

Registered number: 01850803

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Charity number: 515660

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report

30 September 2024

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 2024

Trustees

David Andrew Roper
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 (resigned 16 July 2024)

Company registered number

01850803

Charity registered number

515660

Registered office

Ushaw Historic House, Chapel and Gardens
Woodland Road
Durham
DH7 9RH

Key management team

Anne Besford, Chief Executive
Lucy Hollins, Creative Director
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

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report

Year ended 30 September 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the company for the year 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. 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 2024

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 rehearsals and specialist training with professional conductors, musicianship and vocal coaches and guest artists as part of our pathway of national choirs. These choirs are National Youth Choir: 18-25 years (incorporating our elite chamber choir National Youth Voices); National Youth Choir: 15-18 years and two ensembles under our National Youth Choir: 9-15 years umbrella, split by gender and voice part.

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 includes co-creating and performing new works from a range of leading and emerging composers. We continue to grow exciting partnerships and collaborations, bringing our music to wider audiences – over 90,000 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 participants each year, this programme comprises strategic partnerships including our growing SING! initiative. We aim to reach more young people from a wider range of backgrounds and to create more sustainable singing opportunities in targeted priority areas.

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, Young Composers and new Young Conductors 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 130 freelance creative, pastoral and project management specialists.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2024

National Youth Choir is a National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation supported by Arts Council England and the Department for Education, with current three-year funding for the period April 2023 to March 2026 totalling £108,017 per year.

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

Throughout the year, National Youth Choir has been working to deliver against our ambitions to grow our national community, becoming even more effective, relevant and impactful for young people from the widest range of backgrounds. We are building on strong creative and operational foundations as we implement our five year strategic plan 2022-2027.

Auditions

We recruit widely for our national choirs, auditioning young people from across the UK to identify musical potential and passion for singing. Through our open, online auditions programme we saw 623 candidates across 32 days, maintaining the 10% increase we saw in the previous year. With the aim of removing barriers and making our auditions process more accessible particularly for young people in state education, we developed new targeted workshop auditions, seeing a further 37 candidates. Through our work to address access and awareness, we continue to see progress addressing issues of under-representation. For example 32.4% of candidates were from Black, Asian or other ethnically diverse backgrounds, up from 16% in 2020. Across all auditions, 75% of candidates were awarded places in one of our national choirs.

Residentials and Training

We delivered another busy programme of rehearsal, training and progression opportunities, including an annual programme of four projects for the flagship National Youth Choir (18-25 years), 9 residential courses for our 9-18 choirs, and concerts in venues nationwide. In total we recorded 1,087 participants in membership activities across the year, broadly consistent with the previous year.

Highlights included delivering our first parallel course for members of the National Youth Choir (9-15 Years), bringing together singers from both of our 9-15 ensembles in Tonbridge. This enabled us to provide opportunities for participants to collaborate with each other musically and socially, and the residential culminated in two exciting joint performances. Members of National Youth Choir (15-18 Years) explored diverse music – from Eric Whitacre to ABBA – across their three residentials. This included recording Greg Beardsell and Harry Baker's beautiful arrangement of a Jamie Cullum song How Do You Fly, which became our Christmas release for 2024. National Youth Choir (18-25 Years) collaborated with the Young Artists of Sinfonia Smith Square on a performance of Faure's Requiem. As well as the usual intensive programmes of music and learning, this year all the choirs had the opportunity to take part in audio recording projects, creating new tracks to be released in the coming year on National Youth Choir's digital platforms.

Across the year 191 activity sessions were delivered across 69 days by over 130 creative, pastoral and management specialists.

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. We now publish our repertoire annually so that other organisations can explore and take inspiration from it.

Performances, Commissions and Recordings

During 2023-24 we continued to deliver live and digital performances, showcasing the breadth and brilliance of the national choirs and their work to national and international audiences.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2024

The National Youth Choirs performed in 42 live concerts in 2023-24, to a total audience of 91,097. This included concerts and showcases at the end of residencies (Saffron Walden, Coventry, York, Ely, Tonbridge, Oxford, Wakefield), as well as collaborations with partners. Singers were invited to perform at the Royal Variety Performance in December alongside Samantha Barks and Mel C, for Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales. The National Youth Choir (18-25 Years) also returned to the BBC Proms in the summer for a spectacular performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony by heart, with Aurora Orchestra and the BBC Singers.

Digital content across our YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music platforms continues to reach wider international audience each year. In 2023-24 this included 23 audio and 7 video tracks, with new music from the last twelve months receiving over 131,000 streams/views. Across our full catalogue, streams and views reached 2.5 million people from 153 countries – sustaining the huge increase we saw in the previous year. National Youth Choir performances were broadcast across Classic FM, BBC Radio 3, BBC Four and ITV, including a performance on This Morning!

National Youth Choir continues to commission and create innovative new choral music by, for and with young people, challenging perceptions of what choral music can be. Our commissions in 2024 were:

'Word' by Joanna Marsh – a joyful, energetic setting of hip-hop inspired verse by Patience Agbabi, premiered at Ely Cathedral by National Youth Choir (18-25 Years).

'Snowdrop' and 'Willow' by Kristina Arakelyan – two pieces specifically composed for the changing and unchanged voices of the National Youth Choir (9-15 years) and premiered at Tonbridge Chapel.

'Journey of a Butterfly' by 2023 graduate Young Composer Millicent B James – premiered in Oxford and Wakefield by the National Youth Choir (15-18 years)

8 new pieces by our Young Composers 2024, to be released in January 2025.

We continue to receive industry recognition for the quality and innovation of our new music programme. Former 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 from a wider range of backgrounds to discover and develop their voice, challenging the current inequality of opportunities for high-quality singing in state education. We work with partners including schools, Music Hubs and music organisations to understand barriers and challenges for young people and to create inclusive singing programmes and progression pathways that meet local needs. All opportunities are free at the point of access for young participants.

Following its launch in 2023, over the last year we have worked to expand and embed SING! – a positive, affirming pathway for young people aged 9-14 who enjoy singing, encouraging them to develop skills and pursue their passion. Through a series of fun, accessible and welcoming workshop days over three terms, participants explore a variety of new styles of music and approaches to singing with a team of expert vocal leaders from National Youth Choir. 239 young people took part in SING! activities, and we launched two new programmes in Mansfield and Bolton. Participants reported increased confidence, a sense of achievement and new musical skills and interests.

Wider Learning and Engagement activities have included new types of activity working with partner schools and Merton Music Foundation, as well as CPD opportunities. Across the whole programme we engaged and inspired 3,550 young people, family groups, teachers and music leaders. In addition, over 1,000 audience members attended showcase events to celebrate participants' achievements. We reached communities including Greater Manchester, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Norfolk, London Boroughs and our home region, the North East. We were also delighted to continue to offer opportunities for 20 young people, including national choir members, to develop peer leadership skills through volunteering to support regional learning activities.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2024

Professional support and development

National Youth Choir takes a leading role in shaping the future of the sector by supporting the professional development of emerging young choral musicians. We nurture talent from the widest diversity of backgrounds so that choral music is vibrant, innovative and relevant.

In 2023-24 we delivered our Emerging Professional Artists programme, launching the ninth Fellowship training programme, the sixth Young Composers scheme and a new Young Conductors programme. We support ten early career 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 (Dorico software), publishers Stainer and Bell, industry body AOTOS and creative retreats supported by Britten Pears Arts.

The trainee cohort participated in live, recorded and broadcast performances and paid opportunities to work on National Youth Choir activities. They continued to play a central role in supporting our commitment to new music, undertaking creative collaborations to create and perform eight new pieces by the Young Composers 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 musical potential and passion. 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 2023-24 this has increased to 281 awards made to 147 recipients. The total direct value of these awards was £142,986 – a 5% 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 14.2% 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 this year provided 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.

The current priorities in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan for the period 2023-2025 are 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.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2024

To deliver against these priorities this year, we have:

- Committing to regular team discussions about EDI issues and approaches;
- Introduced a clearer structure and new naming across our choirs to support inclusive practice;
- Piloted a new approach to delivery of National Youth Choir (9-15 years) and engaged members in development of a new approach to evaluation;
- Expanded targeted auditions with new workshop auditions for young people in state education;
- Expanded our SING! programmes into two new areas where there are fewer singing opportunities;
- Increased financial assistance to offer more support to those who need it most;
- Developed inclusive recruitment practices for National Youth Choir work and training opportunities, successfully bringing more diverse perspectives and experiences into our teams;
- Piloted new diversity and inclusion training;
- Engaged volunteers from a range of backgrounds on our Campaign Committee, Alumni Champions Committee and as parent volunteers;
- Delivered an open recruitment campaign for new trustees to ensure representation in our governance;
- Participated in national partnerships, conversations and networks to share inclusive practices and identify opportunities for joint-working.

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 is empowered to make a unique contribution to our community and walk 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 2024 reported an average score of 8.9/10 for enjoyment of our programmes and 8.9/10 for feeling a sense of belonging to the National Youth Choir community. 71% 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 and is reviewed regularly by staff and trustees and shared with key stakeholders.

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 2023-24 National Youth Choir did not receive any complaints relating to our fundraising activities.

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; ACE National Lottery Project Fund; The Leverhulme Trust; Peter Sowerby Foundation; The Ofenheim Trust; Gillian Dickinson Trust; PRS for Music Foundation; John S Cohen Foundation; John James Bristol Foundation; and CHK Foundation. 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).

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2024

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:

The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Trust, Andor Charitable Trust, Baron Davenport's Charity, The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust, The Bagheera Trust, Beerling Foundation, The Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement, The Blyth Watson Charitable Trust, The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust, CHK Foundation, The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust, Earl of Chester's Fund, The Elmley Foundation, Fenton Arts Trust, Doris Field Charitable Trust, The Florence Turner Trust, Fowler Smith & Jones Trust, The Frazer Trust, Hadrian Trust, The HR Taylor Charitable Trust, The John Thaw Foundation, The J & S Asquith Charitable Trust, Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust, Mercers' Company, Michael Cornish Charitable Trust, The Millichope Foundation, The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, The Mulberry Trust, The Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark Charitable Trust, The Rowlands Trust, Scarfe Charitable Trust, The Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust, Vaughan Williams Foundation, Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust, W. E. Dunn 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 2023 and March 2024, National Youth Choir took part in two Big Give Challenges raising funds to support 50 financial assistance recipients and our Sing! programme. Over 200 people generously donated just over £40,000, and we would like to thank them and our two match funders The Big Give Trust and The Emily Fund who matched donations £ for £.

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 2023-24. 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; Mr and Mrs D von Preyss, The Bagheera Trust, The Emily Fund
- **Fortissimo Friends:** The Munden Family
- **Forte Friends:** The Baker Family; Kieran Cooper; The Felicité Choir; The Hillier Family; Mr and Mrs Holt; Estate of Mrs Elizabeth A Main; Paul and Susan McCreesh; Adrian Melrose; Polly Penter; Garth & Lucy Pollard; Bob and Camilla Reid; Michael & Tina Strutt; Mr & Mrs R Tett; The Wingfield Family; The Whitehead Family
- **Mezzo Forte Friends:** Bryony Coapes; Kate Davies; The Delap Family; Katherine Douglas; Andrew Evans; Andy Farris; Julian Forbes; Mr and Mrs Foulkes; The Grafton/Litherland Family; Catherine Green; Scott and Simone Green; Christian Grobel; Dominic and Sophie Jones; The Kilpatrick Family; Samara Kirapaty; Felix Leach; The Marklew Family; Geoff & Jean Mountfield; Janet Reid; Dr. Alan Renwick; Michael Seeney; Malcolm Smith; Carole Varney; Katey Wood; Mike Wright; Fiona Yeomans
- **Alumni Champions Committee:** Tom Appleton; Hannah Berridge; Liz Bingham (née Hurren); Charlotte Brosnan; Jessica Coapes; Charlotte Dougan (née Mobbs); Andy Farris; Anna George (née Tonkin); Lizzie Hogarth – Chair; Derri Lewis; Kate Smith; Georgia Stryder; Amy Thompson; Anna von Preyss
- **Campaign Committee:** Angela Au; Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett; Helen Kihmm von-Preyss; David Roper; Greg Watson; Anne Besford; Tim Croall; Rob Colbert; Blythe Day; Isobel Frost; Lucy Hollins; Michael Bass; Nic Chalmers; Elizabeth Hogarth; Martin Kaufman (Consultant).

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2024

Financial review

Financial position

The statement of financial activities for 2023-24 shows an overall annual deficit of £164,849. This includes a £51,566 increase in the value of invested funds during the year. A deficit was planned and expected due to investment in access and inclusion initiatives and organisational capacity.

National Youth Choir has continued to grow principal income-generating activities – residentials and performances – during 2023-24. 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. However, overall residential activity bookings decreased slightly compared to the previous year and were below the budgeted target. An increasing proportion of choir members are taking part in one residential rather than two each year and we know from feedback this is largely due to cost of living pressures. We have adjusted targets accordingly in 2024-25, but still anticipate significant growth over the period of the current strategic plan.

Fundraised income streams from grants and individual giving grew again during the year, with the launch of our 'Give All Young People A Voice!' campaign having a positive impact. We remain hugely grateful for the help and financial support of donors, funders, participants, partners and government, as well as the volunteers on our Campaign Committee.

A proportion of the reported annual deficit is consistent with plans to invest designated reserves in key areas of organisational growth and staffing capacity over the last three years. In particular, this has included an expanded Creative Director role and additional fundraising capacity.

National Youth Choir has also continued to respond to ongoing high-levels of inflation through the year and the associated cost of living pressures facing many of our beneficiaries. In the previous year trustees committed to supporting access and inclusion and reducing the impact of inflation by limiting increases in fees and charges to a rate well below inflation, and this has continued into 2023-24 with increases remaining 5% below inflation over 2 years. trustees also committed to offering an increased level of financial assistance support, with the pot increasing by 5%.

Looking ahead, 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 2024 were £373,055. 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. A target balance of £410,000 was designated to this purpose, reflecting the equivalent of 12 months' core staffing costs. Currently this designated cashflow and contingency fund stands at £266,306. This is considered to be a suitable sum to enable National Youth Choir to manage the organisation through exceptional events and cashflow needs, however our long-term aim is to build this fund to the target balance.

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.

All reserves are tied up in designated funds, restricted funds and fixed assets. The National Youth choir's total free reserves are £nil.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2024

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.

Since October 2019 £350,000 in total has been used to invest 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. At 30 September 2024 National Youth Choir holds 1,770 units valued at £457,593, an increase of £51,566 over the year. Our policy is to invest for long-term growth, however we are able to sell units to support cashflow needs as required.

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 2024-25, 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 2024

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 passionate 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 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 2025 we will undertake a mid-term review of the plan and we remain flexible in responding to external factors and their impact on our programme and beneficiaries.

In 2024-25 the programme of activities will contribute towards the delivery of the stated organisational and charitable aims and objectives.

Courses, Training and Professional Development

Eight residential courses are currently planned for 2024-25 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 1,130 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 embedding the new approach to delivery of the 9-15 choirs with joint courses and shared performances, under the direction of a new Principal Conductor. We will be further developing our approach to evaluation of national choir activities and our quality framework, building on this year's pilot. National Youth Choir (18-25 Years) will undertake their first international tour since 2016, travelling to South Africa in spring.

Our sector leading development programmes will continue with delivery of the 2025 Emerging Professional Artists, engaging 10 participants in total with a particular focus on developing our support for disabled and neurodiverse musicians.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2024

Performances, Commissions and Recordings

Seeking to continue to offer members unbeatable creative opportunities, we aim to deliver a programme of 20 concerts/performances, regular digital recording releases and 2 broadcasts across our ensembles in 2024-25. The programme will continue established partnerships with the London Handel Festival and the Royal Albert Hall and a new relationship with the BBC Singers. It will also include the release of the sixth Young Composers album by NMC Recordings. 3 new commissions/collaborations are planned: one of the UK's finest musicians, Roderick Williams OBE will collaborate with National Youth Choir (18-25 years); Canadian composer Sarah Quartel will write for our 9-15 choirs and we will commission one of our graduate Young Composers from 2024 to create a new work for our 15-18 choir.

Learning and Engagement

In 2024-25 we will continue to grow our national work in schools and communities, with a continued focus on expanding the SING! programme to support young singers and create strong progression pathways across five areas, including current partnerships in the North East, Greater Manchester and Mansfield, and new partnerships in the West Midlands and with Ark Schools. We will also expand our targeted auditions. 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. In 2025 we plan to develop plans for new strategic engagement activities to support singing pathways more widely. In total we aim to engage 3,500-4,000 participants.

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 for all. 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 representative workforce. We will also be developing partnerships with specialist organisations to inform this work and act as critical friends.

Budget

For 2024-25 trustees have made the strategic decision to set a deficit budget, with a planned deficit of £75k for the year. This will continue to 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 2024-25 we will continue to deliver our four-year fundraising campaign, with the aim of raising £2.75 million 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 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.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 30 September 2024

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.

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.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 30 September 2024

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.

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 13 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



David Andrew Roper
(Chair of Trustees)

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities Year ended 30 September 2024

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 Andrew Roper
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 13 February 2025



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 2024 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 2024 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 charitable company'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

13 February 2025

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) Year ended 30 September 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	140,410	460,790	601,200	563,546
Charitable activities	4	985,612	-	985,612	958,470
Investments		4,504	-	4,504	5,338
Total income		1,130,526	460,790	1,591,316	1,527,354
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	86,648	-	86,648	115,108
Charitable activities		1,260,293	460,790	1,721,083	1,573,717
Total expenditure		1,346,941	460,790	1,807,731	1,688,825
Net expenditure before net gains on investments		(216,415)	-	(216,415)	(161,471)
Net gains on investments		51,566	-	51,566	16,941
Net movement in funds		(164,849)	-	(164,849)	(144,530)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		431,155	106,749	537,904	682,434
Net movement in funds		(164,849)	-	(164,849)	(144,530)
Total funds carried forward		266,306	106,749	373,055	537,904

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet

At 30 September 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	9	-	-
Tangible assets	10	-	-
Investments	11	457,593	406,027
		<u>457,593</u>	<u>406,027</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	76,561	65,812
Cash at bank and in hand		18,871	274,975
		<u>95,432</u>	<u>340,787</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(179,970)	(208,910)
Net current liabilities / assets		<u>(84,538)</u>	<u>131,877</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>373,055</u></u>	<u><u>537,904</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	106,749	106,749
Unrestricted funds	14	266,306	431,155
Total funds		<u><u>373,055</u></u>	<u><u>537,904</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 13 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



David Andrew Roper
(Chair of Trustees)

Company registration number 01850803

The notes on pages 23 to 40 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 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	16	(260,608)	(109,443)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		4,504	5,338
Net cash provided by investing activities		4,504	5,338
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(256,104)	(104,105)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		274,975	379,080
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17	18,871	274,975

The notes on pages 23 to 40 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 2024

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 2024-25, 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 2024

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 2024

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 2024

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 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	97,949	21,682	119,631
Grants	16,875	439,108	455,983
Membership fees	25,586	-	25,586
	<u>140,410</u>	<u>460,790</u>	<u>601,200</u>

Donations comprise donations from individuals of £83,272 and from corporate partners of £21,682.

	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.

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Course fees	866,155	866,155
Audition fees	10,204	10,204
Sales of merchandise	2,718	2,718
Concert and performing fees	15,373	15,373
Ticket sales and contributions - concerts	62,865	62,865
Other income	28,297	28,297
	<u>985,612</u>	<u>985,612</u>

	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
	<u>958,470</u>	<u>958,470</u>

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2024

5. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fundraising - other costs	9,641	9,641
Wages and salaries	67,393	67,393
National Insurance	7,919	7,919
Pension costs	1,695	1,695
	<u>86,648</u>	<u>86,648</u>

	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>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	1,553,515	167,568	1,721,083

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

Analysis of direct costs

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	420,616	420,616
Courses accommodation, music	957,165	957,165
Insurance	6,553	6,553
Travelling expenses	46,917	46,917
Advertising, website, promotion and printing	35,123	35,123
Consulting and training	9,128	9,128
Office costs	62,285	62,285
Bank charges	15,728	15,728
	1,553,515	1,553,515

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

	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>

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	131,330	131,330
Legal and professional fees	13,676	13,676
Rent and rates	17,349	17,349
Governance costs	5,213	5,213
	<u>167,568</u>	<u>167,568</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs (continued)

	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>

7. Auditor's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	9,500	9,220
Fees payable to the company's auditor in respect of:		
Other services	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,000</u>

8. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	563,698	491,307
Social security costs	51,277	46,232
Other pension costs	13,978	11,898
	<u>628,953</u>	<u>549,437</u>

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Average no. of employees	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

8. Staff costs (continued)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Staff	13	12

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	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 2023/24 they were:

Creative Director - Lucy Hollins
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 £280,139 (2023: £243,489).

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

During the year, one trustee (2023: one trustee) received reimbursed expenses of £1,434 (2023: £4,051) 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 2024

9. Intangible assets

	Software £
Cost	
At 1 October 2023	92,496
At 30 September 2024	92,496
Amortisation	
At 1 October 2023	92,496
At 30 September 2024	92,496
Net book value	
At 30 September 2024	-
At 30 September 2023	-

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 October 2023	15,119
At 30 September 2024	15,119
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2023	15,119
At 30 September 2024	15,119
Net book value	
At 30 September 2024	-
At 30 September 2023	-

11. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2023	406,027
Revaluations	51,566
At 30 September 2024	457,593
Net book value	
At 30 September 2024	457,593
At 30 September 2023	406,027

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

12. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	8,996	15,477
Other debtors	1,920	1,920
Prepayments and accrued income	65,645	48,415
	<u>76,561</u>	<u>65,812</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	20,651	63,216
Other creditors	32,985	30,694
Accruals and deferred income	126,334	115,000
	<u>179,970</u>	<u>208,910</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 October 2023	98,383	86,746
Resources deferred during the year	109,521	98,383
Amounts released from previous periods	(96,383)	(86,746)
	<u>111,521</u>	<u>98,383</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
General contingency & budget	410,000	-	-	(143,694)	-	266,306
Access and inclusion initiative	7,000	-	(7,000)	-	-	-
Organisational development initiative	14,155	-	(14,155)	-	-	-
	<u>431,155</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,155)</u>	<u>(143,694)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>266,306</u>
General funds						
General funds	-	1,130,526	(1,325,786)	143,694	51,566	-
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>431,155</u>	<u>1,130,526</u>	<u>(1,346,941)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,566</u>	<u>266,306</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted funds						
Founder's Scholarship Fund	106,749	-	-	-	-	106,749
Arts Council England	-	149,997	(149,997)	-	-	-
Peter Sowerby Foundation	-	51,243	(51,243)	-	-	-
The Leverhulme Trust	-	41,980	(41,980)	-	-	-
CHK Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
The Offenheim Charitable Trust	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	-	-
Other small grants and donations	-	200,570	(200,570)	-	-	-
	<u>106,749</u>	<u>460,790</u>	<u>(460,790)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,749</u>
Total of funds	537,904	1,591,316	(1,807,731)	-	51,566	373,055

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 were 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.

Both funds were spend down in 2023//24 as expected.

NYCGB will continue to seek specific funding new initiatives as the need arises.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior 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>
Restricted funds					
Founder's Scholarship Fund	106,749	-	-	-	106,749
Arts Council England	-	108,020	(108,020)	-	-
Peter Sowerby Foundation	-	9,375	(9,375)	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	63,800	(63,800)	-	-
The Leverhulme Trust	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
CHK Foundation	-	13,000	(13,000)	-	-
The Offenheim Charitable Trust	-	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	<u>682,434</u>	<u>1,527,354</u>	<u>(1,688,825)</u>	<u>16,941</u>	<u>537,904</u>

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 30 September 2024

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	350,844	106,749	457,593
Current assets	32,299	63,133	95,432
Creditors due within one year	(116,837)	(63,133)	(179,970)
Total	266,306	106,749	373,055

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	299,278	106,749	406,027
Current assets	271,355	69,432	340,787
Creditors due within one year	(139,478)	(69,432)	(208,910)
Total	431,155	106,749	537,904

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(164,849)	(144,530)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	-	883
Amortisation charges	-	15,836
Gains on investments	(51,566)	(16,941)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(4,504)	(5,338)
Increase in debtors	(10,749)	(16,874)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(28,940)	57,521
Net cash used in operating activities	(260,608)	(109,443)

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 30 September 2024

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	<u>18,871</u>	<u>274,975</u>

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 October 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 30 September 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>274,975</u>	<u>(256,104)</u>	<u>18,871</u>

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 £13,978 (2023: £11,898). Contributions totalling £1,330 (2023: £1,395) 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 charged National Youth Choirs rental income for use of their office building until they changed premises in April 2024. Rent payable recognised in the year is £14,568 (2023: £24,871) and the balance owed to Atom Holdco Limited at year end is £nil (2023: £5,935).

During the year donations totalling £21,414 (2023: £32,379) were received from the trustees or organisations that trustees had declared an interested in.

Trustees expenses have been disclosed separately within note 8.