

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY
ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Registered Charity No: 1001958

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

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BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Reference and Administration

Benson Choral Society is a Registered Charity (number 1001958, registered on 19th February 1991).

Principal address of the Charity:

Witta's Ham Cottage
High Street
Long Wittenham
Abingdon, OX14 4QH

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Newmarket Branch

The Charity is administered by a Management Committee listed below, who are all Trustees, recruited from and elected by the Membership. There are no other Trustees. There are no employees of the Charity.

Kevin Lawson	Chairman
Charlotte Kerr	Secretary
Martin Mellor	Treasurer
Celia Barnshaw	
Sara Boorman	
Beatrice Earland	
Claire Speirs	
Philip Smyly	
Anthony Winters	

There were 119 Members as at 31st August 2023

Aims and Objectives

The objects of the Charity shall be to advance, improve develop, and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music, in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

Review of the Year's Activities

The members attended rehearsals for each of three Concerts for two hours on Tuesday evenings throughout September to June. The concerts staged were:

12th November 2022

Performance of works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart —

- Vesperae Solennes De Confessore K339
- Requiem K 626

18th March 2023

Performance of Elijah Oratorio Op 70 by Felix Mendelssohn

17th June 2023

Performance of

- Works by George Shearing:
 - Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare
 - Jazz Standards to include *Lullaby in Birdland*
 - Music to Hear – A Choral Suite for Mixed Voices, words by William Shakespeare
- Works by John Rutter:
 - Down by the Riverside
 - Birthday Madrigals – A Choral Suite for Mixed Choir with Double Bass and Piano
- Works by George Gershwin
 - Three Preludes – for Piano

The three very well-attended concerts were very successful in fulfilling our aims in terms of musical appreciation and education. In particular, the combination of well-known and less familiar Mozart works in the winter concert attracted a sell-out audience, bringing appreciation of these masterpieces to a wider group of people. Noteworthy too in this regard was our excursion into choral jazz suites in the summer concert which was widely appreciated by an audience many of which would not have encountered this uplifting repertoire previously.

Our spring concert, Mendelssohn's Elijah, was supported by a choral workshop to which we invited singers from other choral societies, thus increasing the number of people who could benefit from our excellent musical director's training.

We note that our combination of musical leadership and chosen repertoire is now attracting an increasing number of active members and larger audiences for our concerts. We are pleased that recovery from the COVID era is now essentially complete.

Financial Review

Our Accumulated Fund at 31st August amounted to £17,117, having recovered from a low of £12,396 at the end of last year largely resulting from the effects of the COVID pandemic. All funds are unrestricted. There are no fixed assets. The funds are required to satisfy our cash flow needs and to cover the risk of a loss of income, whether through a drop in membership or a poorly attended concert, and to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

A main source of funds is from the sale of tickets for our concerts. Including ancillary concert income, concerts are usually in deficit after applying direct costs in staging them. The deficits are for the most part funded by other main sources of income – Membership Fees and the related Gift Aid claimed from HMRC.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Kevin Lawson

Chairman



Martin Mellor

Treasurer

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
on the
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023
as set out on Pages 7-12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023.

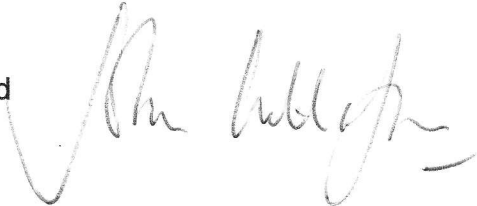
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed



John Willcox-Jones MSc FCMA

La Haye
Reading Road
Cholsey
OX10 9HG

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

2022			Note	2023	
£	£			£	£
INCOME					
	10,938	Subscriptions		15,013.50	
	798	Gift Aid		2,557.57	
	187	Donations		270.23	
11,948	<u>25</u>	Friends		<u>679.02</u>	18,520.32
188		Rehearsal Refreshments			226.27
422		Staging Hire & Scores Loan			480.00
2		Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Scores	4(a)		32.38
68		Profit on Parties	4(b)		469.78
		Profit on Workshop	4(c)		952.57
					<u>20,681.32</u>
<u>12,628</u>					
EXPENDITURE					
<u>General</u>					
	3,036	Musical Director's Fees		2,850.00	
	3,392	Accompanist's Fees		3,383.00	
		Guest Conductor		1,730.70	
8,468	<u>2,040</u>	Guest Accompanist		<u>98.00</u>	8,061.70
1,511		Hire of Rehearsal Venues			1,687.70
193		Subscriptions & Insurance			401.25
11		Printing, Stationery & Postage			18.74
387		Website & IT Expenses			386.88
		New MD Selection Costs			408.00
		Advertising			20.00
		Sundry Expenses			205.55
<u>Concerts (page 9)</u>					
	2,377	Loss on Winter Concert		1,559.75	
	4,598	Loss on Spring Concert		4,369.45	
10,862	<u>3,887</u>	(Profit)/Loss on Summer Concert		<u>(1,158.11)</u>	4,771.09
					<u>15,960.91</u>
<u>21,432</u>					
<u>(8,804)</u>		Surplus / (Deficit) for the year			<u>4,720.41</u>

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST 2023

2022			£			2023
£				£		£
ASSETS						
225		Cash in hand				-
		Balance at Bank				
	11,957	Current Account	14,587.21			
12,037	80	Subscriptions Account	-			14,587.21
		Concert Wine Stock				38.43
230		Debtors and Payments in Advance				3,026.74
12,492						17,652.38
96		Less Creditors				535.00
12,396						17,117.38
REPRESENTED BY:						
Accumulated Fund						
21,200		Balance at 1 st September 2022				12,396.97
(8,804)		Surplus / (Deficit) for the year				4,720.41
12,396						17,117.38

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

CONCERT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2023

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
2022		2023	2022		2023
£		£p	£		£p
<u>Winter Concert</u>					
	Note				
2,510	Ticket Receipts	5,264.47		Orchestra	3,376.00
	Profit on Music Hire	132.00	1,026	Conductor's Fee	780.00
16	Profit on Programmes	13.17	2,300	Soloists	1,800.00
169	Profit on Interval Drinks	432.86		Orchestral Scores	40.00
			936	Venue & Facilities Hire	720.00
			495	Instrument Hire	425.50
			30	Printing & Advertising	36.80
			180	Gifts	124.95
			105	Staging	99.00
<u>2,695</u>	Total Receipts	<u>5,842.50</u>	<u>5,072</u>	Total Payments	<u>7,402.25</u>
<u>2,377</u>	Loss on Concert	<u>1,559.75</u>			
<u>5,072</u>		<u>7,402.25</u>	<u>5,072</u>		<u>7,402.25</u>
<u>Spring Concert</u>					
2,521	Ticket Receipts	4,436.93	3,300	Orchestra	4,774.00
46	Loss on Music Hire	(6)	635	Conductor's Fee	700.00
7	Profit on Programmes	23.51	1,800	Soloists	2,000.00
219	Profit on Interval Drinks	229.92	606	Orchestral Scores	301.86
			772	Venue & Facilities Hire	909.00
			99	Staging	132.00
			30	Printing & Advertising	37.00
			149	Gifts	99.95
				Sundry Expenses	100.00
<u>2,793</u>	Total Receipts	<u>4,684.36</u>	<u>7,391</u>	Total Payments	<u>9,053.81</u>
<u>4,598</u>	Loss on Concert	<u>4,369.45</u>			
<u>7,391</u>		<u>9,053.81</u>	<u>7,391</u>		<u>9,053.81</u>
<u>Summer Concert</u>					
2,119	Ticket Receipts	3,450.72	2,717	Orchestra	-
	Profit on Score Sales/Hire	253.77	700	Conductor's Fee	700.00
21	Profit on Programmes	42.19	950	Soloists	800.00
164	Profit on Interval Drinks	289.87	582	Orchestral Scores	-
			904	Venue & Facilities Hire	1,007.50
			105	Hire of Piano	51.50
			30	Printing & Advertising	35.00
			104	Gifts	85.44
			99	Staging	99.00
				Sundry Expenses	100.00
<u>2,304</u>	Total Receipts	<u>4,036.55</u>	<u>6,191</u>	Total Payments	<u>2,878.44</u>
<u>3,887</u>	Loss on Concert			Profit on Concert	<u>1,158.11</u>
<u>6,191</u>		<u>4,036.55</u>	<u>6,191</u>		<u>4,036.55</u>

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

1. Committee Responsibilities

- (a) The Committee is required to prepare accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the results for that period.
- (b) The Committee confirms that appropriate accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made in preparation of these accounts.
- (c) The Committee also confirms that the applicable accounting bases set out in note 2(a) have been followed.
- (d) The Committee is responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity, and for taking steps to prevent and detect fraud and other regularities.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) Accounting Bases

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Charities SORP.

(b) Income

Income is accounted for in the year to which it relates.

(c) Expenditure

is accounted for on an accrual basis in the year to which relates.

(d) Restricted Funds

There were no restricted funds. all funds being unrestricted.

3. Payments to Trustees

The only payments to Trustees were to reimburse them for expenses incurred on behalf of the Charity.

4. Income and Expenditure Account

Description	Income £	Expenditure £	Profit (Loss) £
a) Profit on Sale of Scores			
Sales	442.80		
Purchases		410.42	
	<u>442.80</u>	<u>410.42</u>	<u>32.38</u>
b) Profit on Parties			
Summer Party			
Tickets	737.02		
Raffle	240.00		
Hire of Hall		95.00	
Wine		65.88	
Food		405.37	
	<u>977.02</u>	<u>566.25</u>	<u>410.77</u>
Christmas Party			
Tickets	195.00		
Wine		98.39	
Food		37.60	
	<u>195.00</u>	<u>135.99</u>	<u>59.01</u>
	<u>1,172.02</u>	<u>702.24</u>	<u>469.78</u>
c) Profit on Workshop			
Fees	1,919.81		
Hire of Hall		171.50	
Musical Director		375.00	
Accompanist		250.00	
Piano Tuning		65.00	
Food		65.74	
	<u>1,879.81</u>	<u>927.24</u>	<u>952.57</u>

5. Concerts

a) Winter Concert			
(i) Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	406.00		132.00
Hire charge		274.00	
	<u>406.00</u>	<u>274.00</u>	<u>132.00</u>
(ii) Profit on Programmes			
Sales	323.17		
Printing		310.00	
	<u>323.17</u>	<u>310.00</u>	<u>13.17</u>

Description	Income	Expenditure	Profit (Loss)
(iii) Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	568.00		
Purchaes		135.14	
	<u>568.00</u>	<u>135.14</u>	<u>432.86</u>
b) Spring Concert			
(i) Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	112.00		
Hire charge		118.00	
	<u>112.00</u>	<u>118.00</u>	<u>(6.00)</u>
(ii) Profit on Programmes			
Sales	270.19		
Printing		228.00	
	<u>270.19</u>	<u>228.00</u>	<u>42.19</u>
(iii) Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	314.58		
Purchaes		84.66	
	<u>314.58</u>	<u>84.66</u>	<u>229.92</u>
c) Summer Concert			
(i) Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	936.04		
Hire charge		682.27	
	<u>936.04</u>	<u>682.27</u>	<u>253.77</u>
(ii) Profit on Programmes			
Sales	270.19		
Printing		228.00	
	<u>270.19</u>	<u>228.00</u>	<u>42.19</u>
(iii) Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	438.70		
Purchaes		148.83	
	<u>438.70</u>	<u>148.83</u>	<u>289.87</u>