

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104822

Details

Known as	B.I.C.F.
Status	Received
Registered	2016-02-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	14 Towerview Avenue Bangor County Down BT19 6bb BT19 6BB
Phone	02891460514
Email	margaret.mcdowell@talktalk.net
Website	www.bicf.co.uk

Activities

Purposes: The aims of the Bangor International Choral Festival are to develop and promote Choral Singing to a wide diversity of children and adults from all walks of life.

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

How the charity works: Arts,Community development,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Disability,Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),General public,Learning disabilities,Men,Older people,Physical disabilities,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£15,242	£15,603	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Poots		
Joan Houston		
Linda Milby		
Margaret Mcdowell		
Mary McCormack		
Roberta Dunlop		

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Accounts

**BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2024
BALANCE SHEET PERIOD 1ST OCTOBER 2023 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Opening Bank Balance	£1,990.11	Prizes	£4,450.00
ANDBC EVENTS GRANT	£2,295.00	Trophies	£403.32
ANDBC MULTI ARTS GRANT	£2,400.00	Hall & School Hire	£1,870.00
Benivity & Gift Aid	£2,750.00	Piano Hire	£390.00
Donations	£470.00	Adjudicator Fees	£1,335.00
Sponsors	£1,600.00	Adjudicator Expenses	£392.48
Entries	£2,110.00	Insurance & Fed. Membership	£490.00
Door & Programmes	£2,071.13	Printing & Signage	£672.00
Tea Bar	£1,545.76	Postage	£63.75
		Website Maint.	£172.80
		New Website	£3,750.00
		Catering Costs	£562.17
		Volunteers Expenses	£696.71
		Gratuties & Gifts	£355.49
		Reconciled Bank Balance	£1,628.28
	£17,232.00		£17,232.00

Treasurer
Mrs Roberta
Dunlop

R. Dunlop
Signature

21/11/24
Date

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Accounts

**BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2023
BALANCE SHEET**

INCOME			
Balance at Bank	£	3,050.36	
Entries	£	1,080.00	
Sponsorship	£	1,300.00	
Advertising	£	275.00	
Tea Bar	£	969.34	
Grant	£	3,500.00	
Donations	£	977.66	
Door & Programm	£	1,146.66	
Quiz Ticket Sales	£	938.00	
NI Federation	£	85.00	
TOTAL	£	13,322.02	
EXPENSES			
Print,Post Website	£		1,269.92
Catering	£		749.80
Hall Hire	£		1,850.00
Volunteer Expenses	£		360.14
Adjudicators Fees	£		1,046.00
Adjudicators Expenses	£		742.30
Insurance, Membership	£		430.00
Trophies	£		288.75
Gratuties	£		250.00
Prize Money	£		4,175.00
NI Federation	£		120.00
Bank Fees	£		50.00
TOTAL	£	11,331.91	

INCOME £ 13,322.02
EXPENSES £ 11,331.91

BALANCE AT BANK £ 1990.11

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Annual report

BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2024

REPORT TO NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY COMMISSION

Our dates for this year's Festival were 25-27 April. Thursday 25th started with our Primary Schools – 12 in all over 4 competitions with the largest entry of 9 choirs in our Primary School over 30 singers class. A most wonderful day ending at 3pm with a short break and restarting at 4pm with our Post Primary School choirs. We had some wonderful school choirs entered including Bangor Grammar Chamber Choir, Carrickfergus Grammar School Choir, Regent House Junior Chamber School Choir and a lovely visit from Holy Cross College all the way from Strabane. Again a fabulous afternoon of music – some amazing performances and an affirmation that choral singing is in safe hands for the future.

A big highlight of the Festival is our Special Schools competitions and on Friday 26th we had the most wonderful morning listening to these amazing children, who have to overcome so many obstacles just to be with us and they gave the most uplifting performances. At Bangor we always provide a lunch for the Special School choirs, so they really enjoy a “day out” feeling.

The evening Festival Concert included visiting choirs from Wiltshire and East Midlands and we knew we were in for great competitions the following day. For the adult competitions on the Saturday we had choirs Altrincham, Scotland, Swindon and East Midlands as well as several new local choirs who entered the Newcomers Class. One of the choirs in this competition was Belfast City Chorus located in HMP Hydebank in Belfast.

Due to their circumstances preventing them from attending the Festival, the Chairperson, Adjudicator and myself visited the Prison on Monday 22

April where the Adjudicator was able to listen but not actually announce any marks at that point. However he did give encouraging comments to the Choir and I can honestly say it was a most uplifting experience for the three of us. HMP Hydebank allowed recording of the performances to be taken and sent to the Festival and so on the Saturday in the Newcomers competition and the Light Entertainment competition, we were able to play the recordings during what would have been the choir's allocated Festival performance time. With permission from the other choirs in these two competitions we then also recorded all of the choir performances and sent these back to Belfast City Chorus so that they could hear the other choirs but also feel that they were part of the Festival. Belfast City Chorus was awarded a Certificate of Commendation.

We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive Festival and we were so pleased to be able to include this choir, as I'm sure we all know the health benefits of singing and these benefits certainly go a long way in helping the individuals in this choir. We had so many positive comments about their inclusion and performances from other choir competitors, audience members and comments relayed to us from the Prison Governor and Belfast City Chorus at Hydebank. This was a first for Bangor but we're hoping a process that we can continue in the future.

We were very pleased with the number of entries in all competitions especially the Gala Evening competitions – the Light Entertainment and the Open Choral in which there were six and nine choir entries respectively. As you can imagine these two competitions completed a fabulous festival and in each competition it was a local choir who took 1st place – Lagan

Seahorses MVC in the Light Entertainment and Regent House Chamber Choir in the Open Choral Competition.

Adjudicators

Our Adjudicators this year were Darren Day from Belfast and Dexter Drown from Birmingham. Darren is an extremely versatile and sought after musician. He works as a teacher, composer, singer, pianist, and international examiner for Trinity College London. Dexter joined Darren on Saturday 27 April for the adult competitions. Dexter is a distinguished and inspiring choral conductor and choir trainer sharing his love of choral music with singers across the country, having worked as Chorus Director with many well known Conductors, such as Sir Karl Jenkins. Both Adjudicators were very encouraging and positive in their comments to all performing choirs, giving them lots of constructive advice on which to work on for the future. They both thoroughly enjoyed the high standard of performances and are both keen to return in the future.

Finances

Financially we were extremely fortunate to have retained ongoing sponsorship from several of our local businesses as well as local government funding from Ards and North Down Borough Council, paid for advertisements in the Festival Programme, ticket sales and catering income. We are now in the early stages of a Festival rebrand as well as updating our website to make it more user friendly and provide facilities for online entry, data collection and uploading of music if required.

2025 Dates

Our dates for 2025 are 3-5 April. We held our debrief meeting last week and have now began Festival 2025 planning. We are very fortunate to have 4 choirs already planning their trip to Bangor next year.

To conclude, on behalf of the Festival I would like to thank Audrey and Jack Stewart for attending our Gala Evening and also to thank the Federation for their continued interest in and support of our Festival in Bangor.

Festival Committee

Bangor International Choral Festival

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Bangor International Choral Festival

I report on the accounts of the B.I.C.F. for the year ended 30 September 2022 – 30th September 2023, which are set out.

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.

Name: W. D KEERY MBE

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address: 15 Glendale Avenue, Bangor

Date: 30th September 2023

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. D. Keery', written over the printed word 'SIGNATURE'.

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Accounts

INCOME AND EXPENSES BICF 1st October 2020 - 30th September 2022

INCOME	
Balance at Bank	£ 3,331.11
Entries	£ 160.00
Advertising/Sponsorship	£ 700.00
Grants	£ 2,020.00
Tea Bar	£ 662.95

£ 6,874.06

INCOME

£6,874.06

EXPENSES	
Print/Posr/Trophies	£ 232.77
Catering/Cleanin	£ 400.41
Website	£ 345.60
Hall Hire	£ 400.00
Piano	£ 250.00
Proze Money	£ 700.00
Adjudicators Fee	£ 300.00
Volunteers Expenses	£ 362.92
Insurance/Mambership	£ 530.00
Returned Fees	£ 252.00
Adjudicators Expenses	£ 50.00

£ 3,823.70

EXPENSES £ 3,823.70

BALANCE AT BANK

£ 3,050.36

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
ALDERMAN W/D KERRY MBE
SIGNATURE



DATE

21/01/23

BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2020
Accounts period 1st October 2020 - 30th September 2022

INCOME	2020-2022	2020	2019
Opening Bank Balance	£ 3,331.11	£ 1,891.13	£3,129.92
Ards and North Down BC	£ 1,920.00	£ 1,000.00	£4,150.00
Grants	£ 100.00		£2,034.37
Melville Morgan	£ 600.00		£600.00
Bangor Ladies Choir			
Bloomfields			£150.00
Halifax			
Helen Armstrong			
GBBCA			£150.00
The Guillemont		£ 250.00	£300.00
Tourism Ireland			£100.00
Ian Houston			
Signature Works	£ 100.00		£100.00
Bangor Chamber			
Alan Dagg			
ACNI			
Fund Raising/Tea Bar	£ 662.95		£2,028.56
Donations		£ 775.00	£397.20
Gift Cards			
Entries	£ 160.00	£ 1,505.95	£1,644.00
Door & Programmes			£1,494.20
TOTAL	£ 6,874.06	£ 5,422.08	£16,278.25
EXPENDITURE			
Prizes	£ 700.00		£ 5,050.00
Catering	£ 400.41	£ 69.43	£ 1,367.45
Hall & piano Hire	£ 650.00	£ 50.00	£ 1,843.00
Adjudicator & Costs	£ 350.00	£ 583.98	£ 1,628.76
Trophies	£ 232.77	£ 210.40	£ 444.56
Insurance & Federation	£ 530.00	£ 285.00	£ 375.00
Print post Website	£ 345.60	£ 548.16	£ 1,954.47
Volunteers Expenses	£ 362.92	£ 60.00	£ 494.72
Bank Fees		£ 10.00	£ 9.16
Cash repayable/		£ 274.00	£ 220.00
Bangor Ladies Choir/Loan			£ 1,000.00
Cash repa Fees rtd	£ 252.00		
Reconciled Balance of Bank	£ 3,050.36	£ 3,331.11	£ 1,891.13
TOTAL	£ 6,874.06	£ 5,422.08	£ 16,278.25 Signature

Independent Examiner

Alderman W D Keery MBE

TREASURER

MRS R. DUNLOP

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Annual report

BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2022

CHORAL FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR A ONE DAY EVENT

Bangor International Choral Festival has returned, bringing choirs from around the Province and UK to Bangor to compete but also in celebration of song after two long years of no choral activity. It was an emotional but joyous day as choirs returned to the stage to perform once more and left us all with a wonderful sense of feeling that choral performance is back!

Our province wide choirs were on top form as usual but we also had a fabulous choir, Cor Y Gleision, who travelled from Cardiff. A mixed choir of around 70 people who raised the venue roof with their performances in the afternoon and evening. What a glorious sound they made!

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir returning to the Festival stage competed in the Male Voice Choir class and were just pipped at the post by Portadown Male Voice Choir, but what marvellous male voice renditions from both choirs. It made for a very difficult decision from the Adjudicator, BBC Northern Ireland's Richard Yarr, a staunch supporter of the Festival and an amazing Adjudicator, giving great encouragement to all competing choirs.

Open Arts Community Choir performed some beautiful pieces and as always carried the audience with them on their choral journeys. A small choral group with magnificent voices.

All in all a wonderful festival to be part of and to be proud of. The Mayor, Councillor Mark Brooks, officiated both at the opening and at the Prizegiving and the Festival Committee are indebted to Sponsors, Ards and North Down Borough Council Arts Section, Melville Morgan Ltd., The Signature Works and Guillemot Café, Bangor, for their financial support. Without these businesses and indeed our volunteers, the Festival could not have been delivered.

We look forward to 2023 when the Choral Festival will celebrate the 30th Anniversary and we hope to deliver a 4 day event again when our school choirs as well as adult choirs will be able to participate. Dates for this event are 26-29 April 2023. Please visit our website for further details – www.bicf.co.uk

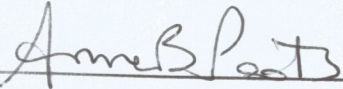
Anne B Poots
Secretary B.I.C.F.

**END OF YEAR REPORT
BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2021**

As the planning stage of the 2021 Festival would normally begin around July it was evident that the Pandemic situation would not allow for any planning to begin as it was unforeseeable what the future would be.

The Committee continued to keep in contact with choirs via email with updates, however, all choirs were rehearsing by Zoom only and as April 2021 drew closer it was inevitable once more, due to rising Covid cases, restrictions and indeed lockdowns, that it was not going to be possible to organise and deliver the Choral Festival.

Therefore, once more a decision was taken to cancel the Festival for 2021.



SECRETARY
BICF

Bangor International Choral Festival

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104822

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Bangor International Choral Festival

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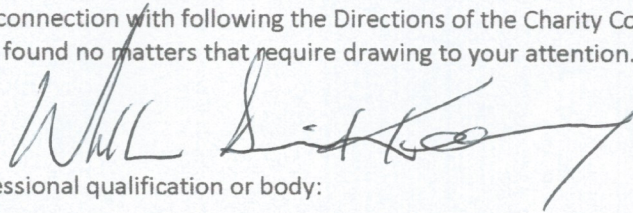
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Name:



Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address:

Date: