

# Grosvenor Chorale

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107257

## Details

Known as	Grosvenor
Status	Received
Registered	2021-05-17
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	32 Carsonstown Road Saintfield Ballynahinch Bt24 7ea BT24 7EA
Phone	07793545495
Email	<a href="mailto:info@grosvenor-ni.org">info@grosvenor-ni.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.grosvenor-ni.org">www.grosvenor-ni.org</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** 1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain, by charitable means only, the knowledge and appreciation of choral music in all its aspects for/to the general public in Northern Ireland through the organisation and presentation of public concerts and recitals and any other appropriate events that the trustees may determine. 2) To provide facilities which promote the practice or enjoyment of choral singing for recreation or other leisure time occupation for members of the public in Northern Ireland.

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

**How the charity works:** Arts

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£6,598	£7,991	£0	0

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Edward Craig		
Mr Peter Turner		
Mr Stephen Glover		
Mrs Joanne Mcauley		

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Accounts

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## Grosvenor Chorale Financial Report 2024-2025

**Balance @ 31/05/24** **£4320.58**

### **DEDUCTIONS 2024-2025**

Making Music (subscription, insurance & PRS fee)	£285.35
Banking fees	£67.70
Website fee	£108.00
CPC rehearsal fee 2020-2023	£1150.00
Sheet music	£616.09
Photocopying	£1000.00
Edward Craig expenses	£607.18
Stephen Hamill performance fees	£700.00
Darren Day performance fees	£100.00
Royal Avenue concert May 2024	£867.00
Shelter NI (Christmas 2024)	£1000.00
St Colmcille's Church (Christmas 2024)	£200.00
Christmas printing	£231.00
Gifts (baby, concert etc.)	£78.22
Catering	£250.08
A level rehearsal water bottles	£230.39
Ruth McGinley (concert May 2025)	£500.00
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>£7991.01</b>

### **ADDITIONS 2024-2025**

Subscriptions	£3390.00
Royal Avenue concert 30/05/24	£448.41
Carol Service collection	£1710.00
Dalgliesh programme fees	£200.00
Charles Wood Summer Festival	£400.00
Downshire Brass concert Dec 24	£200.00
Killyleagh concert May 25	£250.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>£6598.41</b>

**Balance @ 31/05/25** **£2927.98**

Hon. Treasurer:

  
Joanne McAuley

Examiner:

  
Ian Montgomery

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Accounts

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## Grosvenor Chorale Financial Statement 2023-2024

**Balance @ 31/05/23** **£3355.34**

### DEDUCTIONS 2023-2024

Making Music (subscription, insurance & PRS fee)	£248.42
Banking fees	£61.00
Website fee	£108.00
CPC rehearsal fee 2020-2023	£1500.00
Edward Craig expenses	£205.00
Stephen Hamill performance fees	£500.00
Darren Day performance fees	£150.00
Harry Douglas (Knock concert)	£75.00
Knock Methodist Church (concert)	£307.50
Samaritans (Christmas 2023)	£1100.00
St Colmcille's Church (Christmas 2023)	£200.00
Christmas printing	£242.00
Gifts (baby, concert etc.)	£48.37
Catering	£298.30
Scott Flanagan Jazz Trio (concert)	£550.00

**TOTAL DEDUCTIONS** **£5593.59**

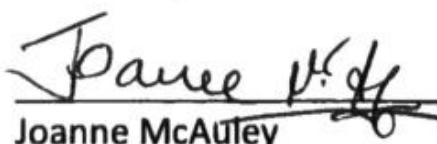
### ADDITIONS 2023-2024

Subscriptions	£1862.50
Knock Methodist concert 02/06/23	£856.90
AGM food	£140.00
Carol Service collection	£1850.00
Custom House Christmas event	£150.00
Lyric FM Christmas competition	£164.43
Bangor International Choral Festival	£500.00
Royal Avenue concert 30/05/24	£1035.00

**TOTAL ADDITIONS** **£6558.83**

**Balance @ 31/05/24** **£4320.58**

Hon. Treasurer:

  
Joanne McAuley

Examiner:

  
Ian Montgomery

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Annual report

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# Grosvenor Chorale

## Trustees' Report 2022-2023



At our AGM, held at Castlereagh Presbyterian Church, our rehearsal venue, on June 3rd, 2024, our Musical Director summarized the year.

### **Chairman's 2023-2024 Report**

The 2023-24 Season was all about giving everyone the opportunity to improve just 1% each week. The hope was that these small gains made by every member would allow the choir to move forward musically into new territory and feel prepared to perform without any last-minute pressure.

The year began with two new members, Kaz and Antonia, who were soon joined by Lucy after the October break. I hope they have enjoyed their first year as part of the choir, and I thank them for their dedication. We also welcomed Susan Shepherd back following her period of maternity, having welcomed little Daniel into the world last July and following an extended break due to work commitments; it was lovely to again have Pam Alcorn in our ranks. Sadly, we had to say farewell to Judith Poston this year. Judith travelled to every rehearsal from Ballymena. We have recently enjoyed rekindling our friendship with Judith and appreciate all the effort she made to be at rehearsals.

We also began by reintroducing our Members' Handbook, designed by Andru Kyle, with the aim that everyone knows what is personally and collectively expected of a group of over thirty individuals to create a voluntary unified effort that is challenging yet supportive and relaxing yet energising. Members broke into groups throughout the year to discuss direction, reflect on performances and brainstorm logistical ideas; these times were felt helpful for everyone. Members are all encouraged to continue contributing to the hive of ideas that keep Grosvenor Chorale moving forward and remember our collective responsibility to each other as outlined in our agreed handbook.

Our first engagement was to celebrate our Thirtieth Birthday, which we did through a concert in our rehearsal home at Castlereagh Presbyterian Church. We were able to perform to a packed hall. Members of the church congregation provided a light supper at the close of the evening, and we raised some funds for their church building fund. We were also delighted to welcome Loughview Integrated Primary School Choir and violinist Jude Kingston as guest artists. A short time later, we also gave the world premiere performance and recording of "Sometimes I Dream Of Blue" as guests of the Northern Ireland Concert Band as part of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Stormont's Great Hall. It was a privilege to be part of Anselm McDonnell's new piece, and the choir is delighted to see how his music is being recognised with several high-profile commissions throughout the year. This concert was later broadcast on BBC Radio Three.

In November, we had the opportunity to lead a performance of the Coronation Anthem, Zadok the Priest, with the Royal Irish Regimental Band in the Waterfront Hall. The rest of the month was then taken up by preparing for Christmas, and the Annual Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols was held in St Colmcille's, Ballyhackamore. We are thankful to them, our members who

belong to this parish and our organist, Stephen Hamill, for helping us lead a packed congregation in the hymns and carols of the season. It was good to be able to record Andrew Carter's "Great Our Festivity" and to be met with words of appreciation from the composer himself. The final engagement of 2023 was as lunchtime guests of the Custom House in Belfast when we performed a programme of festival favourites.

We were delighted, having entered with Roxanna Panufnik's "Sleep, Jesus, Sleep", to have been chosen as one of the winning choirs for RTÉ Lyric FM's "Choirs for Christmas".

2024 began with some new repertoire as we prepared to raise awareness and some funds for Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda under the auspices of Ballygowan Presbyterian Church at the end of January. Following our rehearsal, we were treated to tea, sandwiches and buns. Then we gave many brilliant performances, which included various hymns written by Northern Irish composers, the beautiful piano extemporisation around Ola Gjeilo's "Ubi Caritas", and rounding the evening off with a version of Uganda's National Anthem. We are grateful to Darren Day for accompanying us.

In April, we prepared for the Bangor International Choral Festival's Open Choral competition, where we performed James Macmillan's "O Radiant Dawn" and Alex L'Estrange's arrangement of "Lullaby of Birdland". The performance sparkled with professionalism and committed singing to a very high level, proving how good we can be when we internalise the music and go beyond the notes. It was excellent, and being awarded the Runner-Up Prize was a good result, but even better was the engagement with the audience, who were completely on our side.

After discussing possible Summer Concert repertoire and venues, we settled on an evening of easy-listening jazz at 2 Royal Avenue (the old city centre bank buildings). This was an excellent opportunity to make many weekly 1% gains to learn all the new repertoire and, more importantly, enter into the style these pieces demanded. We had to consider a lot of new lyrics, singing pieces we 'thought we knew' but were written differently, fitting a lot of syncopation around the beat, which we were forced to feel rather than go along with everyone else and then perform this without being able to follow a written accompaniment as the band would improvise around the choir quite freely. The result was excellent, along with the band of Scott Flanigan (piano), Rod Patterson (bass) and Tim Rooney (drumkit), although too much did 'click' a little too close to the gig! The work of each committee member toward this event is so much appreciated, as is Sarah Bell, who managed to source staging and seating. It is essential, although I realise it is difficult, to be prepared for the next rehearsal if one is missed rather than just coasting along until it works, and this not happening from everyone did mean we didn't always perform from within the music and truly put our own stamp on all of it.

I would like to thank Rob, Roz, Andru and Sarah, our committee members who have worked together to make everything happen throughout the year. Each has brought their talents and expertise through creativity, planning, organisation, contacts and desire to help everyone enjoy the choir season. Each week, there has been some discussion about topics big and small, and as a team with clear opinions, they always have respected each other and come to an agreement on what is best for the rest of the members and the choir as a whole. We have continued to be assisted by our ex-officio committee member, Joanne McAuley, who continues to act as our treasurer and we were delighted that Peter Turner agreed to continue to liaise with the Charity Commission on our behalf. It really is a great team to be on, and if you've never done it, be sure to make it known that you'd be happy to be considered as I'm sure plenty of other members will be only too happy to give you their vote!


Next week, we will finish our year together with a meal at Horatio Todd's before reconvening in August for our first gig of 2024-25 (did Tomorrow's World not predict we'd be living on Mars by then?!).

Next year, I hope we can continue striving to make those personal 1% gains. I hope we continue to share ideas of what music we would like to perform and be open to new venues and styles along the way. I hope our teammates matter enough to everyone that we turn up prepared to progress rather than catch up. I hope we will trust each other enough to step outside the comfort zones we usually walk within and test new musical waters. I hope that we encourage each other much more than we criticise so that when it matters that we improve it will come from a genuine hope for improvement in ourselves rather than using others as our excuse. Next year, I hope we can all contribute to more than the music and bring our own skills, musical or otherwise, to build each other up.


### **Treasurer's Report**

Subscriptions remain stable, although a few latecomers haven't shown up on this report - we'll keep them for next year! We've had a good year for concerts and competitions, notably the Carol Service gathering £1100 for the Samaritans and also runner-up at Bangor Festival. There are a few bills still to come - music & expenses for our Director; photocopying for Carrickfergus Grammar School; outstanding payments for our Royal Avenue concert. These will appear in next year's report!

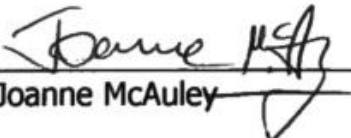
Trustee:

  
Edward Craig

Trustee:

  
Stephen Glover

Trustee:

  
Joanne McAuley

Trustee:

  
Peter Turner

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Annual return

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Ian Montgomery  
219 Orby Drive  
Belfast  
BT5 6BE

E-mail: [bertandflo@hotmail.com](mailto:bertandflo@hotmail.com)

Phone: 07736 199 171

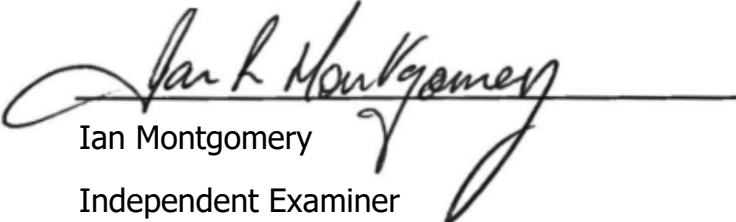
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

To the members of Grosvenor Chorale  
c/o The Treasurer  
Joanne McCauley  
153 Station Road  
Carrickmannan  
Saintfield  
BT24 7EL

Re: Financial Statement for 2023-2024

I have compared the attached Grosvenor Chorale Financial report for 2023–2024 with vouchers and bank statements presented to me and confirm that it is in agreement therewith.

Yours faithfully

  
Ian Montgomery  
Independent Examiner

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Accounts

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## Grosvenor Chorale Financial Statement 2022-2023

**Balance @ 31/05/22** **£1638.31**

### DEDUCTIONS 2022-2023

Making Music (subscription, insurance & PRS fee)	£220.59
Banking fees	£62.76
Edward Craig printing & music	£561.90
Stephen Hamill performance fees	£200.00
Darren Day performance fees	£200.00
Gifts (baby, concert etc.)	£123.00
Website fee	£108.00
St Colmille's Church (Christmas 2022)	£175.00
Concert catering	£99.22
AGM 2022 room hire	£85.00

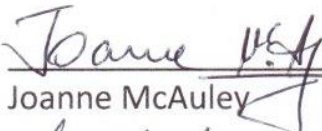
**TOTAL DEDUCTIONS** **£1835.47**

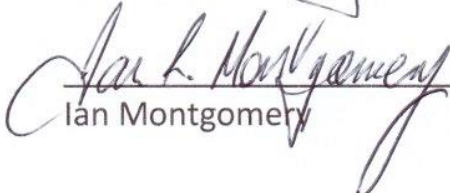
### ADDITIONS 2022-2023

Subscriptions	£2557.50
Wedding party	£150.00
Remembrance concert Waterfront Hall	£250.00
Downshire Brass Christmas concert	£250.00
Dagliesh "sing - song"	£140.00
Ed's party collection 1/4/23	£205.00

**TOTAL ADDITIONS** **£3552.50**

**Balance @ 31/05/23** **£3355.34**

Hon. Treasurer:   
Joanne McAuley

Examiner:   
Ian Montgomery

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Annual report

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# Grosvenor Chorale

## Trustees' Report 2022-2023



At our AGM, held at the home of one of our members, Sarah Gray, on 5th June 2023, our Musical Director gave the following summary of our year.

### **Chairman's 2022-2023 Report**

The "reimagining and re-engaging" focus on the 2022-23 Season was very successful in many ways. To begin our year of performances, we were able to provide some welcoming music to the evening marriage celebrations of Sarah and Phil Rogan, an event long anticipated because of all the COVID disruption. With much light music focused on to begin the year and the moving solo of A Deer's Cry performed by Alex Bell, it was an excellent way to begin our first complete and 'normal' season since the disruption.

We were able to take up the opportunity to sing on one of the major stages in the Province and in front of a large audience as part of the Festival of Remembrance in November. We enjoyed our largest congregation at the Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols along with a total charity donation of £1500 to the work of Marie Curie Hospice, Belfast. We were also able to perform again with our friends in Downshire Brass, which also gave us the opportunity to return to a more 'purple' look as our appearance in recent years had become more muted. On the whole, this looked much better. We also had the opportunity to record the title music to the Television detective series, Dalgleish, which was a fresh challenge and rewarding to hear.

Much of the re-engagement with the public has come through the sustained efforts of social media posts, particularly videos, energetically driven by Andru Kyle. The benefits of this personal style are well within the Grosvenor ethos and don't require us to simply follow the styles and methods of other similar groups.

The winter and spring of 2023 afforded us time to look at some new music or music that had been given a little attention some years previous. Time was also spent preparing Christmas music for a recording session of 6 pieces, and this event was given excellent support and enthusiasm on the day with a very focused 3-hour session; well done, and thank you to Michael Alcorn for his producer ears and efficiency. We shall see how best to progress this in light of Michael stepping down as Downshire's Director of Music. The following weekend we were able to gather informally with our families for the afternoon at our home, where the children could enjoy a bouncy castle or the scavenger hunt and there was food aplenty for everyone not to mention the Ice Cream Van which seemed to cause a few of the adults to regress 40 years to their childhood in the scramble to be first in the queue! It was one of the most special times in recent years with everyone mingling and getting to know each other and our families a little more.

With the summer concert in our sights, we prepared a rather moving programme, in a way which aimed to bring the audience with us through various texts and timbres as if enjoying a full music album – Serenity. Our guest soloist, Harry Douglas, was an excellent addition to the evening and I hope it won't be the last time we get to perform with him.

We would like to thank both Stephen Hamill and Darren Day, who have accompanied us at various events, and we hope they know how appreciated their support and efforts always are.

Thank you to our committee, to Andru, Peter, Sarah and Lucy. A very special thanks to Ros who was co-opted early on in the year after Lucy had to step down. The drive which Ros brought to the group has been excellent and I'm so grateful for all the work that she has done behind the scenes. Sarah took on the role of Secretary, and I know she responds to a lot of emails each week. Peter has kept the show on the road with attendance, helping plan availability for concerts or recordings as well as liaising with the rehearsal venue and completing all the administration for the charity commission. Andru records each rehearsal and we appreciate those who make good use of them as necessary. The work Andru has done on social media and trying to get more of you involved has already been mentioned. Thank you to them all.

If, since the COVID disruption, we have moved through seasons of 'Regrouping and Reconnecting' to 'Reengaging and Reimagining' this next season, in which we will be able to celebrate our 30th birthday in October 2023, we should focus on 'Responsibility and Reliability'. At our last AGM, we discussed much and have made many of those suggestions happen. But we also asked "What would make our rehearsals to be unmissable, that you and I would move mountains to be there each week and not ever want to take a week off from everyone? What small things can we do to build secure foundations so that we can enjoy this for years to come and continue to stand by each other? What needs to be reimagined to mean that we all feel it is worthwhile and that together we are making progress?" According to our attendance statistics, even with a little kind tweaking, we don't seem to have improved here. As much as last Friday evening was excellent in many ways, some areas of reliability and responsiveness both on the night and in the run-up to it gave evidence to us, although hopefully not our appreciative audience, that we 'just about got away with it!'

Reliability in attendance, in knowing our music (not just the notes) and in the consistency of effort where we all have equal responsibility with no one in the group assuming greater importance than anyone else. If you're part of Grosvenor, we cannot do without you.

There will be little things that you may not be strong at, but there must then be others that you do give more. Perhaps you don't like recording video clips for social media, but perhaps you could write an insightful, personal or funny blog-style post? Perhaps you are not the strongest sight-reader, but you will endeavour to spend the time listening and following so that the next week, you are confident enough to stand alone. Perhaps you just couldn't attend a rehearsal, but know it is good to let the others in your section know you will be missing and that the couple of hours spent in rehearsal are made up before the following week – but that missing a rehearsal is just not in our mindset if in any way possible. Perhaps there is a bit you just can't get, but someone else carries you through it, yet it's best to seek help early rather than wait until a rehearsal when they aren't there, and you fall flat without them.

Being responsible and reliable so that in performance we are responsive and resonant with excellence in all that we put our collective minds to. To continue the "Re" expressions just one more time, if in a rather evangelistic way, I am essentially urging Reform and Revival. To consider what we can do together next year and, if you are willing to take up that challenge for the year, by semi-quoting Ronan Keating, "living the year as if it's our last."

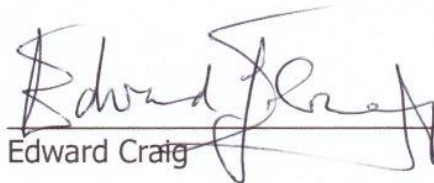
## Treasurer's Report

We have been a little bit busier than last year, with a few more concerts gathering in a few pence. Subscriptions are looking good, but around £500 of this figure are late payments from last year! The Waterfront Remembrance concert and Downshire Christmas concert brought in a few pennies, as did the Dalgliesh performance and the wedding party at the start of the year. We raised £1500.00 at the Carol Service for Marie Curie but they dealt with that collection themselves.

Outgoings remain fairly stable, although about £1500.00 is owed to CPC - I'm still waiting for the final bill.

The above reports form an accurate summary of our 2022-2023 year, and the Trustees extend thanks to our Committee, Treasurer and particularly our Musical Director for their continuing hard work, enthusiasm, and encouragement.

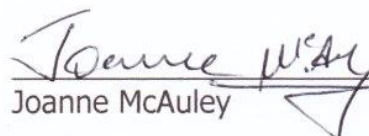
Trustee:

  
Edward Craig


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Peter Turner

**Grosvenor Chorale**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107257

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# Annual return

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Ian Montgomery  
219 Orby Drive  
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BT5 6BE

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Phone: 07736 199 171

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

To the members of Grosvenor Chorale  
c/o The Treasurer  
Joanne McCauley  
153 Station Road  
Carrickmannan  
Saintfield  
BT24 7EL

Re: Financial Statement for 2022-2023

I have compared the attached Grosvenor Chorale Financial report for 2023 - 2023 with vouchers and bank statements presented to me and confirm that it is in agreement therewith.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Montgomery". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Ian Montgomery

Independent Examiner