749	406,027
Current assets	410,219	(69,432)	340,787
Creditors due within one year	(278,342)	69,432	(208,910)
Total	<u>431,155</u>	<u>106,749</u>	<u>537,904</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2023

15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	883	-	883
Intangible fixed assets	15,836	-	15,836
Fixed asset investments	282,337	106,749	389,086
Current assets	380,518	47,500	428,018
Creditors due within one year	(103,889)	(47,500)	(151,389)
Total	575,685	106,749	682,434

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(144,530)	(70,192)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	883	1,116
Amortisation charges	15,836	18,493
Gains/(losses) on investments	(16,941)	12,556
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(5,338)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(16,874)	30,588
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	57,521	(91,252)
Net cash used in operating activities	(109,443)	(98,691)

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	274,975	379,080

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 October 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 30 September 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	379,080	(104,105)	274,975

19. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,898 (2022: £13,862). Contributions totalling £1,395 (2022: £1,295) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

20. Related party transactions

A director at Atom Holdco Limited is a trustee of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Atom Holdco Limited charges National Youth Choirs rental income for use of their office building. Rent payable recognised in the year is £24,871 (2022: £23,641) and the balance owed to Atom Hold co Limited at year end is £5,935.

During the year donations totalling £32,379 were received by the trustees or organisations that trustees had declared an interested in.

Trustees expenses have been disclosed separately within note 8.

