

Colmcille Ladies Choir Annual Report To Charity Commission NI

Summary of Activities

The choir continues to meet every Wednesday to practise under the guidance of our musical director Miss Sheila Carlin.

During the year 2022-2023 we participated in the following activities:

27 April 2022	Derry Feis Donation
16 June 2022	Peace Conference Guildhall
13 August 2022	Choir participated in the Clipper Festival
27 November 2022	Choir performance at the Craft Fair Guildhall
20 January 2023	Reception in Mayors parlour in recognition of 50th anniversary
8 March 2023	International Woman's Day.

In addition the choir performed at various church services including services and funerals throughout the year.

Public Benefit

The Colmcille Ladies choir partakes in a variety of cultural activities which includes regular public performances, choral festivals and charity functions. We perform in a variety of places such as churches, theatres, shopping centres and open air venues where the public are given the opportunity to learn and appreciate choral music. This year we have been fortunate in having several new members joining our choir after attending some of our public performances. We are delighted that we continue to thrive.

Our members are drawn from all walks of life and backgrounds. We benefit from the opportunities to learn, sing, enjoy and participate in choral music. We are always looking to attract new members and we do this mainly by encouraging our current members to recruit new singers. All age groups, race and creeds are welcome in the choir and our members range in age from 17 to 80 plus. Indeed we have several long established family members within our ranks.

Sheila, our musical director continues to promote a variety of genres of choral singing, which includes sacred, jazz, popular, traditional,

blues and classical. This can be challenging as we often perform in a variety of languages. Participation in the choir helps improve our knowledge of music including diction, breath control, phrasing and singing. Singing in a choir are known to be beneficial for mental health well being, as well as promoting social inclusion. The sense of achievement and increased confidence is another added benefit. These were some of the core reasons our choir was formed by the late Bishop Edward Daly.

The choir performs a wider benefit to the public by supporting fund raising activities, for example our annual Carol Services .

This year the choir are celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a trip to Lisbon. where we will participate in public concerts along with choirs from different parts of the world. This had to be cancelled previously due to covid.

Financial Benefit

The choir holds both a current account and savings account. A balance of funds is maintained to cover any unexpected expenses.

We have increased our fund-raising efforts throughout the year to assist with our anniversary trip in 2024. The choir are planning to go to Lisbon to participate in a choral competition in celebration of our 50th anniversary.

Overall, the trustees are happy with the finances of the choir. The financial position is secure. The choir has no reserved accounts or assets.

Trustees

The trustees of the Colmcille Ladies Choir remain in position as follows:

Chairperson	Ursula Clifford
Musical Director	Sheila Carlin
Hon Secretary	Anne Gallagher
Hon Treasurer	Angela Morrison

Costume mistress
Charity Co-ordinator

Marie Horton
Deirdre Carroll

Administration

The choir is administered by the Board of Trustees appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting which is held during January/February. The committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year. The charity is governed by its constitution dated 2 September 2015 which has remained unchanged, and which is approved by the committee members.

Mrs Ursula Clifford
Chairperson
January 2024
Colmcille Ladies Choir
NI Charity No 103566
Inland Revenue Charity No XT21164