



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 August 2023

To 31 July 2024

Charity name: Oxford Harmonic Choir

Charity registration number: 1023028

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Choir shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and by such other ways as the Choir through its Committee shall determine from time to time.
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.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Three public concerts were held during the financial year.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	

Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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.	Para 1.20	Three public concerts were held during the financial year. These gave the opportunity for the public to listen to and enjoy first-class music making. The concerts performed included Handel's Solomon, Elgar's Music Makers and Haydn's Nelson Mass.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>During the 2023-24 season the OHC made a surplus of £3,445. Expenditure was £51,975, against a total Income of £55,420. Donations of £5,137 are included in the income figure. The planned budget figures assumed a return to normal activities and, as previously noted, both choir numbers (and therefore subscriptions) and audience numbers remained depressed.</p> <p>The stated value of the Endowment Fund increased by £2,323 to £35,021.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>The reserves policy was reviewed at the beginning of the season to ensure no new financial risks had come to light since the previous issue of the policy was published. No new issues were raised and the reserves policy therefore continued unchanged, viz:</p> <p><i>To ensure that, in the event of unpredicted falls in revenue or increases in costs, the charity can both maintain current commitments and plan for the short- and medium-term future, the Trustees aim to maintain an emergency reserve of no less than £20,000. This includes the capital in the charity's endowment fund which was set up explicitly for emergency use.</i></p> <p><i>If reserve holdings (excluding any designated funds) at the end of every financial year exceed this sum, the surplus is deemed to be a discretionary reserve for investment in specific projects which cannot be funded within expected annual income. A maximum of £10,000 will be retained in discretionary reserves.</i></p> <p>At the end of 2023-24 we were broadly in line with this policy, having total reserves across the Endowment and General Funds (taking a conservative view and excluding debtors) of £60,509. This means that we have the emergency reserve of £30,000 and a balance of £30,509. However, as this includes shares, the market value of which can fluctuate, especially in current uncertain times, the total value of the balance has to be treated with caution. In view of the continuing uncertainty we face as a result of the aftermath of the pandemic and</p>

		other inflationary cost pressures such as rehearsal hall hire and concert charges increasing, it would be imprudent to expend significant reserves. However, the committee is actively pursuing options to reduce the reserves. The 'maximum' of £10,000 in discretionary reserves is being exceeded at present and we consider it prudent to do so.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£68,168
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

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	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution dated 28 November 2017 and amended on 31 December 2020
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
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 1.25	All trustees are elected by the members of the Choir at the Annual General Meeting

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	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Oxford Harmonic Choir
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1023028
Charity's principal address	22 Swinbourne Road Littlemore OXFORD OX4 4PQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Amanda Townsend	Chairperson		
2	Rainer Buhler	Secretary		
3	David Morris	Treasurer		
4	Margarita Morris			
5	Caroline Butler			
6	Diana Pick			
7	Adam Martin			
8	Pihillip Butcher			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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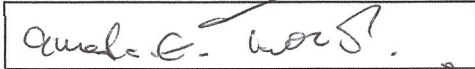
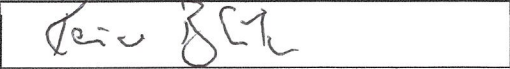
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	AMANDA ELIZABETH TOWNSEND TOWNSEND	RAINER HUGO BÜHLER
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	SECRETARY
Date	8/4/25,	

OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR

Accounts
for the year ended
31 July 2024

Registered Charity No. 1023028

OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Year ended 31 July 2024			Year ended 31/7/2023	
	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total £	Total £
INCOME					
General:					
Members' subscriptions (note 2)	23,369	-	-	23,369	21,901
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid	4,528	-	-	4,528	4,164
Donations	5,137	-	-	5,137	4,102
Fund raising events	210	-	1,099	1,309	1,229
Endowment funds awaiting transfer	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus on sale/hire of scores	31	-	-	31	(445)
Bank deposit interest	545	-	-	545	271
Dividends	879	-	-	879	873
	34,699	-	1,099	35,798	32,096
Concerts (note 3):					
Ticket sales	15,252	-	-	15,252	15,510
Programme sales	837	-	-	837	772
Programme advertisement sales	210	-	-	210	190
Sponsorship	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Grant from the Josephine Baker Trust	-	-	-	-	-
	17,299	-	-	17,299	16,472
TOTAL INCOME	51,998	-	1,099	53,097	48,567

SUMMARY

	General	Funds		Total	Year ended 31 July 2023
		Restricted	Endowment		
FUNDS brought forward at 31 July 2023	33,124	-	31,599	64,723	60,280
	33,124	-	31,599	64,723	60,280
Less:					
Income for the year, as above	51,998	-	1,099	53,097	48,567
Expenditure for the year	(51,975)	-	-	(51,975)	(43,526)
Funds transfer	-	-	-	-	-
Gain/loss on revaluation of quoted investments	-	-	2,323	2,323	(598)
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	23	-	3,422	3,445	4,443
FUNDS carried forward at 31 July 2024 (page 4)	33,147	-	35,021	£68,168	£64,723

OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

	Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31/7/2023	
	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
Concert expenditure (note 3):				
conductor's and soloists fees	8,036	-	8,036	7,687
orchestra fees	16,604	-	16,604	13,442
Performing Rights Society fees	-	-	-	191
hire of hall and staging, etc.	7,000	-	7,000	5,280
Venue bar costs	540	-	540	-
hire of organ or keyboard	602	-	602	764
concert lighting	2,291	-	2,291	2,194
orchestral scores	824	-	824	49
printing and advertising	2,708	-	2,708	2,259
agent's commission on ticket sales	993	-	993	1,087
sundries	177	-	177	184
	<u>39,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,775</u>	<u>33,137</u>
Other expenditure:				
Rehearsal expenses				
conductor's fees	4,495	-	4,495	3,674
accompanist's fees	2,479	-	2,479	2,146
choral training	280	-	280	-
hire of rehearsal hall	3,922	-	3,922	2,510
	<u>11,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,175</u>	<u>8,331</u>
Administration expenses:				
Making Music insurance	654	-	654	508
Advertising & other expenses	113	-	113	429
Independent examiner's fee	-	-	-	900
Sundries	259	-	259	221
	<u>1,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,025</u>	<u>2,059</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>51,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,975</u>	<u>43,526</u>

OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 July 2024

	31 July 2024 £	31/7/2023 £
Quoted Investments, at market value:		
COIF Charities Investment Fund shares		
Endowment Fund	32,684	30,361
Debtors and prepayments (note 6)	7,659	5,332
Balances at:		
Barclays Bank Community account:		
General Fund	7,590	9,781
COIF Charities Deposit Fund accounts:		
General Fund	7,789	6,491
Endowment Fund	1,238	1,238
United Trust Bank Ltd	11,643	11,521
	<u>68,602</u>	<u>64,723</u>
Cash in hand	7	-
Deduct:		
Creditors and Liabilities (note 7)	(441)	-
Accounts payable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>£68,168</u></u>	<u><u>£64,723</u></u>
Representing:		
FUNDS (page 2)		
Unrestricted:		
General	33,147	33,124
Restricted		
Town Hall bar fund	-	-
	<u>33,147</u>	<u>33,124</u>
Endowment (note 4)	35,021	31,599
	<u><u>£68,168</u></u>	<u><u>£64,723</u></u>

Approved by the Oxford Harmonic Choir at its Annual General Meeting on
and signed on its behalf by

26 November 2024

Chair

Secretary

Amanda E. White *Paul Bell*

OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value other than quoted investments which are shown at market value.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

2) Fund Accounting

The charity has set up an endowment fund to accept donations and legacies for longer-term investment. The income of the fund can be used for general purposes but the capital can only be drawn down by specific decision of the Executive Committee.

Otherwise the charity maintains a single fund which represents unrestricted income and capital which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

2 MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

The choir is now performing a normal season.

Although still lower than pre-pandemic, Member numbers have recovered to some extent.

3 LOSSES ON CONCERTS

The choir undertook a full season of three concerts in the financial period. Income during the period was similar that of the prior year, and was boosted by a sponsorship award from the Elgar Society. Audience numbers were still disappointing, however, due to a general reduction in concert-going post-pandemic. Total losses on the concerts were £5811 higher than the prior year due in the main to increased orchestra, hall, and orchestra scores costs.

		Handel Solomon	Elgar Music Makers etc.	Haydn Nelson Mass etc.	Total
		£	£	£	
Receipts:	sales of tickets	5,907	5,409	3,936	15,252
	sales of programmes	319	311	208	837
	programme advertisements	70	70	70	210
	sponsorship	-	1,000	-	1,000
		6,296	6,790	4,214	17,299
Expenses:	conductor's and soloists fees	3,262	2,012	2,762	8,036
	orchestra fees	4,304	7,315	4,985	16,604
	hire of hall and staging costs	1,640	2,680	2,680	7,000
	venue bar costs	180	180	180	540
	hire of keyboard	470	132	-	602
	hire of lighting	731	780	780	2,291
	Performing Rights Society fees	-	-	-	0
	orchestral scores	227	381	216	824
	printing and advertising	787	1,004	917	2,708
	agent's commission on ticket sales	400	354	239	993
	sundries	49	67	61	177
		12,050	14,905	12,820	39,775
Total losses on the concerts		5,754	8,115	8,606	22,476

4 ENDOWMENT FUND

To compensate for the loss of grants from Oxford City Council and Arts Council England, the trustees decided in 2006 to set up an Endowment Fund to attract donations and legacies for longer-term investment. The income of the fund is paid into the General Fund to support the Society's activities, but the capital can only be used in emergency by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee, notice of such resolution being given at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

5 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FEE

The current Examiner has generously not charged a fee for his work.

6 DEBTORS


These comprise:

	£
Deposits paid for concert hall hire in future years	6,837
Dividend due for current year but paid after year end	220
Orchestral scores for St Paul, paid in advance	478
Refund on returned Haydn copies, paid after year end	94
Sundry	30
Total	7,659

7 CREDITORS

These entirely comprise monies received in advance from members for copies of St Paul



Report to the trustees	Oxford Harmonic Choir		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st July 2024	Charity no (if any)	1023028
Set out on pages	Header page, and 5 pages of the accounts and notes, as attached		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st July 2024.</p> <p>As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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. <p>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.</p>		
Signed:		Date:	6/11/2024
Name:	Blair J G Eldridge		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:	ACMA		
Address:	23 Hid's Copse Road, Oxford OX2 9JJ		