

# YORK PHILHARMONIC MALE VOICE CHOIR (FLETCHER MEMORIAL CHOIR)

England & Wales · Charity number 529713

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1972-01-28

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

## Contact

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**Address** 3 Pear Tree Close  
Wilberfoss  
York  
YO41 5RN

**Phone** 07590 912293

**Email** [yorkphilchoir@gmail.com](mailto:yorkphilchoir@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.yorkphilchoir.org.uk](http://www.yorkphilchoir.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ORDER TO FOSTER PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF SUCH MUSIC BY MEANS OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

**Activities:** Developing the skills of choral music and presenting concerts for the financial benefit of charitable and community groups. Performances are mostly , but not exclusively, within the City of York and North Yorkshire

## Classification

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- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** YORK
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- City Of York
- East Riding Of Yorkshire
- North Yorkshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£40,715	£30,651	-	-
2024-08-31	£54,664	£78,882	-	-
2023-08-31	£32,703	£26,008	-	-
2022-08-31	£52,356	£51,695	-	-
2021-08-31	£7,418	£11,218	-	-
2020-08-31	£12,984	£6,969	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
David John Lampitt		2024-07-22
Michael Christopher Clarke		2024-07-22
Michael Nokes		2024-10-28
Robert David Askew		2024-07-22
Stephen Poole		2020-03-02

**YORK PHILHARMONIC MALE VOICE CHOIR (FLETCHER MEMORIAL CHOIR)**

England & Wales - Charity number 529713

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# Accounts

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# York *philharmonic* Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. 529713

## Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### STATUS

The York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir (The Fletcher Memorial Choir) is an association governed by our Constitution, dated 15 July 2020, and Rules dated 12 June 2023.

The Choir was first registered with the Charity Commission as a charity in 1972, registration number 529713.

The Choir does not have a registered office. All official correspondence for the period was to be directed to the Choir Secretary, Mr JD Thomson, by email at [yorkphilchoir@gmail.com](mailto:yorkphilchoir@gmail.com) or by post at 42 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York, YO1 9XA. Any current correspondence should be addressed to the address shown on the Choir's Charity Commission entry.

This Trustee Annual Report covers the 12 months 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. As the turnover of the choir is less than £250k the annual accounts will be presented on a receipts and payments basis. As turnover for the year is over £25k, a Trustees Annual Report (TAR) has been prepared and will be registered with the Charity Commission. In accordance with Charity Commission rules an electronic Annual Return will be made every year and reference can be made to the Financial Statement that is a separate document to this report.

### GOVERNING OFFICERS

The Choir is governed by up to eight Trustees of the Choir who are elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There were no changes in Trustees during the year between AGMs. Ex-officio officers are also appointed at the AGM.

Role	AGM Elected	
	22/07/24	22/09/25
President	Mrs J Waggott	Mrs J Waggott
Chair	Mr M Wash	Mr R Askew
Secretary	Mr D Thomson	Mr S Poole
Treasurer	Mr M Clarke	Mr M Clarke
Membership Representative 1	Mr A Houghton	Mr D Lampitt
Membership Representative 2	Mr S Poole	Mr M Nokes
Membership Representative 3	Mr R Askew	Vacant
Membership Representative 4	Mr D Lampitt	Vacant
Membership Representative 5	Vacant	Vacant

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as our Secretary, Derek Thomson, had to stand down due to ill health. Michael Nokes was duly elected as a Trustee and Secretary until the next AGM. In addition, Adrian Houghton stood down as a Trustee and Vice Chair also due to ill health. Rob Askew was duly elected as Vice Chair.

Whilst the choir year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, the AGM was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 immediately after the weekend in which we celebrated our centenary.

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### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Karen Wood ACMA, CGMA Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations, Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR.

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### **LEGAL ADVISERS**

The Choir has not had the need to appoint a legal adviser.

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### **INSURANCE ADVISERS**

The Choir has not appointed an insurance adviser and is insured by a policy arranged through the National Association of Choirs by Marsh Commercial (Hull), Ground Floor, Unit 5, Hesslewood Office Park, Ferriby Road, Hull, HU13 0QF. The policy is underwritten by Ansvar Insurance.

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### **PROPERTY AND CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES**

The Choir owns no interests in land or property and holds no assets or funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

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### **BANKERS**

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HB (2 accounts; 1 current, 1 savings), and National Savings and Investments, Glasgow G58 1SB (1 investment account)

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## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Voting membership of the Choir is open to anyone over the age of 18. At 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 there were 61 voting members. There are also 8 honorary life members who have no voting rights.

There are regularly between 50 and 55 members at each rehearsal evening and there's never a shortage to assemble sufficient singers for our performances. We are nevertheless always on the

lookout for new members. Weekly sectional rehearsals were led by our AMD and around 20 regularly retire for a post rehearsal social drink and informal sing at The Snickleways pub.

Social activities this year included a centenary golf day, Chair's 'birthday bash', ten-pin bowling, and an informal music night where members get to practice solos and small group songs in front of family and Friends.

The Choir is also supported by The Phillies, an independent group that consists of member's wives and partners that as well as organising their own social events, also arrange and serve refreshments and organise raffles at our own concerts, fund raising events, and soirees.

After a short recruitment campaign, The Choir has 63 paid up Friends who benefit from a regular newsletter, prize draw, and a free ticket to one of our Christmas Traditions concerts.

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## ORGANISATION

In addition to the eight trustees, the Choir's Management Committee includes the Choir's Musical Director (MD), Berenice Lewis, *ex officio* who this year clocked up 25 years as our MD, together with a representative from each of the four sections of the Choir elected at the AGM each year. For 2024/25 these representatives were re-elected; Mr R Gott (2<sup>nd</sup> tenor) and Mr P Newman (baritone). Mr R Samwell (bass) and Mr O Innes (2<sup>nd</sup> tenor) were newly appointed representatives. These committee members assist the Trustees in governing the Choir but in this capacity do not have voting rights at committee meetings. The Management Committee met on 5 occasions during the year.

Various activities are entrusted to working groups set up by the Trustees in April 2009 under the Choir's Rules. Concerts Group (responsible for all aspects of performances not requiring overnight accommodation); Tour Group (responsible for those events requiring overnight accommodation); and the Publicity/Media Group (aimed at promoting the Choir's activities and bringing them to the attention of a wider audience). The Uniforms Group established to consider the purchase of a new uniform that were delivered from October 2023 was disbanded and Richard Pearson elected as Uniforms Officer to manage the ongoing need to dress new members. The Centenary Planning Group continued its work that included coordinating the production of commemorative centenary lapel badges, a centenary programme, and a full update to the book, "Sound Fellows – The Story of York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir – 100 Years of Song, 1925 to 2025" written by our very own Colin Hockridge. These groups meet as and when required and attend Management Committee meetings also as and when required.

The Musical Development Group (MDG) was disbanded during the year with sole responsibility for repertoire, rehearsals, music quality, and training of members reverting to the Musical Director.

Martin Sleeman continued his role as welfare officer and David Lampitt continued as the lead for the publicity/media Group. Two new Member Trustees were appointed at the AGM, Rob Askew and David Lampitt.

Richard Kay, our deputy musical director took a sabbatical from the choir leading to his eventual resignation to focus more on his MD role with Harrogate MVC.

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## RELATED ORGANISATIONS

The Choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs (NAC), a national body formed by choirs to give a collective voice, representation and to provide a wide support and advice function. The NAC is itself a charity, registration number 1014630.

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## INTERNAL CONTROLS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for the Choir's internal controls and for monitoring their effectiveness. No material weaknesses have been identified.

The Trustees regularly review the risks to the charity and have established systems and procedures to mitigate any risks identified and implemented procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

During the current cost of living crisis, the greatest risk to the Choir during this reporting period remained the choir's financial security and members' health.

The Trustees have identified that financial sustainability remains a risk for the charity, especially following the replacement of our performance uniforms in late 2023 and the additional expenditure incurred as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Further Sponsorship and Donations, to the tune of around £10k, were secured for our Centenary year, and other options are being considered for increasing revenue for day-to-day operations. Other key risks include damage to the Choir's reputation, failure to protect the health and welfare of its members, and failure to maintain a strong membership base. The latter is a continuing discussion at management meetings and is not unique to this choir. During 24/25 we continued with our social media presence with more regular posts about forthcoming concerts, the benefits of singing, and how to become involved with the choir. A refresh of our website resulted in a more modern look with additional information for visitors, including pages specifically focused on our centenary celebration events.

A key element in managing financial risk is to review the Choir's reserves annually. The Trustees conducted a review of their reserves policy in 2024/5 and agreed that the policy should remain unchanged. This was recorded at the AGM.

Risks to our musical team were considered, and it was agreed that succession planning should commence to secure long-term musical direction, providing stability and flexibility going into and beyond our Centenary year. Consequently, the trustees appointed a new deputy MD, Ms Emilie Bels, who took up her post in January 2025.

The choir has 3 nominated first aiders. First aid provision was reviewed in 24/25, resulting in refresher first-aid-at-work training for 3 first aiders, along with the purchase of 2 new first-aid kits, one of which is more suitable for taking to 'away' concerts. The Health & Safety Policy was reviewed during the 23/24 choir year.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees' Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. The financial statement has been subjected to an independent examination by Outsource Accounting Services.

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## OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

### *Our objectives*

The charitable objectives of York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir are ‘the study and practice of choral music to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance’.

### *Our aims*

The Choir seeks to achieve these objectives by giving public performances in various musical styles at a variety of venues (often in support of other charitable organisations) and by offering opportunities for male singers to develop and practise their skills in rehearsal and performance.

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## ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### *How our activities deliver public benefit*

The Choir rehearses weekly to enable the study of choral music and performs in public in different venues throughout the year in pursuance of our charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Choir’s activities, summarised below, provide public benefit both to those who join the Choir to sing, those who support us, and to the wider community who attend our performances.

### *How we achieve our objectives*

We normally achieve our objectives through encouraging prospective members to attend rehearsals and learn about and practice choral singing. Most prospective members become full members and are expected to improve their singing skills and, having reached an acceptable standard (assessed by means of a ‘voice assessment’), perform in Choir concerts. We also achieve our objectives by giving public performances in a variety of venues throughout our local area and, on occasion, more widely nationally and internationally.

Income from travellers for the 2024 Cork Tour and ring-fenced income for Centenary Sponsorship are the principal reason for turnover this year being over £25,000.

In October 2024 The Fletcher Memorial Trophy was presented to Roger and Linda Samwell for their long and dedicated service to the choir, Roger having held a number of posts during his many years as a member and Linda as a ‘Phillie’ and our Queen of raffles, St Crux jewellery sales, and bucket rattling.

At our centenary dinner on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the Fletcher Memorial Trophy was renamed to the Fletcher Lewis Memorial Trophy in recognition of the 25 years of outstanding musical leadership by our MD Berenice Lewis who was also presented with the trophy for the 25/26 choir year.

### *New members*

We initiated a recruitment drive during 2025 with new leaflets and posters to take advantage of appearing in front of some new audiences, including The York Proms and our own centenary concert at York’s Barbican Theatre. It is expected that the efforts will not bear fruit perhaps until the 25/26 choir year. However, we continue to see a trickle of prospective members come along to rehearsals, and in 24/25, 7 new members joined the choir. Unfortunately, 6 members left the choir.

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## *Concerts*

During the year we performed at venues in York, Selby Abbey, Wilberfoss, Newby Hall (which was also hosting Tractor Fest), Gunnerside, the Impossible Restaurant in St Helen's Square, York; Easingwold (with Jubilate Ladies Choir that included our President), and Whitby. A joint concert with The Golden Rail Band was performed to a full house at the Joseph Rowtree Theatre in September '24, which is becoming an annual event. We made no donations to our three chosen charities during 24/25 to our three chosen charities, Shine 21, Menfulness, and the North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre. However, the intention is to split all profits made from our centenary concert in York's Barbican Theatre on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 between them.

Once again, we had a packed schedule of Christmas events, which generate most of our annual concert income, including our 4-night run of Christmas Traditions at Bar Convent, Holy Trinity, Goodramgate, and York Railway Station. A smaller group also returned to lead the singing at an annual Dignity memorial service at York City Church for those who have lost family and friends over the year. A song requested at the railway station sing prompted a £100 donation!

We once again took part in the York Community Choir Festival at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre in March. Our own annual summer concert in July, with the theme of The Phil through 100 years, which included favourites voted by members from the past 100 years, took place in The DeGrey Rooms as The Citadel was unavailable due to building work.

A new event for the choir was The York Proms held in the Museum Gardens. This open-air concert has been growing in size since its inception, and we were fortunate enough to perform in front of around 2000 people, leading up to the opening singing of the national anthem. This was delayed and we had to remain on stage whilst the crowd, and ourselves, enjoyed commentary by the York Town Crier as England's Ladies team took penalties to win the Women's Euro 2025 – a very memorable moment.

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## *Competitions and Festivals*

Each year the Choir participates in at least one choral festival or competition. Once again, the Choir competed in the Eskdale Festival of the Arts on a sunny April day in Whitby and were awarded a 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a joint 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the three classes entered. As well as a competition, this is a great social occasion for the choir and its supporters where we can meet up with other like minded folk and enjoy a plate of Yorkshire's best fish and chips, and an ice cream.

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## *Community performances*

It is clear to see from the Concerts section above that most of our performances are in the community and often for the community. As well as facilitating the enjoyment and appreciation of choral music the Choir helps raise funds for a wide variety of charities and community-based organisations including churches where we sing by invitation. A number of these are free of fees or performed at reduced fees to enable the financial proceeds to benefit other organisations and charities. These community events also open the Choir to new audiences and occasionally will attract new members.

We also lead the singing at two of The Lord Mayor of York's Christmas Cheer events that are held for the over 60's in York's Assembly Rooms.

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## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### *Reserves Policy*

The Trustees have agreed that the Choir's free reserves (excluding designated or restricted funds), should be set at a level that would fund one year's normal operating costs excluding depreciation and any extra-ordinary items. At the end of August 2025 that policy would indicate a required cash level of reserves of around £18k

### *Investment Policy*

The Trustees hold the Choir's reserves between National Savings and Unity Trust Bank which is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and at a level that is no greater than that guaranteed by the scheme. The Trustees aim to take little or no risk to loss of capital value and any investments will only be made where they can be readily redeemed in cash. The choir currently holds around two years' reserves, similar to that at August 2024 and thus remains within the choir's reserves policy limits.

### *Financial Performance 2024/25*

The choir is using 'receipts and payments' accounts. As stated in the Financial Statement, there were no funds materially in deficit at 31 August 2025. The Choir this year had a modest surplus of income over expenditure of £5813 (£24,514 deficit at 31 August 2024 due largely to the purchase of new uniforms during 23/24). This includes £5391 sponsorship and donations for our centenary celebrations. There is also a liability of £350 outstanding for financial audit. On 31 August 2025, total choir funds stand at £34,332, up from £28,519 in August 2024.

### *Economic challenges*

The Choir generally continues to raise sufficient income to fund our annual operational expenditure and must continue with active recruitment to attract new members to sustain the Choir and perform sufficient income earning concerts.

In addition to Members, Friends, 200 Club (our licensed lottery), ad-hoc donations and concert fee income (including ticket sales, raffles, and refreshments), we held our annual St Crux fundraising day on 31 May 2025 raising £1400. Net profit from our Christmas Traditions was around £6.5k, and around £1.6k from our summer concert

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## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our centenary concert in York's Barbican Events Centre is being planned for 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 which will bring together over 200 voices from 5 local choirs and brass ensemble with whom we have shared stages in the past. We'll be welcoming representatives from our Choir friends from Munster and Lochem, together with other special guests who have supported the choir over the years.

This event immediately follows our centenary dinner that is being held at York's Milner Hotel, for around 200 guests, including members of 2 choirs from Munster and Lochem with whom we have had a special post second world war relationship.

A refresh of our website took place early in 24/25 to give a more modern feel and improved information about what the choir can offer younger members. It will also be reconfigured to handle concert ticketing as the platform we currently use will be closing at the end of December 2024.

It is also likely that an overseas tour will be arranged to take place during 2027.

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## TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## TRUSTEES' APPROVAL OF THE TAR AND ACCOUNTS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signature:



Name: Rob Askew (Chair)

Dated:

27-4-26.

# **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**

**Charity number 529713**

## **Financial statements for the year ended**

**31st August 2025**

# **outsourc**

Charity accounts preparation & independent  
examination service

# York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

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## Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of: **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
for the year ended: **31st August 2025** which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



01/05/2026

Date:

**Karen Wood ACMA**

Outsource independent examination service  
2 Galligap Lane  
Osbalwick  
York YO10 3NR

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Merchandise sales	1,264	-	1,264	2,021
Members subscriptions	8,962	-	8,962	7,617
Friends subscriptions	1,220	-	1,220	640
200 club subscriptions	1,274	-	1,274	1,161
Tour income	28	-	28	19,939
Other performances	-	-	-	2,916
Concert income	16,353	-	16,353	12,846
Fundraising & donations	2,503	-	2,503	5,186
Centenary events & donations	5,391	-	5,391	-
Centenary events & merchandise	3,303	-	3,303	-
Gift aid reclaimed	-	-	-	1,694
Bank interest	417	-	417	644
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>40,715</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,715</b>	<b>54,664</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Tour costs	-	-	-	24,461
Music & recording media	1,066	-	1,066	579
Marketing , advertising & website	3,385	-	3,385	889
Musical direction & expenses	6,926	-	6,926	6,119
Hire of hall for rehearsals & storage	5,539	-	5,539	5,456
Accompanist	2,442	-	2,442	1,140
200 club prizes	556	-	556	608
Accountancy fees	350	-	350	330
Friends prizes/gifts/entry fees	163	-	163	1,315
Bank charges	470	-	470	376
Office & administration costs	300	-	300	131
Centenary costs	-	4,251	4,251	
Insurance	222	-	222	207
Fundraising costs	173	-	173	408
Donations to other organisations	-	-	-	1,414
Concert & uniform expenses	8,962	-	8,962	34,080
Minor equip & other sundry costs	97	-	97	1,369
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>30,651</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>34,902</b>	<b>78,882</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>10,064</b>	<b>(4,251)</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>(24,218)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>(1,949)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>22,319</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>52,737</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>34,332</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,332</b>	<b>28,519</b>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:**

**31st August 2025**

			<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	2,780	-	2,780	1,421
Savings bank account	14,587	-	14,587	10,170
Investment savings account	16,814	-	16,814	16,814
Cash in hand for floats	151	-	151	114
	<u><b>34,332</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>34,332</b></u>	<u><b>28,519</b></u>

			<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent review fee	350	-	350	350
	<u><b>350</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>350</b></u>	<u><b>350</b></u>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended:**

**31st August 2025**

**1. Basis of Accounts**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**2. Restricted income funds**

Fund name	Purpose
Choir centenary events	To fund choir centenary events during the calendar year 2025

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Trf between funds	Balance c/fwd £
Choir centenary events	6,200	-	4,251	(1,949)	-
	<u>6,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,251</u>	<u>(1,949)</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds	<u>22,319</u>	<u>40,715</u>	<u>30,651</u>	<u>1,949</u>	<u>34,332</u>

The funds set aside for the Centenary last year were spent on the Centenary costs this year. Funds collected for Centenary events this year were not restricted. Surplus funds were transferred to unrestricted funds to further fund the choir.

**Approval of accounts for the year ended:**

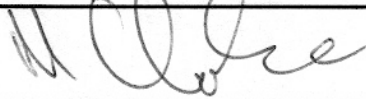
**31st August 2025**

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on:

14-5-2026

Date

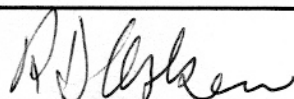
**Signed for and on behalf of the trustees:**



Signature

MIKE CLARKE

Name



Signature

ROB ASKEW

Name

**YORK PHILHARMONIC MALE VOICE CHOIR (FLETCHER MEMORIAL CHOIR)**

England & Wales - Charity number 529713

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# Accounts

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# **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**

**Charity number 529713**

## **Financial statements for the year ended**

**31st August 2024**

# **outsourc**

Charity accounts preparation & independent  
examination service



# York *philharmonic* Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. 529713

## Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### STATUS

The York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir (The Fletcher Memorial Choir) is an association governed by our Constitution, dated 15 July 2020, and Rules dated 7 December 2020.

The Choir was first registered with the Charity Commission as a charity in 1972, registration number 529713.

The Choir does not have a registered office. All official correspondence for the period was to be directed to the Choir Secretary, Mr JD Thomson, by email at [yorkphilchoir@gmail.com](mailto:yorkphilchoir@gmail.com) or by post at 42 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York, YO1 9XA. Any current correspondence should be addressed to the address shown on the Choir's Charity Commission entry.

This Trustee Annual Report covers the 12 months 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. As the turnover of the choir is less than £250k the annual accounts will be presented on a receipts and payments basis. As turnover for the year is over £25k, a Trustees Annual Report (TAR) has been prepared and will be registered with the Charity Commission. In accordance with Charity Commission rules an electronic Annual Return will be made every year and reference can be made to the Financial Statement that is a separate document to this report.

### GOVERNING OFFICERS

The Choir is governed by the seven Trustees of the Choir who are elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) usually held in the spring/summer period. There were no changes in Trustees during the year between AGMs. Ex-officio officers are also appointed at the AGM.

Role	AGM Elected	
	22/07/24	12/06/23
President	Mrs J Waggott	Mrs J Waggott
Chair	Mr M Wash	Mr M Wash
Secretary	Mr D Thomson	Mr D Thomson
Treasurer	Mr M Clarke	Mr S Poole
Membership Representative	Mr A Houghton	Mr A Houghton
Membership Representative	Mr S Poole	Mr M Parrott
Membership Representative	Mr R Askew	
Membership Representative	Mr D Lampitt	

*(At the June 2023 AGM it was agreed that the Rules would be changed to increase the number of Membership Trustees from 2 up to a maximum of 4 and to allow 15 months between AGMs.)*

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Karen Wood ACMA, CGMA Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations, Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR.

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## LEGAL ADVISERS

The Choir has not appointed a legal adviser.

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## INSURANCE ADVISERS

The Choir has not appointed an insurance adviser and is insured by a policy arranged through the National Association of Choirs (to which the YPMVC is affiliated) by Marsh Commercial, Partnership House, Layerthorpe Road, Priory Park East, Hull, HU4 7DY. The policy is underwritten by Ansvar Insurance.

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## PROPERTY AND CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

The Choir owns no interests in land or property and holds no assets or funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

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## BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HB (2 accounts; 1 current, 1 savings)  
National Savings and Investments, Glasgow G58 1SB (1 investment account)

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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### MEMBERSHIP

Voting membership of the Choir is open to anyone over the age of 18, and at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 there were 62 voting members up from 60 in 22/23. There are also 8 honorary life members who have no voting rights.

There are regularly between 50 and 55 members at each rehearsal evening and there's never a shortage to assemble sufficient singers for our performances. We are nevertheless always on the lookout for new members. Weekly sectional rehearsals were led by our AMD and around 20 regularly retire for a post rehearsal social drink and informal sing at The Snickleways pub.

Social activities this year included a golf day/dinner/auction; an informal music night where members get to practice solos and small group songs; and the Chair's Pre-Christmas 'bash' held once again at York Golf Club in October. There was also a social evening arranged by our President which also served as a briefing for those about to depart to the Cork International Choral Festival, in Ireland.

The Choir is also supported by The Phillies, an independent group that consists of member's wives and partners that as well as organising their own social events, also arrange and serve refreshments and organise raffles at our own concerts, fund raising events, and soirees.

The Choir has 25 paid up Friends who benefit from a regular newsletter, prize draw, and a free ticket to one of our Christmas Traditions concerts.

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## ORGANISATION

In addition to the seven trustees, the Choir's Management Committee includes the Choir's Musical Director (MD), Berenice Lewis, *ex officio* who this year clocked up 24 years as MD, together with a representative from each of the four sections of the Choir elected at the AGM each year. For 2023/24 these representatives were re-elected; Mr S Cox (1<sup>st</sup> tenor); Mr R Gott (2<sup>nd</sup> tenor); Mr P Newman (baritone) and Mr M Ellerker (bass). These committee members assist the Trustees in governing the Choir but in this capacity do not have voting rights at committee meetings. The Management Committee met on 4 occasions during the year.

Various activities are entrusted to working groups set up by the Trustees in April 2009 under the Choir's Rules. Currently there are four groups; Musical Development Group (MDG) (responsible for repertoire, rehearsals, music quality, and training of members); Concerts Group (responsible for all aspects of performances not requiring overnight accommodation); Tour Group (responsible for those events requiring overnight accommodation); and Media Group (aimed at promoting the Choir's activities and bringing them to the attention of a wider audience). The Uniforms Group established to consider the purchase of a new uniform continued through 23/24, placing an order for new uniforms in the summer of 2023 that were delivered from October 2023. These groups meet as and when required and attend Management Committee meetings as and when required. The Trustees have an open invitation also to meetings of the MDG with the Chair being a regular attendee.

Martin Sleeman continued his role as welfare officer and David Lampitt continued as the lead for the media Group. Two new Member Trustees were appointed, Rob Askew and David Lampitt. Adrian Houghton continued in his role as Vice-Chair.

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## RELATED ORGANISATIONS

The Choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs (NAC), a national body formed by choirs to give a collective voice, representation and to provide a wide support and advice function. The NAC is itself a charity, registration number 1014630.

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## INTERNAL CONTROLS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for the Choir's internal controls and for monitoring their effectiveness. No material weaknesses have been identified.

The Trustees regularly review the risks to the charity and have established systems and procedures to mitigate any risks identified and implemented procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

During the current cost of living crisis, the greatest risk to the Choir during this reporting period remained the choir's financial and members' health.

The Trustees have identified that financial sustainability remains a risk for the charity, especially following the replacement of our performance uniforms in late 2023 and the additional expenditure likely to be expended as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. Further Sponsorship and Donations have been secured for our Centenary year and other options are being considered for increasing revenue for day-to-day operations. Other key risks include damage to the Choir's reputation, not protecting the health and welfare of its members, and the failure to maintain a strong membership base. The latter is a continuing discussion at management meetings and is not unique to

this choir. During 23/24 we increased our social media presence with more regular posts about forthcoming concerts, the benefits of singing, and how to become involved with the choir. A key element in managing financial risk is to annually review the Choir's reserves. The Trustees conducted a review of their reserves policy in 2023 and agreed that the policy should remain un-changed and this was recorded at the AGM.

Our rehearsal venue began to undertake major development work which has reduced our storage space and so we sourced an alternative location within the city to store our large collection of archived scores, i.e. those not in our current repertoire.

Risks to our musical team were considered and it was agreed that succession planning should commence to secure long term musical direction that would provide stability and flexibility going into, and beyond, our Centenary year.

The choir has 3 nominated first aiders. First aid provision is to be reviewed 24/25. The Health & Safety Policy was reviewed during the 23/24 choir year.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees' Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. The financial statement has been subjected to an independent examination by Outsource Accounting Services.

### OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

#### *Our objectives*

The charitable objectives of York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir are 'the study and practice of choral music to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance'.

#### *Our aims*

The Choir seeks to achieve these objectives by giving public performances in various musical styles at a variety of venues (often in support of other charitable organisations) and by offering opportunities for male singers to develop and practise their skills in rehearsal and performance.

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### *How our activities deliver public benefit*

The Choir rehearses weekly to enable the study of choral music and performs in public in different venues throughout the year in pursuance of our charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Choir's activities, summarised below, provide public benefit both to those who join the Choir to sing, those who support us, and to the wider community who attend our performances.

#### *How we achieve our objectives*

We normally achieve our objectives through encouraging prospective members to attend rehearsals and learn about and practice choral singing. Most prospective members become full members and are expected to improve their singing skills and, having reached an acceptable standard (assessed by

means of a 'voice assessment'), perform in Choir concerts. We also achieve our objectives by giving public performances in a variety of venues throughout our local area and, on occasion, more widely nationally and internationally.

Income from travellers for the 2024 Cork Tour and ring-fenced income for Centenary Sponsorship are the principal reason for turnover this year being over £25,000.

In October 2023 The Fletcher Memorial Trophy was presented to Steve and Christine Boothman for their long and dedicated service to the choir; Steve as Treasurer of over 10 years and Christine for all of her work supporting the choir as a wife and 'Phillie'.

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### *New members*

We continue to see prospective members come along to rehearsals, and in 23/24, 7 new members joined the choir. Unfortunately, 5 members left the choir.

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### *Concerts*

During the year we performed at venues in York, Poppleton, Haxby, Easingwold (with Jubilate Ladies Choir), Dunnington, Starbeck, and Whitby. In addition to making direct donations to charity of over £1,400, concerts at Wheldrake, and St Columba's Church in York, were specifically for our three supported charities, where we perform free of charge, resulting in each charity raising significant valuable funds. At a further concert at St Columba's we were joined by the renowned male voices of the CorBach acapella group.

Once again, we had a packed schedule of Christmas events which generates the majority of our annual concert income and these included our 4-night run of Christmas Traditions, The Bar Convent, 2 nights at Holy Trinity in Goodramgate, York Station, and Fulford and Malton Golf Clubs. A smaller group also contributed to an annual memorial service at York City Church for those who have lost family and friends over the year.

We once again took part in the York Community Choir Festival at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre in February and which was the first concert in our new uniforms. Our own annual summer concert in July was another great success at our 'home', York City Church, also known as The Citadel.

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### *Competitions and Festivals*

Each year the Choir participates in at least one choral festival or competition. Once again, the Choir competed in the Eskdale Festival of the Arts in Whitby in April 2024, winning two out of three of the classes entered, and a second place.

Following the Covid enforced cancellation of our planned 2020 tour to Munster and Lochem, our application to the Cork International Choral Festival was successful, and we enjoyed 5 days representing the UK as non-competitive participants in May 2024. The party consisted of 57 members including 19 partners/guests who enjoyed socialising and singing in many wonderful venues, including Cork City Hall, St Fin Barre's Cathedral, the Goldie Chapel, the Cathedral of St Mary & St Anne, and other venues in and around Cork, and St Colman's Cathedral and sea front bandstand in Cobh, with audiences ranging from 20 in the smaller community venues up to around 400 in the City Hall. The party enjoyed evening concerts, visits to the Titanic Museum, Blarney Castle, and Jamieson's Brewery. The City of Cork was a wonderful host, and we also enjoyed local meals and informal sings in restaurants and pubs, culminating in a ceilidh and final sing in the atrium of the Clayton Hotel. On return this was considered to be one of the best tours in the choirs' recent history.

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### *Community performances*

It is clear to see from the Concerts section above that most of our performances are in the community and often for the community. As well as facilitating the enjoyment and appreciation of choral music the Choir helps raise funds for a wide variety of charities and community-based organisations including churches where we sing by invitation. A number of these are free of fees or performed at reduced fees to enable the financial proceeds to benefit other organisations and charities. These community events also open the Choir to new audiences and occasionally will attract new members.

Throughout 2023/24 we continued to support three local charities: Shine 21, Menfulness, and the North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre. In addition to holding 2 concerts specifically for them, we once again donated a proportion of our Christmas concert earnings equally between them. We will be raising further funds for these charities during our Centenary year, 2025.

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## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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### *Reserves Policy*

The Trustees have agreed that the Choir's free reserves (excluding designated or restricted funds), should be set at a level that would fund one year's normal operating costs excluding depreciation and any extra-ordinary items. At the end of August 2024 that policy would indicate a required cash level of reserves of around £14k.

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### *Investment Policy*

The Trustees hold the Choir's reserves between National Savings and Unity Trust Bank which is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and at a level that is no greater than that guaranteed by the scheme. The Trustees aim to take little or no risk to loss of capital value and any investments will only be made where they can be readily redeemed in cash. As forecast, and following the purchase of our new uniforms, the choir currently holds around two year's reserves, down from just over three years' worth of reserves in August 2023. However, this remains within the choirs reserves policy limits.

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### *Financial Performance 2022/23*

The choir is using 'receipts and payments' accounts. As stated in the Financial Statement there were no funds materially in deficit at the 31 August 2024. The Choir this year had a significant deficit of income over expenditure of £24,218. due principally to the planned purchase of new performance uniforms. This includes restricted funds of £6,200 sponsorship and donations for our centenary celebrations. There is also a liability of £350 outstanding for financial audit. On 31 August 2024 total choir funds stand at £28,519, down from £52,737 at 31 August 2023.

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### *Economic challenges*

The Choir came out of the pandemic in a good financial position where the total financial assets at yearend have been stable for the last four years or so. We generally continue to raise sufficient income to fund our annual operational expenditure and must take care to ensure we recruit new members to sustain the Choir and perform sufficient income earning concerts.

The most significant future initiative that will have a major draw on our current reserves is the celebration of our centenary which is set out in more detail in 'plans for the future' below.

In addition to Members, Friends, 200 Club (our licensed lottery), ad-hoc donations and concert fee income (including ticket sales, raffles, and refreshments), In 23/24 two fund raising events were held at York's St. Crux, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 (raising £1.3k) and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Net profit from our 2023 summer concert was around £1.4k (£1.4k in 2022) and 2023 Christmas Traditions around £3.6 (£3.1k in 2022).

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## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Planning for our centenary year continues and the York Barbican has been secured in September 2025 for a special concert that will include singing with choirs with whom we have performed over the years. We'll be welcoming representatives from our Choir friends from Munster and Lochem, together with other special guests who have supported the choir over the years. A celebration dinner is also being planned, and a new book is being written about the choir's rich history with lots of new information that has recently come to light. We continue to review the possibility of special activities to attract younger men. These remain at an early stage and will also require funds for which, in addition to using Choir savings, we continued to seek further donations and sponsorship from external parties.

A refresh of our website will take place early in 24/25 to give a more modern feel and improved information about what the choir can offer younger members. It will also be reconfigured to handle concert ticketing as the platform we currently use will be closing at the end of December 2024.

It is also likely that a tour will be arranged to take place during late 2026, or during 2027.

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## **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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**TRUSTEES' APPROVAL OF THE TAR AND ACCOUNTS**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signature:



Name: Mike Wash (Chair)

Dated: 20.3.25

# York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees**

I report on the accounts of: **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
for the year ended: **31st August 2024** which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*K Wood*

7/3/25

**Date:**

**Karen Wood ACMA**

Outsource independent examination service

The Hiscox Building

Peaseholme Green

York YO1 7PR

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2024 Total funds</b>	<b>2023 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Merchandise sales	2,021	-	2,021	-
Members subscriptions	7,617		7,617	5,769
Friends subscriptions	640		640	840
200 club subscriptions	1,161		1,161	1,230
Tour income	19,939		19,939	4,466
Other performances	2,916		2,916	1,941
Concert income	12,846		12,846	12,496
Fundraising & donations	2,636	2,550	5,186	4,328
Gift aid reclaimed	1,694		1,694	1,294
Bank interest	644		644	339
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>52,114</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>54,664</b>	<b>32,703</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Tour costs	24,225	236	24,461	3,348
Music Scores	579	-	579	949
Marketing , advertising & website	889	-	889	539
Musical direction & expenses	6,119	-	6,119	6,155
Hire of hall for rehearsals & storage	5,456	-	5,456	5,155
Accompanist	1,140	-	1,140	1,460
200 club prizes	608	-	608	713
Accountancy fees	330	-	330	300
Friends prizes/gifts/soiree	1,315	-	1,315	775
Bank charges	376	-	376	319
Office, postage & stationery	131	-	131	153
Insurance	207	-	207	198
Fundraising costs	408	-	408	155
Donations to other organisations	1,414	-	1,414	900
Concert & uniform expenses	34,080	-	34,080	4,694
Minor equip & other sundry costs	1,369	-	1,369	195
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>78,646</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>78,882</b>	<b>26,008</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(26,532)</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>(24,218)</b>	<b>6,695</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>48,851</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>52,737</b>	<b>46,042</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>22,319</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>52,737</b>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:**

**31st August 2024**

			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	1,421	-	1,421	14,284
Savings bank account	3,970	6,200	10,170	21,655
Investment savings account	16,814	-	16,814	16,684
Cash in hand for floats	114	-	114	114
	<u><b>22,319</b></u>	<u><b>6,200</b></u>	<u><b>28,519</b></u>	<u><b>52,737</b></u>

			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent review fee	330	-	330	300
	<u><b>330</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>330</b></u>	<u><b>300</b></u>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended:**

**31st August 2024**

**1. Basis of Accounts**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**2. Restricted income funds**

<b>Fund name</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Young/impecunious members assistance	To support young /impecunious members to join a choir tour
Choir centenary events	To fund choir centenary events during the calendar year 2025

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Trf between funds	Balance c/fwd £
Young/impecunious members assistance	236	-	236	-	-
Choir centenary events	3,650	2,550	-	-	6,200
	3,886	2,550	236	-	6,200

**Approval of accounts for the year ended:**


**31st August 2024**

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on:

20/03/2025

Date

**Signed for and on behalf of the trustees:**



Signature

STEPHEN POOLE

Name



Signature

20/3/2025 M.G. WASH

Name

**YORK PHILHARMONIC MALE VOICE CHOIR (FLETCHER MEMORIAL CHOIR)**

England & Wales - Charity number 529713

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# Accounts

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# York *philharmonic* Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. 529713

## Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

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The Choir was first registered with the Charity Commission as a charity in 1972, registration number 529713.

The Choir does not have a registered office. All official correspondence should be directed to the Choir Secretary, Mr JD Thomson, by email at [yorkphilchoir@gmail.com](mailto:yorkphilchoir@gmail.com) or by post at 42 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York, YO1 9XA.

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Treasurer	Mr S Poole	Mr S Poole
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## **BANKERS**

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National Savings and Investments, Glasgow G58 1SB (1 investment account)

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Voting membership of the Choir is open to anyone over the age of 18 and at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 there were 60 voting members down from 69 in 21/22. Of the year end membership 8 are life members, 46 performing members, 3 of which were new, and 4 non-performing members. There are also 8 honorary life members who have no voting rights.

There are regularly between 50 and 55 members at each rehearsal evening and there's never a shortage to assemble sufficient singers for our performances. We are nevertheless always on the lookout for new members. Weekly sectional rehearsals are led by our AMD and around 15 or so regularly retire for a post rehearsal social drink and informal sing at The Snickleways pub.

Social activities this year included a summer walk/afternoon tea around Brandsby, a golf day, a2 social soiree where members get to practice solo/small group songs, and the Chair's Pre-Christmas 'bash' held once again at York Golf Club. There was also a walk arrange by a member to the nearby Moorlands Nature Reserve. A small group also self-funded a visit Cork and its International Choral Festival as a recce for what is now a confirmed formal Tour by the choir in May 2024.

The Choir is also supported by The Phillies, an independent group that consists of member's wives and partners that as well as organising their own social events also arrange and serve refreshments and organise raffles at our own concerts, fund raising events, and soirees.

The Choir has 39 paid up Friends who benefit from a regular newsletter and free ticket to one of our Christmas Traditions concerts.

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## **ORGANISATION**

In addition to the five trustees, the Choir's Management Committee includes the Choir's Musical Director (MD), Berenice Lewis, *ex officio* who this year clocked up 22 years as MD, together with a representative from each of the four sections of the Choir elected at the AGM each year. For 2022/23 these representatives were re-elected; Mr S Cox (1<sup>st</sup> tenor); Mr R Gott (2<sup>nd</sup> tenor); Mr P Newman

(baritone) and Mr M Ellerker (bass). These committee members assist the Trustees in governing the Choir but in this capacity do not have voting rights at committee meetings. The Management Committee met on 5 occasions during the year.

Various activities are entrusted to working groups set up by the Trustees in April 2009 under the Choir's Rules. Currently there are four groups; Musical Development Group (MDG) (responsible for repertoire, rehearsals, music quality, and training of members); Concerts Group (responsible for all aspects of performances not requiring overnight accommodation); Tour Group (responsible for those events requiring overnight accommodation); and Media Group (aimed at promoting the Choir's activities and bringing them to the attention of a wider audience). The Uniforms Group established in 21/22 to consider the purchase of a new uniform continued through 22/23 placing an order for new uniforms in the summer of 2023. These groups meet as and when required and attend Management Committee meetings as and when required. The Trustees have an open invitation also to meetings of the MDG with the Chair being a regular attendee.

Also, during the year, we appointed a new welfare officer, Martin Sleeman, who takes over from Steve Cox who had empathetically fulfilled the role for many years. David Lampitt took over as the lead for the media Group. Martin Parrott stood down as vice-chair and Member Trustee, Adrian Houghton, was voted into the position by the Trustees.

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## **RELATED ORGANISATIONS**

The Choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs (NAC), a national body formed by choirs to give a collective voice, representation and to provide a wide support and advice function. The NAC is itself a charity, registration number 1014630.

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## **INTERNAL CONTROLS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees are responsible for the Choir's internal controls and for monitoring their effectiveness. No material weaknesses have been identified.

The Trustees regularly review the risks to the charity and have established systems and procedures to mitigate any risks identified and implemented procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

During the current cost of living crisis, the greatest risk to the Choir during this reporting period remained the choir's financial and member's health.

The Trustees have identified that financial sustainability remains a risk for the charity, especially the need to replace performing uniforms in 2024 and the additional expenditure likely to be expended as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. Some Sponsorship has been secured for our Centenary year and other options are being considered for increasing revenue for day-to-day operations. Other key risks include damage to the Choir's reputation, not protecting the health and welfare of its members, and the failure to maintain a strong membership base. A key element in managing financial risk is to annually review the Choir's reserves. The Trustees conducted a review of their reserves policy in 2022 and agreed that the policy should remain un-changed.

The choir has 3 nominated first aiders. The Health & Safety Policy was not formally reviewed during the 22/23 choir year.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees' Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. The financial statement has been subjected to an independent examination by Outsource Accounting Services.

### OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

#### *Our objectives*

The charitable objectives of York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir are 'the study and practice of choral music to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance'.

#### *Our aims*

The Choir seeks to achieve these objectives by giving public performances in various musical styles at a variety of venues (often in support of other charitable organisations) and by offering opportunities for male singers to develop and practise their skills in rehearsal and performance.

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### *How our activities deliver public benefit*

The Choir rehearses weekly to enable the study of choral music and performs in public in different venues throughout the year in pursuance of our charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Choir's activities, summarised below, provide public benefit both to those who join the Choir to sing, those who support us, and to the wider community who attend our performances.

#### *How we achieve our objectives*

We normally achieve our objectives through encouraging prospective members to attend rehearsals and learn about and practice choral singing. Most prospective members become full members and are expected to improve their singing skills and, having reached an acceptable standard (assessed by means of a 'voice test'), perform in Choir concerts. We also achieve our objectives by giving public performances in a variety of venues throughout our local area and, on occasion, more widely nationally and internationally.

This year we were filmed preparing for and singing at York's Holy Trinity Church to be included a short film by Yorkshire Cancer Research about how people live with cancer. It was initiated by one of our members who find the choir and its community support and friendship so important in how he copes with cancer. The only downside was that one of the film crew brought Covid with him and we had to cancel a much anticipated first performance at York Railway Station.

Our cancelled 2020 Tour to our 'twinned' choirs in Münster, Germany and Lochem in the Netherlands finally took place in September 2022, but to Munster only. Following the successful recce in May 2023, a formal Tour to the Cork International Choral Festival has been arranged for May 2024 where the choir will take part in non-competitive performances at various venues around the city over 5 days. Income from around 60 travellers for the 2024 Cork Tour and ring-fenced income for Centenary Sponsorship are the principal reason for turnover this year being over £25,000.

The Fletcher Memorial Trophy currently held by Roger and Linda Samwell was not presented during the 22/23 choir year.

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### *New members*

Five prospective members (IA/SC/JD/CL/RN/) joined our weekly rehearsals, three of whom (IA/SC/JD) went on to formally join the Choir.

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### *Concerts*

During the year we performed at venues in York, Malton (with Harmonia Ladies Choir), Wilberfoss, Gunnerside, Hemingbrough, and Whitby.

Once again, we had a packed schedule of York Christmas events which generates the majority of our annual concert income and these included our 4-night run of Christmas Traditions, The Bar Convent, Holy Trinity in Goodramgate, York Station, and York and Malton Golf Clubs. A small group also contributed to an annual memorial service at York City Church for those who have lost family and friends over the year.

The choir performed 2 sessions at the Lord Mayor's Christmas Cheer event that was postponed from December '22 to January '23 and is held for an invited audience from the York Community.

The performance at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre in March was a joint event with The Golden Rail Brass Band. Our annual summer concert in July was a great success at our 'home', York City Church.

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### *Competitions and Festivals*

Each year the Choir participates in at least one choral festival or competition. The Choir competed in the Eskdale Festival of the Arts in Whitby in April 2023, winning all three of the classes entered.

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### *Community performances*

It is clear to see from the Concerts section above that most of our performances are in the community and often for the community. As well as facilitating the enjoyment and appreciation of choral music the Choir helps raise funds for a wide variety of charities and community-based organisations including churches where we sing by invitation. A number of these are free of fees or performed at reduced fees to enable the financial proceeds to benefit other organisations and charities. These community events also open the Choir to new audiences and occasionally will attract new members.

In 2022 we chose to support three local charities; Shine 21, Menfullness, and the North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre and donated a proportion of our Christmas '22 earnings equally between them. A similar arrangement will be in place for Christmas 2023 and concerts have been scheduled into 2024 to specifically raise funds for these organisations.

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## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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### *Reserves Policy*

The Trustees have agreed that the Choir's free reserves (excluding designated or restricted funds), should be set at a level that would fund one year's normal operating costs excluding depreciation and any extra-ordinary items. At the end of August 2023 that policy would indicate a required cash level of reserves of around £14k.

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### *Investment Policy*

The Trustees hold the Choir's reserves between National Savings and Unity Trust Bank which is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and at a level that is no greater than that guaranteed by the scheme. The Trustees aim to take little or no risk to loss of capital value and any investments will only be made where they can be readily redeemed in cash. The choir currently holds just over three years' worth of reserves that will significantly reduce in 23/24 due to the uniform replacement programme but will not fall below the agreed reserves amount.

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### *Financial Performance 2022/23*

The choir is using 'receipts and payments' accounts. As stated in the Financial Statement there were no funds materially in deficit at the 31 August 2023. The Choir had a modest surplus of income over expenditure of £6695. This includes around £2500 (net) for the forthcoming tour to Cork in May 2024, and restricted funds of £3,886. There is also a liability of £330 outstanding. On 31 August 2023 total choir funds stand at £52,737 up from £46,042 at 31 August 2022.

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### *Economic challenges*

The Choir came out of the pandemic in a good financial position where the total financial assets at yearend have been stable for the last four years or so. We generally continue to raise sufficient income to fund our annual operational expenditure and must take care to ensure we recruit new members to sustain the Choir and perform sufficient income earning concerts.

There are two significant future initiatives that will have a major draw on our current reserves.

Our performance uniforms have come to the end of their useful life with many items becoming shabby and insufficient reserves of uniform items are in place for new members despite the best efforts in recycling used items. The Uniforms Group has progressed the provision of new uniforms to be delivered in December 2023. These will cost around £23,000 to include surety of continuity of vested material supply for around 10 years (50 uniforms) and will be initially funded out of the Choir's savings.

In addition to Members, Friends, 200 Club (our licensed lottery), ad-hoc donations and concert fee income (including ticket sales, raffles, and refreshments), In 21/22 the Choir held two fund raising events at York's St. Crux The annual (22/23) St Crux fund raising event has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> September and thus slips into the 23/24 financial year. Net profit from our summer concert was around £1.4k (£1.2k in 2021) and 2021 Christmas Traditions around £3.1k (£2.2k in 2021).

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### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Planning for our centenary year continues and The York Barbican has been secured in September 2025 for a special concert that will include our Choir friends from Munster and Lochem together with other guests with whom we have performed over the years. A celebration dinner will also be held, and we are also looking into special activities to attract younger men and those facing mental health challenges to the choir including outreach events. These remain at an early stage and will also require funds for which, in addition to using Choir savings reserves we anticipate seeking grants, donations and sponsorship from external parties. Around £5k Sponsorship has been secured to date.

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## TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

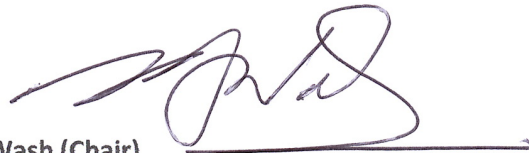
The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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## TRUSTEES' APPROVAL OF THE TAR AND ACCOUNTS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signature:



Name: Mike Wash (Chair)

Dated: 10 APRIL 2024

# **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**

**Charity number 529713**

## **Financial statements for the year ended**

**31st August 2023**

# **outsourc**

Charity accounts preparation & independent  
examination service

# York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

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<b>Receipts &amp; payments accounts</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Statement of assets and liabilities</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Notes to the accounts</b>	<b>4</b>

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of: **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
for the year ended: **31st August 2023** which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



26/03/2024

Date:

**Karen Wood ACMA**

Outsource independent examination service  
The Hiscox Building  
Peaseholme Green  
York YO1 7PR

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2023**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2023 Total funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	389
Members subscriptions	5,769	-	5,769	6,463
Friends subscriptions	840	-	840	945
200 club subscriptions	1,230	-	1,230	1,355
Tour income	4,466	-	4,466	22,989
Other performances	1,941	-	1,941	4,457
Concert income	12,496	-	12,496	8,721
Fundraising & donations	678	3,650	4,328	4,269
Gift aid reclaimed	1,294	-	1,294	2,735
Bank interest	339	-	339	33
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>29,053</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>32,703</b>	<b>52,356</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Tour costs	3,348	-	3,348	24,778
Music Scores	949	-	949	1,216
Marketing , advertising & website	539	-	539	805
Musical direction & expenses	6,155	-	6,155	6,046
Hire of hall for rehearsals & storage	5,155	-	5,155	4,725
Accompanist	1,460	-	1,460	1,105
200 club prizes	713	-	713	667
Accountancy fees	300	-	300	140
Friends prizes/gifts/soiree	775	-	775	669
Bank charges	319	-	319	150
Office, postage & stationery	153	-	153	288
Insurance	198	-	198	227
Fundraising costs	155	-	155	804
Donations to other organisations	900	-	900	4,395
Concert & uniform expenses	4,694	-	4,694	5,552
Other sundry costs	195	-	195	128
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>26,008</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,008</b>	<b>51,695</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>661</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>45,806</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>46,042</b>	<b>45,381</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>48,851</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>52,737</b>	<b>46,042</b>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:**

**31st August 2023**

			<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	10,398	3,886	14,284	7,927
Savings bank account	21,655	-	21,655	21,332
Investment savings account	16,684	-	16,684	16,669
Cash in hand for floats	114	-	114	114
	<u><b>48,851</b></u>	<u><b>3,886</b></u>	<u><b>52,737</b></u>	<u><b>46,042</b></u>

			<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent review fee	330	-	330	300
	<u><b>330</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>330</b></u>	<u><b>300</b></u>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended:**

**31st August 2023**

**1. Basis of Accounts**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**2. Restricted income funds**

<b>Fund name</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Young/impecunious members assistance	To support young /impecunious members to join a choir tour
Choir centenary events	To fund choir centenary events during the calendar year 2025

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Trf between funds	Balance c/fwd £
Young/impecunious members assistance	236	-	-	-	236
Choir centenary events	-	3,650	-	-	3,650
	<u>236</u>	<u>3,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,886</u>

**Approval of accounts for the year ended:**

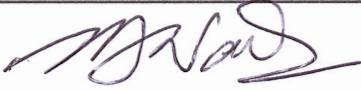
**31st August 2023**

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on:

10/04/24

Date

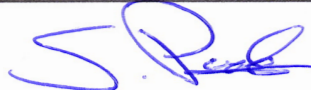
**Signed for and on behalf of the trustees:**



Signature

M. G. WASH

Name



Signature

S. POOLE

Name

**YORK PHILHARMONIC MALE VOICE CHOIR (FLETCHER MEMORIAL CHOIR)**

England & Wales - Charity number 529713

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# Accounts

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# York *philharmonic* Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. 529713

## Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2022

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 to 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2022

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<b>STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT</b>	<b>6</b>

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### STATUS

The York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir (The Fletcher Memorial Choir) is an association governed by a revised Constitution dated 15 July 2020.

The Choir was first registered with the Charity Commission as a charity in 1972, registration number 529713.

The Choir does not have a registered office. All official correspondence should be directed to the Choir Secretary (appointed February 2022) Mr JD Thomson by email at [yorkphilchoir@gmail.com](mailto:yorkphilchoir@gmail.com) or by post at 42 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York, YO1 9XA.

This Trustee Annual Report covers the 12 months 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. As the turnover of the choir is less than £250k the annual accounts will be presented on a receipts and payments basis. As turnover for the year is over £25k a Trustees Annual Report (TAR) has been prepared and will be registered with the Charity Commission. In accordance with Charity Commission rules an electronic Annual Return will be made every year and reference can be made to the Financial Statement that is a separate document to this report.

### GOVERNING OFFICERS

The Choir is governed by the five Trustees of the Choir who are elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) usually held in May. There can therefore be a change in Trustees during the year as was the case this year and as shown in the table below. Ex-officio officers are also appointed at the AGM.

Role	AGM Elected	
	24/05/21	23/05/22
President	Vacant	Mrs J Waggot
Chair	Mr M Wash	Mr M Wash
Secretary #	Mr R Smith	Mr D Thomson
Treasurer	Mr S Poole	Mr S Poole
Membership Representative	Mr D Waring	Mr A Houghton
Membership Representative	Mr M Parrott	Mr M Parrott

# The change of Secretary occurred in January 2022 who was 'acting' until formal election as a Trustee at the AGM.

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Karen Wood ACMA, CGMA Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations, Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PR.

### LEGAL ADVISERS

The Choir has not appointed a legal adviser.

### INSURANCE ADVISERS

The Choir has not appointed an insurance adviser and is insured by a policy arranged through the National Association of Choirs (to which the YPMVC is affiliated) by Marsh Commercial, Partnership House, Layerthorpe Road, Priory Park East, Hull, HU4 7DY. The policy is underwritten by Ansvar Insurance.

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## PROPERTY AND CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

The Choir owns no interests in land or property and holds no assets or funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

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## BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HB (2 accounts; 1 working, 1 savings)  
National Savings and Investments, Glasgow G58 1SB (1 investment account)

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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### MEMBERSHIP

Voting membership of the Choir is open to anyone over the age of 18 and at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 there were 69 voting members. Of the year end membership 8 are life members, 57 performing members and 4 non-performing members. There are also 5 honorary life members who have no voting rights. At the end of the year, the average age of the Choir's performing members was 69.

There are regularly between 45 and 50 members at each rehearsal evening and there's never a shortage to assemble sufficient singers for our performances. Weekly sectional rehearsals are led by our AMD and around 15 or so regularly retire for a post rehearsal social drink and informal sing at The Snickleways pub.

Social activities this year included a summer walk around Brandsby, a golf day, 2 soirees, and the re-introduced Chair's Pre-Christmas 'bash' held this year at York Golf Club.

The Choir is also supported by The Phillies, an independent group that consists of member's wives and partners that as well as organising their own social events also arrange and serve refreshments at our own concerts, fund raising events, and soirees.

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### ORGANISATION

In addition to the five trustees, the Choir's Management Committee includes the Choir's Musical Director (MD), Berenice Lewis, *ex officio* who this year clocked up 21 years as MD, together with a representative from each of the four sections of the Choir elected at the AGM each year. For 2021/22 these representatives were Mr S Cox (1<sup>st</sup> tenor); Mr R Gott (2<sup>nd</sup> tenor); Mr P Newman (baritone) and Mr M Ellerker (bass). These committee members assist the Trustees in governing the Choir but in this capacity do not have voting rights at committee meetings. The Management Committee met on 7 occasions during the year.

Various activities are entrusted to working groups set up by the Trustees in April 2009 under the Choir's Rules. Currently there are four groups; Musical Development Group (MDG) (responsible for repertoire, rehearsals, music quality, and training of members); Concerts Group (responsible for all aspects of performances not requiring overnight accommodation); Tour Group (responsible for those events requiring overnight accommodation); and Media Group (aimed at promoting the Choir's activities and bringing them to the attention of a wider audience). New for 2021/22 is a Uniforms Group established to consider the purchase of a new uniform. These groups meet as and when required and also attend Management Committee meetings as and when required. The Trustees have an open invitation also to meetings of the MDG with the Chair being a regular attendee.

The Choir had been without a President since the death of Keith Wood in 2019 and at a General Meeting in October 2021 the members unanimously voted to elect Janet Waggot as our President. The Waggot family have long ties supporting and singing in the Choir and Jim, Janet's father also being a past Chair.

Also, during the year, we appointed a new Concert Manager (Terry Knowles); Friends Administrator (Terry Yates, followed by Jamie Butler, followed by Derek Thomson, followed by Mike McGrath from September 2022); Secretary (Derek Thomson); Uniform Officer (Michael Nokes); and Martin Parrot became vice-chair.

David Pike and Adrian Houghton achieved 25 years in the choir, with Steve Boothman, Terry Yates, and David Embleton each achieving 15 years.

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## **RELATED ORGANISATIONS**

The Choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs (NAC), a national body formed by choirs to give a collective voice, representation and to provide a wide support and advice function. The NAC is itself a charity, registration number 1014630.

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## **INTERNAL CONTROLS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees are responsible for the Choir's internal controls and for monitoring their effectiveness. No material weaknesses have been identified.

The Trustees regularly review the risks to the charity and have established systems and procedures to mitigate any risks identified and implemented procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

As the country slowly emerged from the grips of the global Coronavirus pandemic the greatest risk to the Choir during this reporting period remained the choir's financial and member's health.

From the commencement of the national lockdown in March 2020 the Choir was, until August 2021, not able to meet in person to rehearse or perform. Indeed, right through until January 2022 a variety of precautions were taken, often over and above Government guidelines, to keep our members safe and preserve our ability to have sufficient members available for booked performances. These included specially made black masks in which were worn at many rehearsals and some choosing to wear at a limited number of performances.

The Trustees have identified that financial sustainability remains a risk for the charity, especially in light of the need to replace performing uniforms and the additional expenditure likely to be expended as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. Consideration is being given to attracting Sponsorship not only for our Centenary year but also for day-to-day operations. Other key risks include damage to the Choir's reputation, not protecting the health and welfare of its members, and the failure to maintain a strong membership base. A key element in managing financial risk is to annually review the Choir's reserves. The Trustees conducted a review of their reserves policy in 2021 and agreed that the policy should remain un-changed and this has ensured that the Choir was in a strong position to absorb the consequences of Coronavirus.

The Health & Safety Policy was reviewed in July 2021 and November 2021 to incorporate revised H&S safety measures to keep members and their families safe as the country nervously emerged from the lock-down measures of the previous 18 months. Subsequently, the H&S Policy was updated to incorporate specific COVID related measures and was approved at a Management Committee Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. The wearing of masks and wider spacing of seating at rehearsals was continued until around January 2022.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees' Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. The financial statement has been subjected to an independent examination by Outsource Accounting Services.

### OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

#### *Our objectives*

The charitable objectives of York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir are 'the study and practice of choral music to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance'.

#### *Our aims*

The Choir seeks to achieve these objectives by giving public performances in a number of musical styles at a variety of venues (often in support of other charitable organisations) and by offering opportunities for male singers to develop and practise their skills in rehearsal and performance.

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### *How our activities deliver public benefit*

The Choir rehearses weekly to enable the study of choral music and performs in public in different venues throughout the year in pursuance of our charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Choir's activities, summarised below, provide public benefit both to those who join the Choir to sing and to the wider community who attend our performances.

#### *How we achieve our objectives*

We normally achieve our objectives through encouraging prospective members to attend rehearsals and learn about and practice choral singing. Most prospective members become full members and are expected to improve their singing skills and, having reached an acceptable standard (assessed by means of a 'voice test'), perform in Choir concerts. We also achieve our objectives by giving public performances in a variety of venues throughout our local area and, on occasion, more widely nationally and internationally.

This year we were filmed preparing for and singing at York's Holy Trinity Church to be included a short film by Yorkshire Cancer Research about how people live with cancer. It was initiated by one of our members who find the choir and its community support and friendship so important in how he copes with cancer. The only downside was that one of the film crew brought Covid with him and we had to cancel a much anticipated first performance at York Railway Station.

Our cancelled 2020 Tour to our 'twinned' choirs in Münster, Germany and Lochem in the Netherlands finally took place in September 2022, but to Munster only. Whilst this event took place in the 2022/23 financial year, all planning for and payments collected and paid were largely transacted during the year 2021/22. Income and expenditure for the Tour is the principal reason for our turnover this year being over £25,000, the other one-off contributor being our fundraising for Ukraine. The tour planning and organisation was hampered not only by Covid issues, particularly in Germany, but industrial action on the ferries and the selected hotel not being able to cater for our

requirements. 48 members and partners, Friends, and the musical team travelled, and the Tour was a resounding success thanks in no small measure to the undeterred efforts of our Tour Manager, David Parkinson. All members of the choir who travelled were granted a £100 supplement as agreed by the Trustees. The MD and accompanist were also granted a supplement.

Roger Samwell stood down as our long-serving Concerts Manager and he and his wife Linda were presented with the Fletcher memorial Trophy in recognition of their outstanding 41 years singing and supporting the choir with Roger holding many official and unofficial roles in the choir steadfastly supported by Linda who remains the 'queen of raffles and St Crux jewellery sales'!

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### *New members*

Six prospective members (JP/JW/MN/CW/TH/MC) joined our weekly rehearsals, four of whom (MN/CW/TH/MC) went on to formally joined the Choir.

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### *Concerts*

Fortunately, we were able to resume performing live concerts albeit some venues, including our own at York City Church, could accommodate smaller audiences due to ongoing but reducing Coronavirus measures. Unfortunately, Betty's didn't resume their Carols by Candlelight in 2021 which had been a good source of Christmas income. Two December performances in York for the Lord Mayors Christmas Cheer event were also cancelled due to Covid.

During the year we performed at venues in York, Easingwold, Tadcaster, Wheldrake, and Escrick.

Once again we had a packed schedule of Christmas events which normally generates the majority of our annual concert income and these includes our 4 night run of Christmas Traditions, The Bar Convent, Holy Trinity Goodramgate, Morrisons (York) and York District Hospital.

Unbeknown to us at the start of the year, Ukraine and its citizens would be foremost in our minds from 24<sup>th</sup> February when Russia invaded Ukraine. Many organisations quickly set up aid programmes with the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launching a Ukraine Appeal. It was clear that the Choir wished to do something to help and through the hard work of our Chair we performed a special concert to a packed St Michael le Belfrey church in April. This was live streamed around the world, and we know was seen in Canada and Barbados. Through ticket sales, cash and JustGiving donations we sent over £5000 to the DEC Appeal. Additionally, we were invited by Derwent Lions and Minster Lyons to perform a joint concert with the Selby Brass Band in July in Escrick and this raised over £4,500 also for Ukraine.

The Wheldrake concert in March was in aid of Shine21, a local charity specialising in providing support to families caring for children with Down's Syndrome which raised around £3,800.

The performance at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre in March was cancelled due to an outbreak of Covid in the choir, but our annual summer concert went ahead in July at our home, York City Church.

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### *Competitions and Festivals*

Each year the Choir participates in at least one choral festival or competition. The Choir competed in the Eskdale Festival of the Arts in Whitby in April 2022, winning two out of the three classes entered and coming joint 1<sup>st</sup> in one class. Our smaller 'Sound Fellows' choir achieved second in their class.

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### *Community performances*

It is clear to see from the Concerts section above that most of our performances are in the community and often for the community. As well as facilitating the enjoyment and appreciation of choral music the Choir helps raise funds for a wide variety of charities and community based organisations including churches where we sing by invitation. A number of these are free of fees or performed at reduced fees to enable the financial proceeds to benefit other organisations and charities. These community events also open the Choir to new audiences and occasionally will attract new members.

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## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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### *Reserves Policy*

The Trustees have agreed that the Choir's free reserves (excluding designated or restricted funds), should be set at a level that would fund one year's normal operating costs excluding depreciation and any extra-ordinary items. At the end of August 2022 that policy would indicate a required cash level of reserves of around £14k.

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### *Investment Policy*

The Trustees hold the Choir's reserves between National Savings and Unity Trust Bank which is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and at a level that is no greater than that guaranteed by the scheme. The Trustees aim to take little or no risk to loss of capital value and any investments will only be made where they can be readily redeemed in cash. The choir currently holds just over three years' worth of reserves.

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### *Financial Performance 2020*

The 2021/22 choir year is our second year using 'receipts and payments' accounts. As stated in the Financial Statement there were no funds materially in deficit at the 31st August 2022. The Choir had a small surplus of income over expenditure of £661. At 31 August 2022 total choir funds stand at £46,042 up from 45,381 at 31 August 2021.

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### *Economic challenges*

The Choir has come out of the pandemic in a good financial position where the total financial assets at yearend have been stable for the last three years or so. We generally continue to raise sufficient income to fund our annual expenditure and must take care to ensure we recruit new members to sustain the Choir and perform sufficient income earning concerts.

There are two significant future initiatives that will have a major draw on our current reserves.

Our performance uniforms have come to the end of their useful life with many items becoming shabby and insufficient reserves of uniform items are in place for new members despite the best efforts in recycling used items. A Uniforms Group has been established to investigate the provision of new uniforms to be delivered as soon as possible and at the latest in time for our 2025 centenary. It is likely that these may cost around £20,000 to include surety of continuity of supply for around 10 years (50 uniforms) and will be initially funded out of the Choir's reserves.

In addition to Members, Friends, 200 Club (our licensed lottery), ad-hoc donations and concert fee income (including ticket sales, raffles and refreshments), the Choir held two fund raising events at York's St Crux on Pavement raising over £2.1k in total. Net profit from our summer concert was around £1.2k and 2021 Christmas Traditions around £2.2k.

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## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have commenced planning for our centenary year that may involve special concerts, visits from our Choir friends from Munster and Lochem, and special activities to attract younger men and those facing mental health challenges to the choir including outreach events. These are all at a very early stage but will also require funds for which, in addition to using Choir reserves we anticipate seeking donations and sponsorship from external parties.

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## TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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## TRUSTEES' APPROVAL OF THE TAR AND ACCOUNTS

**The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

Signature:



Name: Mike Wash (Chair)

Dated: 12/4/23

# **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**

**Charity number 529713**

## **Financial statements for the year ended**

**31st August 2022**

# **outsourc**

Charity accounts preparation & independent  
examination service

# York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

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## Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of: **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
for the year ended: **31st August 2022** which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



16/04/2023

**Date:**

**Karen Wood ACMA**

Outsource independent examination service  
The Hiscox Building  
Peaseholme Green  
York YO1 7PR

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>	<b>2021 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Merchandise sales	389	-	389	560
Members subscriptions	6,463	-	6,463	4,147
Friends subscriptions	945	-	945	636
200 club subscriptions	1,355	-	1,355	1,436
Tour income	22,989	-	22,989	-
Other performances	4,457	-	4,457	-
Concert income	8,721	-	8,721	520
Fundraising & donations	4,269	-	4,269	-
Gift aid reclaimed	2,735	-	2,735	-
Bank interest	33	-	33	119
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>52,356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,356</b>	<b>7,418</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Tour costs	24,778	-	24,778	-
Music Scores	1,216	-	1,216	497
Marketing , advertising & website	805	-	805	2,671
Musical direction & expenses	6,046	-	6,046	3,809
Hire of hall for rehearsals & storage	4,725	-	4,725	763
Accompanist	1,105	-	1,105	1,494
200 club prizes	667	-	667	740
Accountancy fees	140	-	140	-
Friends prizes/gifts/soiree	669	-	669	270
Bank charges	150	-	150	107
Office, postage & stationery	288	-	288	253
Insurance	227	-	227	-
Fundraising costs	804	-	804	-
Donations to other organisations	4,395	-	4,395	-
Concert & uniform expenses	5,552	-	5,552	-
Other sundry costs	128	-	128	614
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>51,695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,695</b>	<b>11,218</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>(3,800)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>45,145</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>45,381</b>	<b>49,181</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>45,806</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>46,042</b>	<b>45,381</b>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:**

**31st August 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>	<b>2021 Total funds</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	7,691	236	7,927	7,414
Savings bank account	21,332	-	21,332	21,300
Investment savings account	16,669	-	16,669	16,667
Cash in hand for floats	114	-	114	-
	<b><u>45,806</u></b>	<b><u>236</u></b>	<b><u>46,042</u></b>	<b><u>45,381</u></b>

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>	<b>2021 Total funds</b>
<b>Other assets</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unclaimed gift aid	-	-	-	650
	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>650</u></b>

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>	<b>2021 Total funds</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent review fee	300	-	300	60
	<b><u>300</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>300</u></b>	<b><u>60</u></b>

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2022**

**1. Basis of Accounts**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**2. Restricted income funds**

Fund name	Purpose
Young/impecunious members assistance	To support young /impecunious members to join a choir tour

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Trf between funds	Balance c/fwd £
Young/impecunious members assistance	236	-	-	-	236
	<u>236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236</u>

**Approval of accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2022**

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on:

12 APRIL 2023  
Date


**Signed for and on behalf of the trustees:**



Signature

M. G. WASH  
CHAIRMAN

Name



Signature

S. POOLE  
TREASURER

Name

# **York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**

**Charity number 529713**

## **Financial statements for the year ended**

**31st August 2022**

# **outsourc**

Charity accounts preparation & independent  
examination service

# York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

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16/04/2023

**Date:**

**Karen Wood ACMA**

Outsource independent examination service  
The Hiscox Building  
Peaseholme Green  
York YO1 7PR

**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

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**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:**

**31st August 2022**

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	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>650</u></b>

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**York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir**  
Charity number 529713

**Notes to the accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2022**

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**Approval of accounts for the year ended: 31st August 2022**

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on:

12 APRIL 2023  
Date


**Signed for and on behalf of the trustees:**



Signature

M. G. WASH  
CHAIRMAN

Name



Signature

S. POOLE  
TREASURER

Name