



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2023 Period start date
To 31 August 2024 Period end date

Charity name: City of Bristol Choir

Charity registration number: 1015961

Objectives and Activities

<p>Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>	<p>“To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other means as the Choir, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.”</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>	<p>City of Bristol Choir 2023–2024</p> <p>14 October 2023 – Fauré and Rheinberger, All Saints' Church, Clifton, 7:30pm A programme featuring Gabriel Fauré's <i>Requiem</i> and Joseph Rheinberger's <i>Cantus Missae</i>, showcasing the choir's rich harmonic blend in sacred choral works.</p> <p>16 December 2023 – Christmas Spectacular, St George's Bristol, 7:30pm A festive concert with City of Bristol Choir and Bristol Ensemble, conducted by David Ogden, bringing Christmas cheer with a selection of seasonal music.</p> <p>19 December 2023 – Festive Fiesta, St George's Bristol, 7:30pm An interactive evening featuring audience carol singing, festive orchestral pieces, and choral favourites, accompanied by Bristol Ensemble and led by David Ogden and Roger Huckle.</p> <p>28 January 2024 – Odyssey by Jonathan Dove, Bristol Beacon, 5:00pm The world premiere of <i>Odyssey</i>, a powerful new music-drama for singers and orchestra composed by Jonathan Dove, performed by City of Bristol Choir.</p> <p>22 March 2024 – That Friday Feeling, All Saints' Church, Clifton, 7:45pm A concert featuring Amy Summers' <i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i> (world premiere), alongside works by Sidney</p>

	<p>Campbell, Morten Lauridsen, and others, offering an invigorating choral experience.</p> <p>16 June 2024 – Holst: The Planets, Bristol Beacon, 7:00pm A collaborative performance with Exultate Singers and Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra, presenting Holst's <i>The Planets</i>, Finzi's <i>Imitations of Immortality</i>, and Zimmer's <i>Aurora</i>.</p> <p>13 July 2024 – Summer Choral Spectacular, Bristol Beacon, 7:30pm A joint concert with the Chorus of Westerly from Rhode Island, USA, and Bath Philharmonia, conducted by Andrew Howell and David Ogden, celebrating choral music's transatlantic connections.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Yes

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making	There is no policy but decisions are taken on a case by case basis by the Trustees and the committee for the commission of new musical works and to award Bursary Scholarships for young singers.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Volunteer stewards, committee members, librarian and front of house team are thanked publicly and thanks are published in the concert programmes.
Other	N/A

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

City of Bristol Choir 2023–2024: Main Achievements & Charitable Impact

14 October 2023 – *Fauré and Rheinberger*

All Saints' Church, Clifton, 7:30pm

This concert presented two masterworks of sacred choral repertoire: Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and Joseph Rheinberger's *Cantus Missae*. The performance offered the public an opportunity to experience the spiritual depth and harmonic richness of these contrasting works — one intimate and ethereal, the other majestic and polyphonic. The choir engaged new and returning audiences in the appreciation of classical sacred music while offering singers and listeners alike an educational exploration of 19th-century European liturgical traditions.

16 December 2023 – *Christmas Spectacular*

St George's Bristol, 7:30pm

In collaboration with the Bristol Ensemble, this festive programme celebrated seasonal music from across the centuries. The performance combined well-known carols with lesser-heard works, creating an engaging and uplifting experience for a wide audience. By presenting a professionally directed concert in a prestigious venue, the choir encouraged appreciation for choral and orchestral music traditions while making them accessible to a broad public, including families and first-time concertgoers.

19 December 2023 – *Festive Fiesta*

St George's Bristol, 7:30pm

This interactive concert encouraged audience participation through communal carol singing, bringing music education into the realm of direct experience. Featuring the Bristol Ensemble and led by David Ogden and Roger Huckle, the programme included orchestral highlights and choral classics. The event helped demystify classical concert-going and fostered a joyful, inclusive environment, furthering the choir's mission to develop musical appreciation across diverse community groups.

28 January 2024 – *Odyssey* by Jonathan Dove (World Premiere)

Bristol Beacon, 5:00pm

A landmark event for the choir, this concert featured the world premiere of *Odyssey*, a new dramatic cantata by leading British composer Jonathan Dove. Commissioned to mark the reopening of Bristol Beacon, the performance placed City of Bristol Choir at the heart of the city's cultural renewal. The choir's participation in the premiere of a major contemporary work expanded public awareness of modern choral composition and offered singers a unique opportunity to work directly with living music creators, fulfilling the choir's educational remit

	<p>through innovation and collaboration.</p> <p>22 March 2024 – <i>That Friday Feeling</i> <i>All Saints' Church, Clifton, 7:45pm</i> This concert featured a rich and varied programme designed to challenge and inspire both choir members and the audience. A highlight was the world premiere of <i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i> by emerging composer Amy Summers, providing a platform for new British talent. Works by Campbell, Lauridsen, Howells, and others introduced listeners to a broad spectrum of sacred and secular choral music. The educational value was enhanced through thoughtful programming that balanced traditional favourites with contemporary voices, reinforcing the choir's role as a cultural educator.</p> <p>16 June 2024 – <i>Holst: The Planets</i> <i>Bristol Beacon, 7:00pm</i> In partnership with Exultate Singers and the Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra, this large-scale concert showcased Holst's iconic <i>The Planets</i> suite, alongside Finzi's <i>Imitations of Immortality</i> and Hans Zimmer's <i>Aurora</i>. The performance combined visual, instrumental, and choral elements to provide a multidimensional artistic experience. Through collaboration with other ensembles and the inclusion of both classical and cinematic repertoire, the choir reached new audiences and encouraged cross-genre musical appreciation, supporting its aim to broaden public engagement with the musical arts.</p> <p>13 July 2024 – <i>Summer Choral Spectacular</i> <i>Bristol Beacon, 7:30pm</i> A unique collaboration with the Chorus of Westerly from Rhode Island, USA, and Bath Philharmonia, this concert celebrated international friendship through music. Featuring works from both sides of the Atlantic, the event highlighted the universal language of choral singing. The cultural exchange deepened musical understanding for participants and audiences alike, demonstrating the choir's commitment to developing appreciation of music in its many forms and fostering global connections through performance.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>City of Bristol Choir enjoyed another remarkably successful year - the choir continued to draw large audiences for its performances. More and more people across Bristol and beyond are being exposed to fantastic choral performances and a huge range of new and classical pieces.</p> <p>The choir continues to collaborate with many ensembles and individuals across the city, strengthening relationships and partnerships across the wider music scene. The</p>
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	performances were held in a variety of venues across the city and exceptions and discounts were always granted to those eligible to make sure access was not limited to those with monetary means.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	N/A
Other	N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The 2023/24 season has given a necessary boost to choir funds. Collaborations with other choirs, orchestras and the Bristol Beacon lowered the element of risk and loss associated with putting on concerts this year. It was an unusual programme year, with two concerts entirely put on by other organisations and therefore with no financial risk for the choir. This will enable us to continue with the Choir's objectives in future years and think about increasing reserves which currently would not cover one failed concert.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	City of Bristol Choir maintains a reserve of at least £5000 to support the Choir's on-going activities and to provide a contingency fund in case of poor ticket sales or unexpected costs. The accompanying Accounts quantify three designated funds (the CBC Bursary Fund, the Commissions Fund and the CBC Tour Fund) and explain their purposes.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Minimum of £5000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Subscriptions from members Concert income Grants and awards for specific projects or concerts
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks to the Choir are first; ensuring that audiences continue to attend concerts given the growing competition for musical performances in and around Bristol and secondly, that membership remains at an optimum level to deliver the aims and objectives of the choir and to generate subscription income. The Trustees continue to review this and the choir's position remains satisfactory. We are also aware of the potential financial risk posed to the choir in the form of the cost of living crisis; ensuring that audiences continue to attend concerts given the growing competition for musical performances in and around Bristol and the increased cost of living impacting disposable income.
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Written constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	City of Bristol Choir is an unincorporated association regulated by its constitution, adopted at a specially convened Extraordinary General Meeting of the Choir on 26 th November 1992 and amended at specially convened EGMs of the Choir on 9 th September 2001, 29 th June 2003 and at the AGM on 19 th June 2014.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25ln	In accordance with the amended Constitution adopted at the AGM on 19 th June 2014, the Trustees are drawn from the members of the Choir and elected by a simple majority of members at the Charity's Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. They hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>New Trustees are mentored and they meet with outgoing or current Trustees depending what, if any role, they will play on the committee.</p> <p>All Trustees are advised of the expectations and duties of Trustees and their attention is specifically drawn to www.Gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	City of Bristol Choir
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1015961
Charity's principal address	<p>City of Bristol Choir 9 Sandstone Rise, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1BB</p>

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

	Type of adviser	Name	Address
	N/A		
	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		
	N/A		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) _____ *julia loveless* _____

Full name(s) _____ JULIA LOVELESS _____

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair etc) _____ CHAIR (as of 1st February 2024) _____

Date _____ 22nd April 2025 _____

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR							
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024							
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES							
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
		2024					2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	Notes	Other Funds	CBC Bursary Fund	CBC Tour Fund	Commissions Fund	Total	
Subscriptions		25,864				25,864	20,053
Gift Aid		5,613			0	5,613	5,224
Donations and grants		100			0	100	251
Concert Income	2	28,878				28,878	16,075
Performance Fees		4,467				4,467	6,466
Sponsorship and fundraising		690				690	2,404
Sale of goods	3	1,341				1,341	2,400
Deposits				2,350		2,350	
Interest received		94				94	50
		67,047	0	2,350	0	69,397	52,923
EXPENDITURE							
Rehearsal Costs		15,155				15,155	15,190
Concert expenditure	2	24,942				24,942	26,340
Performance Costs		2,579				2,579	1,927
Cost of goods sold	3	339				339	2,210
Grants and commissions			0		750	750	250
Subscriptions paid		53				53	53
Insurance		450				450	201
Amortisation		964				964	914
Professional costs		0					2,705
Stock write off		0					861
Other costs		641				641	
Tour costs				0		0	1,654
		45,123	0	0	750	45,873	52,305
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		21,924	0	2,350	(750)	23,524	618
FUNDS AT 1 SEPTEMBER		25,512	377	97	4,177	30,163	29,545
FUNDS AT 31 AUGUST		47,436	377	2,447	3,427	53,687	30,163

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR							
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024							
BALANCE SHEET							
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
2024							2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
		Other Funds	CBC Bursary Fund	CBC Tour Fund	Commissions Fund	Total	
FIXED ASSETS	4	10,321				10,321	10,521
CURRENT ASSETS							
Music Library	1,5	1,686				1,686	1,917
Stock		0				0	0
Gift Aid receivable		10,687				10,687	5,074
Debtors and prepayments		1,311				1,311	527
Cash at bank and in hand		30,923	377	2,447	3,427	37,174	14,831
COIF Deposit Account		1,000				1,000	1,000
		45,607	377	2,447	3,427	51,858	23,349
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Creditors and Accruals		8,492				8,492	3,707
		8,492				8,492	3,707
NET CURRENT ASSETS		37,115	377	2,447	3,427	43,366	19,642
NET ASSETS		47,436	377	2,447	3,427	53,687	30,163
RESERVES							
General Funds		47,436				47,436	25,512
CBC Tour Fund	6			2,447		2,447	98
CBC Bursary Fund	6		377			377	377
CBC Commissions Fund	6				3,427	3,427	4,176
		47,436	377	2,447	3,427	53,687	30,163
Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf							
J Loveless	S Pascall						
Chairman	Treasurer						

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR						
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024						
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS						
2. Concert income and expenditure						
			That			
	Fauré	Friday		2024	2023	
	Rheinberger	Feeling	Finzi	Total	Total	
Income	£	£	£	£	£	
Ticket Sales	4,033	2,755	20,529	27,317	15,075	
Grants Received	0	0	1,050	1,050	1,000	
Programme Sales	0	0	511	511		
Refreshment Sales	0	0	0	0		
Total Income	4,033	2,755	22,090	28,878	16,075	
Expenditure						
Musicians and soloists	200	150	2,312	2,662	11,027	
Venue costs	300	300	7,400	8,000	5,106	
Music Hire	0	374	395	769	3,014	
Programme Costs	120	132	575	827	450	
Refreshment Costs	286	272	0	558	236	
Publicity and postage	1,224	1,027	1,061	3,312	3,493	
Commission on ticket sales	93	89	7	189	1,285	
Profit Share			7,759	7,759		
Other costs	324	378	164	866	1,729	
	2,547	2,722	19,673	24,942	26,340	
Surplus/(deficit)	1,486	33	2,417	3,936	(10,265)	
3. Sale of goods						
	Music	CD		2024	2023	
	Sales	Sales		Total	Total	
Income	£	£		£	£	
	1,341	0		1,341	2,400	
Expenditure	339	0		339	2,210	
Surplus/Deficit	1,002	0		1,002	190	

CITY OF BRISTOL CHOIR					
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024					
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS					
4. Fixed Assets				2024	2,023
	Cost	Depreciation		Net Book Value	
	£	£		£	£
Brought forward	11,712	(1,191)		10,521	10,709
Additions during the year	343			343	246
Depreciation charge		(543)		(543)	(434)
Carried forward	12,055	(1,734)		10,321	10,521
5. Music Library				2024	2023
				£	£
Net book value b/fwd				1,918	1,386
Additions during the year				189	1,012
Amortization				(421)	(480)
Net book value c/fwd				1,686	1,918
6. Designated funds					
The CBC Bursary Fund is a designated fund established to provide funds to advance the musical education of young singers, who are required to join the choir during the period for which they are in receipt of bursary funding.					
The CBC Tour Fund is a designated fund established to meet the incidental costs associated with overseas and domestic concert tours which the choir may undertake periodically.					
7. Trustee's remuneration and expenses					
No trustees were in receipt of remuneration during the year.					
8. Related party transactions					
There were no related party transactions during the year.					



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name City of Bristol Choir		
On accounts for the year ended	31 August 2024	Charity no (if any)	1015961
	Set out on pages 1-5 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: Richard Bacon Date: 27 June 2025

Name: Richard Francis Bacon

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address: 17 Westfield Road
BRISTOL
BS9 3HG