

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100255

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-07-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	5 Rosemary Park Belfast BT9 6rf BT9 6RF
Phone	07855 969246
Email	info@caeciliana.org
Website	www.caeciliana.org

Activities

Purposes: The object of the society shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts; and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of religion, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts, Education/training, Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£28,377	£19,122	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr David Macartney		
Mr Patrick Forte		
Mr Thomas Neill		
Mrs Ayesha Akkari		
Ms Neala Cahir		

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Accounts



Charity Name

Charity No.

Cappella Caeciliana

NIC100255

For the period from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
ACNI/Lottery grant		4,050	4,050	0
Concerts	10,839		10,839	10,875
Donations	2,293		2,293	547
Governance	6		6	105
Recordings	292		292	447
Subscriptions	3,261		3,261	3,158
Tours	7,637		7,637	2,947
A1 Sub total	24,327	4,050	28,377	18,079
A2 Asset and investment sales				
A2 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	24,327	4,050	28,377	18,079
A3 Payments				
Communications	419		419	443
Concerts	2,714		2,714	17,874
Copyright	577		577	420
Equipment	333		333	0
Governance	994		994	1,086
Professional fees	2,344	4,200	6,544	5,510
Rehearsal venue	900		900	820
Sheet music	828		828	1,121
Tours	5,814		5,814	4,105
A3 Sub total	14,922	4,200	19,122	31,378
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
A4 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total payments	14,922	4,200	19,122	31,378
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,405	-150	9,255	-13,299
A5 Transfers between funds	-150	150		
A6 Cash funds last year end	638	0	638	
Cash funds this year end	9,892	0	9,892	638

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account - CAF Bank	7,242	0	7,242	638
	Paypal	2,651		2,651	0
	Total cash funds	9,893	0	9,893	638
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None			0	0

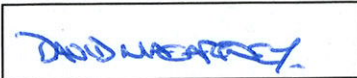
Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets				
			0	0
		Total		

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	CDs for future sale	Unrestricted	1,600	1,800
	Sheet music	Unrestricted	3,300	3,200
	Clip-on lights	Unrestricted	300	0
		Total	5,200	5,000

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				
			0	0

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature


Print Name


Date of approval


Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors and grant funding bodies or which have been raised by Cappella Caecilia for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

One Restricted Fund was in operation during the period covered by these accounts. This relates to a National Lottery grant of £8,100 which was awarded in July 2024 by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, with an initial instalment of 50% (£4,050) being paid in August 2024. A request for a further 45% drawdown was submitted to ACNI on 5th March 2025 but this payment had not been received by 31st March 2025. As at 31st March 2025, £4,200 had been spent from this Restricted Fund, ie an excess of £150. This caused a funds transfer of £150 from Unrestricted to Restricted, reflecting the timing of spend and subsequent drawdown receipt from ACNI. This subsequent drawdown receipt of £3,645 from ACNI was received on 6th May 2025. It allowed the above funds transfer to be reversed, and this will be shown in next year's accounts.

C2 Grants Made

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
None		0	
Total			-

C3 Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£
No remuneration paid to any trustee	0.00

C4 Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£
P O'Rawe - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	4,363
D Macartney - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	4,656
M Reis - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	297
L McMahan - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	84

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0

C6 Other information

No money has been paid (or other assets transferred) to any trustee or member of the Society other than as reimbursement of legitimate expenses occurred on behalf of the Society.

No trustee or member of the Society has made any personal financial gain as a direct result of their involvement with the Society.

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Accounts



Charity Name

Charity No.

Cappella Caeciliana

NIC100255

For the period from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Concerts	10,065	810	10,875	26,643
Donations	547		547	82
Governance	105		105	106
Recordings	447		447	280
Sheet music				44
Subscriptions	3,158		3,158	2,539
Tours	2,947		2,947	1,890
A1 Sub total	17,269	810	18,079	31,584
A2 Asset and investment sales				
A2 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	17,269	810	18,079	31,584
A3 Payments				
Communications	443		443	477
Concerts	9,774	8,100	17,874	8,402
Copyright	420		420	441
Governance	1,086		1,086	634
Professional fees	5,510		5,510	6,210
Rehearsal venue	820		820	725
Sheet music	1,121		1,121	1,149
Tours	4,105		4,105	1,950
Uniforms	0		0	10
A3 Sub total	23,278	8,100	31,378	19,999
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
A4 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total payments	23,278	8,100	31,378	19,999
Net of receipts/(payments)	-6,009	-7,290	-13,299	11,586
A5 Transfers between funds				
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,647	7,290	13,937	
Cash funds this year end	638	0	638	13,937

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account - CAF Bank	638		638	13,937
	Paypal	0		0	0
	Total cash funds	638	0	638	13,937
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None			0	0

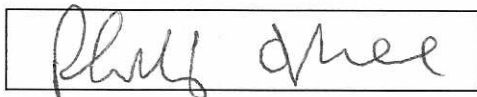
Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets				
		Total	0	0

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	CDs for future sale	Unrestricted	1,800	2,000
	Sheet music	Unrestricted	3,200	2,800
		Total	5,000	4,800

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

PHILIP O'RAWE

Date of approval

28/9/24

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors and grant funding bodies or which have been raised by Cappella Caeciliana for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

At the start of the year £7,290 was present (carried forward from 2022/23) in restricted funds (Arts Council of Northern Ireland grant for St Matthew Passion performance in Crumlin Road Gaol in April 2023). The £810 balance of the £8,100 grant was paid in 2023/24. The total of the £8,100 restricted fund was fully utilised with payment of expenses incurred by the event.

	Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
C2 Grants Made	None		0	
	Total			-

	Authority under which paid	£
C3 Trustee remuneration - details	No remuneration paid to any trustee	0.00

		Number of trustees	£
C4 Trustee expenses - details	P O'Rawe - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	4,757
	D Macartney - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	3,123
	L McMahon - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	50

	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

C6 Other information

No money has been paid (or other assets transferred) to any trustee or member of the Society other than as reimbursement of legitimate expenses occurred on behalf of the Society.

No trustee or member of the Society has made any personal financial gain as a direct result of their involvement with the Society.

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Annual report



Cappella Caeciliana
Registered Charity NIC100255
Trustees' Annual Report 2023/24

OVERVIEW

The Trustees of Cappella Caeciliana (“the Society”) present their report for the year ended 31 March 2024. This sits alongside the independently verified financial accounts which have been prepared by the Honorary Treasurer.

Our aims as a charity are:

- (i) The advancement of the arts and culture
- (ii) The advancement of education
- (iii) The advancement of religion



This was the Society’s second full reporting year with Matthew Quinn as Musical Director. Matthew is now very well established in this role and has directed a significant number of highly rated performances with the choir. During the year Matthew undertook work with a number of highly-rated ensembles such as Chamber Choir Ireland, Northern Ireland Opera and the Ulster Orchestra, and was appointed as Musical Director of London Youth Choirs Chamber Choir.

The choir’s significant role in music making in Northern Ireland over three decades, and the contributions made by previous Musical Directors Bob Leonard and Donal McCrisken, and by Matthew Quinn since his arrival in January 2022, were recognised in an article in the Summer 2024 of the prestigious *Choir & Organ* magazine. This article can be viewed at <https://www.gramophone.co.uk/choir-and-organ/features/article/cappella-caeciliana-30-years-of-music-making>.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND GOVERNANCE

The Society had income of £18,079 during the year. Expenditure of £31,378 resulted in a deficit for the year of (£13,299). However, it should be noted that this deficit is largely driven by a concert in Crumlin Road Gaol on 2 April 2023 (i.e. right at the start of the financial year). For this event most income (ticket sales and 90% of an £8,100 Arts Council of Northern Ireland / National Lottery grant) had been received in the previous financial year, but with nearly all expenditure for it being incurred in the financial year being reported on. Having said this, the Society's funds have been at a lower level than the trustees would like as income has not kept up with the costs of our more ambitious programming and venue usage, this being despite a significant increase in ticket prices in recent years. The cash position at the end of the year was £638. Going forward the trustees are hoping to target a cash reserve of £1,200. It is intended to try to help manage this in 2024/25 by applying to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for National Lottery funding, supplemented by seeking commercial and private funding.

The Society operates via a written constitution. It continues to operate a two-strand oversight process, with the Musical Director (who is not a Trustee) having full involvement with the Trustees in artistic and event-related planning and decisions, but with governance and financial decisions reserved to the Trustees.

The Society was pleased to welcome a number of new members to the choir during the year, and to maintain good relations with its former members.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

In carrying out the charity's activities, the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance. A broad review of our activities to further our purposes for the public benefit during the year and of our achievements during that period is as follows:

ST JOHN PASSION IN CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

On **Sunday 2 April** the choir presented Bach's *St John Passion* to a capacity audience of 185 in Crumlin Road Gaol. This concert received excellent critical feedback, some of which can be viewed in video format at <https://tinyurl.com/CappellaGaol>.

As well as being joined by guest soloists Zahid Sidiqqi, Malachy Frame, Emma Morwood, Margaret Bridge, John Porter and Adam Reaney, the lineup also included an orchestra of professional musicians supplemented by some excellent up-and-coming young players.

This was a major undertaking in terms of logistics and expenditure, with ticket sales covering less than 25% of the event's cost. The choir is very grateful to have received significant funding for the concert from the National Lottery via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Energia Group / Power NI and Deloitte. Without this, the production could not have taken place.



A CELTIC COLLECTION IN BELFAST HARBOUR OFFICE

On **Friday 9 June** the choir presented a concert *A Celtic Collection* to a near-capacity audience of 95 in Belfast Harbour Office (use of which had been kindly granted by Belfast Harbour Commissioners as part of their community engagement programme). A highlight of the programme was the premiere of *Quicksilver* by Cappella member Anita Mawhinney. This composition was funded by the National Lottery via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The concert also saw the premiere of *The Blue Bird* by Dr Anselm McDonnell.

A recording of *Quicksilver* made at this concert is available at <https://tinyurl.com/CappellaQuicksilver>. A recording of *The Lark in the Clear Air* (arranged by Matthew Quinn) made at this concert is available at <https://tinyurl.com/CappellaLark>.



MASS AND CONCERT IN NEWTOWNARDS

On **Saturday 21 October** the choir sang at a Thanksgiving Mass for the restoration of St Patrick's Church, Newtownards. The music programme included William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*, marking the fact that 2023 was the 400th anniversary of the composer's death. The Mass was immediately followed by a short concert in the church, where the choir was joined by St Patrick's parish priest and founding Cappella member Fr Martin O'Hagan. Between the two events the choir sang to around 200 people. Cappella is very grateful to Fr Martin and the Parish of Newtownards and Comber for their invitation, and for providing excellent refreshments to choir and audience at the end of the evening.



CAPPELLA BY CANDLELIGHT IN CENTRAL BELFAST

On **Sunday 26 November** the choir presented *Cappella by Candlelight* in St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast, to an audience of 220. Despite the large attendance, an intimate atmosphere was created. It is hoped to repeat this 'candlelit' concert format (in a different venue) in the 2024/25 season.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN NAZARETH CARE VILLAGE

A group of current and former choir members visited Nazareth House Care Village on **Sunday 10 December** to give a carol concert and to recognise the care village having been made available to Cappella as a rehearsal venue for 20 years until the onset of Covid-19. The singers were pleased to be joined by Dr Brendan O'Hare (organist). Cappella is very grateful to the Care Village for their invitation and for providing refreshments after the concert.

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS IN THE PORTICO OF ARDS



On **Saturday 16 December** the choir was delighted to make its second visit to The Portico of Ards, Portaferry. A concert *The Magic of Christmas* was presented to an audience of 160 people. This was part of Portico's annual programme which is supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Owing to Matthew Quinn being unavailable, a deputy was required, and the choir was delighted to be able to secure the services of James Grossmith to conduct the concert. Cappella is most grateful to James for stepping in at only a few days' notice.

CELTIC CHORAL CELEBRATION IN COVENT GARDEN

At **St Patrick's weekend**, the choir made its first-ever visit to London. On Saturday 16 March it presented a concert *Celtic Choral Celebration* in St Paul's Church, Covent Garden (the well-known "Actors' Church"), to an audience of 85, including various opinion formers. As well as giving the opportunity to act as ambassadors for the Northern Ireland musical scene in front of a brand new audience and to showcase composers from the island of Ireland, this visit also fulfilled the role of a social event and in particular helped the integration of recently-joined members.

Cappella was pleased to have received financial support for this event from Energia Group / Power NI. Thanks are also due to the Irish Embassy in London for their support, including the attendance of Mr David Johnston from the Embassy.



WIDER ACTIVITY

During the year, the choir continued its 'virtual' work, particularly aimed at those who cannot attend our events in public. Various video recordings were published, and regular social media postings were made giving access to previous audio and video recordings. The choir's existing CD recordings also continued to be broadcast regularly on BBC Radio Ulster.

REPORT AGREED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY:

Sarah Alcorn, David Macartney, Louise McMahon, Philip O'Rawe, Micaela Reis

TRUSTEE CHANGES IN THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024: None

PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2024.

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Cappella Caeciliana

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 3 attached.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Thomas McGuckin ACA (Chartered Accountants Ireland)

74 Graysfield
Crossgar
BT30 9HG

Date: 24 September 2024

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Accounts



Charity Name

Charity No.

Cappella Caeciliana

NIC100255

For the period from 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
CD recordings	280		280	242
Commercial sponsorship	0		0	3,000
Concerts	19,353	7,290	26,643	2,903
Donations	82		82	126
Governance	106		106	0
Sheet music	44		44	0
Subscriptions	2,539		2,539	552
Tours	1,890		1,890	0
A1 Sub total	24,294	7,290	31,584	6,823
A2 Asset and investment sales				
A2 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	24,294	7,290	31,584	6,823
A3 Payments				
25th anniversary events	0		0	590
Communications	477		477	428
Concerts	8,402		8,402	1,287
Copyright	441		441	314
Covid-19 precautions	0		0	449
Governance	634		634	523
Professional fees	6,210		6,210	1,200
Rehearsal venue	725		725	325
Religious services	0		0	80
Sheet music	1,149		1,149	216
Tours	1,950		1,950	0
Uniforms	10		10	0
A3 Sub total	19,999	0	19,999	5,412
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
A4 Sub total	0	0	0	0
Total payments	19,999	0	19,999	5,412
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,296	7,290	11,586	1,411
A5 Transfers between funds				
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,351	0	2,351	
Cash funds this year end	6,647	7,290	13,937	2,352

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account - CAF Bank	6,647	7,290	13,937	2,246
	Paypal	0		0	105
	Total cash funds	6,647	7,290	13,937	2,352
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None				
				0	0

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets				
		Total	0	0

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	CDs for future sale	Unrestricted	2,000	2,400
	Sheet music	Unrestricted	2,800	2,400
		Total	4,800	4,800

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors and grant funding bodies or which have been raised by Cappella Caeciliana for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

In January 2023 we received a grant from Arts Council of Northern Ireland for £7,290 relating to a project taking place in April 2023. As per a condition of the grant this is categorised separately as a restricted fund. All other monies are unrestricted.

	Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
C2 Grants Made	None		0	
			Total	-

	Authority under which paid	£
C3 Trustee remuneration - details	No remuneration paid to any trustee	0.00

		Number of trustees	£
C4 Trustee expenses - details	P. O'Rawe - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	4,584
	D. Macartney - reimbursement of payments made for goods/services	1	2,094

	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

C6 Other information

No money has been paid (or other assets transferred) to any trustee or member of the Society other than as reimbursement of legitimate expenses occurred on behalf of the Society.

No trustee or member of the Society has made any personal financial gain as a direct result of their involvement with the Society.

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Annual report

Cappella Caeciliana
Registered Charity NIC100255
Trustees' Report: 2022 - 2023

1. Review of the year

The Trustees present their report and independently verified financial statements for Cappella Caeciliana for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Our aims as a charity are:

- (i) The advancement of the arts and culture
- (ii) The advancement of education
- (iii) The advancement of religion

This was the Society's first full reporting year with Matthew Quinn as Musical Director. Matthew is now well established in this role and has already directed a significant number of highly rated performances with the choir.

The Society had income of £31,584.42 during the year, bolstered by the fee for a prestige concert with Andrea Bocelli in the SSE Arena, Belfast, and by an Arts Council of Northern Ireland grant for a concert taking place on 2nd April 2023 (the latter for being held as a "restricted fund", ie specifically for this purpose). Expenditure of £19,998.57 resulted in a surplus for the year of £11,585.85. However, it should be noted that this surplus is entirely made up of the above grant and advance sales for the associated concert, with nearly all expenditure for that concert being incurred in the next financial year.

The Society continues to operate a two-strand process, with the Musical Director (who is not a Trustee) having full involvement with the Trustees in artistic and event-related planning and decisions, but with governance and financial decisions reserved to the Trustees.

The Society was pleased to welcome a number of new members to the choir during the year, and to maintain good relations with its former members.

In carrying out the charity's activities, the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for NI Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance. A broad review of our activities to further our purposes for the public benefit during the year and of our achievements during that period is as follows:

(i) On Sunday 10 April the choir presented a concert to an audience of 230 in Clonard Monastery, Belfast. This very well received concert was the first performance under Matthew Quinn.

(ii) On Sunday 19 June the choir presented a concert to an audience of 160 in Carlisle Memorial Church, Belfast, accompanied by an orchestra of professional players.

(iii) On Sunday 21 August the choir took part in the Opening Concert of the annual Charles Wood Festival, which was held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral with an audience of around 200.

(iv) On Thursday 22 September the choir were special guests of Andrea Bocelli in the SSE Arena, Belfast, performing to an audience of around 8,000. The choir was supplemented for the occasion by former members and other friends of the choir.

(v) On Saturday 15 October we presented a concert in Newry Town Hall to an audience of 50 people, part of Newry, Mourne and Down Council's arts programme.

(vi) On Friday 10 December, we presented a Christmas concert in First Presbyterian Church, Belfast. This was a joint event with Third Carrickfergus Band, to whom we are very grateful.

(vii) On Saturday 28 January we presented a concert in St Malachy's Church, Belfast to an audience of 260. We performed jointly with New Dublin Voices, and wish to record our thanks to them for taking part in this joint venture covering two concerts.

(viii) On Saturday 25 February we presented the second joint concert with New Dublin Voices, this time in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin, to an audience of around 260.

(ix) Smaller groupings of choir members took part in various other events, including "Royal Carols: Together at Christmas" which was broadcast UK-wide on ITV on Christmas Eve, and the charity event "Spirit of Christmas" held at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK. A group also visited Nazareth House Care Village to give a carol concert and to recognise the care village having been made available to us as a rehearsal venue for 20 years until the onset of Covid-19.

(x) During the year, the choir continued its 'virtual' work, particularly aimed at those who cannot attend our events in public. Various video recordings were published, and regular social media postings were made giving access to previous audio and video recordings. The choir's existing CD recordings also continued to be broadcast regularly on BBC.

REPORT AGREED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY ON 10 June 2023:

Sarah Alcorn, David Macartney, Louise McMahon, Philip O'Rawe, Micaela Reis

TRUSTEE CHANGES IN THE YEAR TO 31 March 2023:

Sheelagh Greer completed her term as Trustee at the Annual General Meeting, which was held on 11 September 2022. Micaela Reis was elected Secretary at that meeting and commenced her term as Trustee at the closure of the meeting.

Cappella Caeciliana

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100255

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Cappella Caeciliana

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3 attached.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Thomas McGuckin ACA

74 Graysfield
Crossgar
BT30 9HG

Date: 08 June 2023