

**BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

Registered Charity No: 1001958

## **BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY**

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# **BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

### **Reference and Administration**

Benson Choral Society is a Registered Charity (number 1001958, registered on 19<sup>th</sup> 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	
Gillian Nahum (Co-opted)	
Claire Speirs	
Philip Smyly	
Anthony Winters	

There were 120 Members as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### **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:

#### 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Performance of Mass in B Minor by J S Bach

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Performances of:

Pietà by Richard Blackford  
Requiem by Gabriel Fauré

15<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Performance of The Creation by Joseph Haydn

The three concerts in this year were very successful in fulfilling our aims in terms of musical appreciation and education. A generous donation enabled us to perform Bach's Mass in B Minor with a professional orchestra at the original baroque pitch using first class soloists. The packed audience fully appreciated the very high quality performance which ensued. This, together with the open choral workshop we held a few weeks before the performance, enabled us to recruit some new, younger members. The choir's reputation was now such that we also succeeded in attracting a new musical director of the very highest standard, head of music at one of the country's most successful summer opera festivals.

Our spring concert mixed the very popular (Fauré's Requiem) with a recent work by local composer Richard Blackford, Pietà. This imaginative programming attracted an audience who would otherwise not have encountered Blackford's uplifting work which has been only rarely performed. The excellently prepared choir, under the direction of our new music director gave a committed performance which moved many members of the audience and resulted in a rave review in the press. We also held an open workshop for the Fauré which attracted several members of other choral societies and was particularly successful in increasing attendees' understanding and appreciation of this very popular work

Our summer concert, Haydn's Creation was a joyous occasion for choir and audience – an experience in which we were all reminded of the power of classical music to positively affect the lives of performers and audience alike.

## **Financial Review**

Our Accumulated Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> August amounted to £17,034, after incurring a deficit of £83 for the year. 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. However, in September 2023 a sponsor donated £5,000 with instructions that it should be applied to the Winter Concert. 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Lawson". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Kevin Lawson

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Mellor". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Martin Mellor

Treasurer

**BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
on the  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**  
as set out on Pages 7-12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024.

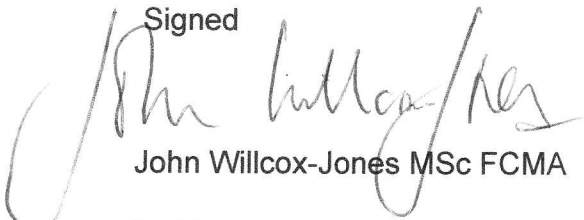
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 2024

2023			2024	
£	£		£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
		Interest Receivable	216.43	-
	15,017	Subscriptions	15,395.00	
	2,558	Gift Aid	3,387.81	
	270	Donations	710.81	
18,524	<u>679</u>	Friends	<u>970.00</u>	20,680.05
226		Profit on Rehearsal Refreshments		261.00
480		Staging Hire & Scores Loan		512.41
32		Profit on Sale of Scores		-
470		Profit on Parties	<i>Note 4(a)</i>	307.77
953		Profit on Workshops	<i>Note 4(b)</i>	935.25
				<u><u>22,696.48</u></u>
<u><u>20,685</u></u>				
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b><u>General</u></b>				
	2,850	Musical Director's Fees	3,300.00	
	3,383	Accompanist's Fees	3,400.00	
	1,731	Guest Conductor	2,490.00	
8,062	<u>98</u>	Guest Accompanist	<u>253.60</u>	9,443.60
1,688		Hire of Rehearsal Venues		1,883.50
401		Subscriptions & Insurance		618.72
19		Printing, Stationery & Postage		19.20
387		Website & IT Expenses		791.28
408		New MD Selection Costs		-
20		Advertising		-
		Staging		525.55
205		Sundry Expenses		232.70
<b><u>Concerts</u></b>				
	854	Loss on Winter Concert	2,574.79	
	4,979	Loss on Spring Concert	3,649.11	
4,675	<u>(1,158)</u>	(Profit)/Loss on Summer Concert	<u>3,041.14</u>	9,265.04
<u><u>15,865</u></u>				<u><u>22,779.59</u></u>
<u><u>4,820</u></u>		Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		<u><u>(83.11)</u></u>

# BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024

2023		2024
£		£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
	Balance at Bank	
	Deposit Account	10,216.43
14,587	Current Account	5,387.97
14,587	Subscriptions Account	-
		15,604.40
	Cash in Hand	16.00
38	Concert Wine Stock	-
3,027	Debtors and Payments in Advance	1,421.73
17,652		17,042.13
535	Less Creditors	7.86
17,117		17,034.27
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>		
12,397	Balance at 1 September 2023	17,117.38
4,720	Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(83.11)
17,117		17,034.27

## BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

### CONCERT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
2023		2024	2023		2024
£		£p	£		£p
<b>Winter Concert (see Note 5(a))</b>					
	Sponsor (Restricted Fund)	5,000.00	3,376	Orchestra	8,762.38
5,970	Ticket Receipts	6,049.94	780	Conductor's Fee	700.00
132	Profit on Score Hire	3.79	1,800	Soloists	2,500.00
13	Loss on Programmes	(30.07)	40	Orchestral Scores	-
433	Profit on Interval Drinks	490.43	720	Venue & Facilities Hire	1,136.00
			425	Instrument Hire	750.00
			37	Printing & Advertising	37.00
			125	Gifts	104.50
			99	Staging	99.00
6,548	Total Receipts	11,514.09	7,402	Total Payments	14,088.88
854	Loss on Concert	2,574.79			
7,402		14,088.88	7,402		14,088.88
<b>Spring Concert (see Note 5(b))</b>					
			4,774	Orchestra	4,060.00
3,731	Ticket Receipts	4,395.36	700	Conductor's Fee	700.00
(10)	Profit on Score Sales/Hire	181.08	2,000	Soloists	1,975.00
24	Profit on Programmes	32.50	302	Orchestral Scores	353.50
230	Profit on Interval Drinks	286.32	909	Venue & Facilities Hire	939.00
				Organ Hire	51.50
			132	Staging	99.00
			37	Printing & Advertising	117.00
			100	Gifts	117.20
				Sundry Expenses	132.17
3,975	Total Receipts	4,895.26	8,954	Total Payments	8,544.37
4,979	Loss on Concert	3,649.11			
8,954		8,544.37	8,954		8,544.37
<b>Summer Concert (see Note 5(c))</b>					
3,451	Ticket Receipts	3,969.76		Orchestra	3,409.00
254	Profit on Score Hire	41.30	700	Conductor's Fee	772.00
42	Profit on Programmes	73.36	800	Soloists	1,500.00
290	Profit on Interval Drinks	273.23		Orchestral Scores	335.37
			1,008	Venue & Facilities Hire	1,051.50
			52	Hire of Piano	-
			35	Printing & Advertising	117.00
			85	Gifts	105.92
			99	Staging	108.00
			100	Sundry Expenses	-
4,037	Total Receipts	4,357.65	2,879	Total Payments	7,398.79
	Loss on Concert	3,041.14	1,158	Profit on Concert	
4,037		7,398.79	4,037		7,398.79

# **BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY**

## **NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

### **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) £
<b>a) Profit on Parties</b>			<u><u>307.77</u></u>
Summer Party			
Tickets	468.52		
Raffle	201.00		
Hire of Hall		126.00	
Food and Wine		206.49	
	<u>669.52</u>	<u>332.49</u>	<u>337.03</u>
Christmas Party			
Wine		29.26	
	<u>-</u>	<u>29.26</u>	<u>(29.26)</u>
<b>b) Profit on Workshops</b>			<u><u>935.25</u></u>
4th November 2024			
Fees	1,537.35		
Hire of Hall		165.00	
Musical Director		412.50	
Accompanist		275.00	
	<u>1,537.35</u>	<u>852.50</u>	<u>684.85</u>
9th March 2025			
Fees	1,335.40		
Hire of Hall		165.00	
Musical Director		450.00	
Accompanist		300.00	
Soloist		170.00	
	<u>1,335.40</u>	<u>1,085.00</u>	<u>250.40</u>

#### 5 Concerts

<b>a) Winter Concert</b>			
Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	139.79		
Hire charge		136.00	
	<u>139.79</u>	<u>136.00</u>	<u>3.79</u>
Profit on Programmes			
Sales	389.93		
Printing		420.00	
	<u>389.93</u>	<u>420.00</u>	<u>(30.07)</u>

Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	662.10		
Purchaes		171.67	
	<u>662.10</u>	<u>171.67</u>	<u>490.43</u>

**b) Spring Concert**

Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	1,301.50		
Hire charge		1,120.42	
	<u>1,301.50</u>	<u>1,120.42</u>	<u>181.08</u>

Profit on Programmes			
Sales	282.50		
Printing		250.00	
	<u>282.50</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>32.50</u>

Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	389.88		
Purchaes		103.56	
	<u>389.88</u>	<u>103.56</u>	<u>286.32</u>

**c) Summer Concert**

Profit on Music Hire			
Sales	137.30		
Hire charge		96.00	
	<u>137.30</u>	<u>96.00</u>	<u>41.30</u>

Profit on Programmes			
Sales	248.36		
Printing		175.00	
	<u>248.36</u>	<u>175.00</u>	<u>73.36</u>

Profit on Interval Drinks			
Sales	379.07		
Purchaes		105.84	
	<u>379.07</u>	<u>105.84</u>	<u>273.23</u>