

Charity registration number: 1043617

Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

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*Not part of the formal financial statements – this is enclosed for members' information only

Exeter Philharmonic Choir Annual Report 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number	1043617
Principal Office	5 Little Johns Cross Hill Exeter EX2 9PJ
Trustees	Mrs Janet Ainley Mrs Hazel Channon (<i>resigned 24 May 2024</i>) Mr Roland Chant (co-Chair) Mr Andrew Henderson (<i>co-opted 25 September 2023</i>) Mrs Victoria Henderson (Secretary) Mrs Charlotte Hodgson (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>) Ms Adrienne Long (co-Chair) Mr Geoff Poad (Treasurer) Mr Shaun Sellings (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>) Mr Martin Stubbings Mrs Ann Weiler (<i>co-opted 5 June 2024</i>)
Bankers	The Cooperative Bank plc PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner	Rowan House Accountants 5 Earl Richards Road North Exeter EX2 6AQ
Choir Website	www.exeterphilharmonic.org.uk

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Exeter Philharmonic Choir ('the Choir') for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Our Objectives and Activities

The object of the Choir is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects.

Mindful of the guidance of the Charity Commission on providing public benefit, the Choir performs concerts which are open to the public and which offer a range of ticket prices including discounts for specific groups.

Our annual Choral Workshop enables members of the public to sing with choir members in a full day workshop on a major choral work with the Choir's Musical Director.

The Choir values diversity and membership is open to all, but as with many similar organisations, this is subject to a vocal assessment to ensure that an applicant's vocal ability meets the standard set by the Musical Director.

The Choir also supports local charities through retiring collections at our Carol Concerts and Lord Mayor's Concert in March. (Further details of the charities supported and amounts raised will be found under the Financial Review on page 6).

Our Governance and Administration

Founded in 1846, the Choir is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1043617) and is governed by the Making Music Model Constitution (developed with the Charity Commission and updated in October 2021). The Choir adopted this Constitution on 25 September 2023.

Under the terms of the Making Music Model Constitution (October 2021), the Choir is managed by a committee whose members also constitute the trustees. The committee comprises trustees elected from and by the members (Elected Trustees) and trustees co-opted by existing trustees (Co-opted Trustees). The committee must include 3 Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and a minimum of 3 other trustees.

The Choir at a general meeting elects the trustees for a 3-year fixed term of office. All trustees are eligible for re-election for a fixed number of 3-year terms as determined by the Choir in its rules and regulations.

During the year the committee has met monthly with meetings of its two sub-committees (Programme and Publicity) held as required.

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance to charitable bodies on the policies which should form part of their organisational management, the committee has commenced a review of all the Choir's existing policies and put in place some additional recommended policies. All policies will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and are available on the Choir's public website.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Our 2023/2024 Season

As always, the 2023/24 season has been a busy and productive time for the Choir.

04 November 2023: Music of the Baroque in Exeter Cathedral

We began the year with an evening of Baroque music: Handel *Zadok the Priest*; Marcello *Oboe Concerto in D minor*; Vivaldi *Gloria*; and Handel *Dixit Dominus*. The Choir was joined by Isca Ensemble, an orchestra of experienced amateur and some former professional players drawn from the South-West of England; Fergus McCready (oboe soloist); sopranos Lucy Cronin and Ellie Sperling; mezzo-soprano Martha McLorinan; and Stephen Tanner (continuo).

12 and 13 December 2023: Carol Concerts in Exeter Cathedral

Our Carol Concerts featured a selection of well-known festive choral works interspersed with traditional carols for all to sing, in the wonderful setting of Exeter Cathedral. The Choir was joined by Julian Poore (trumpet), whose energetic rendition of an arrangement of *God rest you merry, gentlemen* left everyone breathless. Julian also featured in Stephen Tanner's wonderful new composition for the Choir, *Nova! Nova!* The programme was introduced by Elizabeth-Jane Baldry.

27 January 2024: Public Choral Workshop

We hosted a very well attended workshop on the Verdi *Requiem* with nearly 200 singers gathered in The Mint Methodist Church Centre for a glorious day of singing.

16 March 2024: Lord Mayor's Concert in Exeter Cathedral

For our performance of the Verdi *Requiem*, we were joined by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Judith Howarth soprano; Marta Fontanals-Simmons mezzo-soprano; Oliver Johnston tenor; and Ossian Huskinson bass. This concert was a resounding success and our reviewer stated: "*the EPC singers were in fine voice, with director Howard Ionascu bringing out the best of them*".

18 May 2024: An Evening at the Opera in St David's Church, Exeter

Our singing year ended with operatic choruses and arias sung by the Choir, with Camilla Harris soprano; Rhys Batt tenor; and Stephen Tanner and Andrew Downton piano. Audience members enjoyed wine/soft drinks and canapés during the interval.

Lord Mayor's Commendation Award

This summer the Choir was honoured to receive the Lord Mayor's Commendation Award from the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Mitchell. Awarded annually by the Lord Mayor to individuals or organisations that have gone above and beyond for the City of Exeter, the Choir received this award for our service to vocal music and cultural life in the city.

Social Activities

This year members have taken part in a variety of social events organised by our Social Events Co-ordinator, including a day trip to Winchester; a 'bring and share' lunch after the December singing morning; and a very competitive quiz and buffet evening in June.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Financial Review

The Choir has enjoyed a very successful season.

For the financial year ending 30 June 2024, the Choir recorded a small cash surplus of £2,943 for concerts and general activities, which is after the deduction of running costs. The key factor was that audiences were substantially larger than anticipated, with all tickets except for the Opera Choruses concert being sold out.

We have continued to work hard at internal fundraising, much of which comes from members' generosity at our Saturday singing mornings. Over the year a grand total of £1,520 was raised.

Our other regular sources of income remain very important, including subscriptions from choir members, patrons and friends; and Gift Aid claims (£2,546).

In addition, we have also contributed to fundraising for other charities through retiring collections. Refugee Support Devon raised £3,634 from the Carol Concerts and Force Cancer Charity £889 from the Lord Mayor's concert in March.

Risk Management and Reserves

Annual budgets are prepared by the Choir's financial team and approved by the trustees. These provide the means to compare actual costs against budgeted costs and pinpoint any overspend.

The most significant risk facing the Choir is having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Risk analysis into potential causes and the required level of reserves necessary to mitigate any such risk, is currently work in progress. For the 2024/25 season, the Choir has more than enough reserves to cover the day-to-day running costs of the Choir and a whole season of concerts. To mitigate this risk further, the Choir holds insurance with Making Music that covers cancellation/abandonment up to £10,000.

Financial Controls

The financial team and trustees regularly review financial controls to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines. The Choir's financial controls include:

- preparation of an annual budget and approval by the full committee
- measurement of performance against the budget after each concert and workshop, and a quarterly review of day to day running costs
- circulation of a financial report to all committee members every three months and discussion of the report at committee meetings
- an annual external examination of the Choir's accounts
- two signatures from an approved list of signatories before any payment leaves the Choir's bank accounts
- reimbursement of expenses only when incurred on Choir business and on production of valid receipts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement Of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Looking Forward

The Choir is a busy organisation, and it takes a good deal of time and effort to ensure not only the high standard of music making but also the smooth running of the Choir in all its aspects.

The trustees would like to thank everyone who has helped us on our journey over the past year: to all the volunteers who give their time and expertise to make EPC a happy and successful choir; to Stephen Tanner for his tireless accompanying; and especially to Howard Ionascu for leading and enabling us to make wonderful music together. It has been a very successful season.

During the year, the committee has reviewed the way it works and has implemented a new team structure for the coming season which we hope will better support the continued development of the Choir.

Our future seasons promise further exciting concerts and challenges for the Choir, as we welcome back London Mozart Players in March 2025 and look forward to working on a commission from Cecilia McDowall, to be performed in the autumn of 2025.

We will be undertaking a Tour to Spain in September 2024, giving concerts in Salamanca and Zamora, both magnificent cities with rich histories and beautiful architecture.

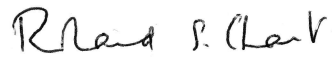
A Choral Pilgrimage in Hampshire in August 2025 is in the early stages of planning.

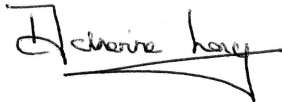
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TRUSTEES' REPORT

Approval of Report

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 11 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:





Roland Chant and Adrienne Long
Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EXETER
PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Belinda Roome BSc ACA
Rowan House Accountants
5 Earl Richards Road North
Exeter
EX2 6AQ

Date: 11 September 2024

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	10	-	10	2,962
Subscriptions (including gift element)	17,516	-	17,516	15,388
Gift aid claimed	2,546	-	2,546	3,831
Concert income	60,372	-	60,372	42,760
Fundraising, sales of goods, programmes and advertising	7,666	-	7,666	6,261
Dividend and interest income	1,890	-	1,890	1,778
Tour income	-	64,846	64,846	20,654
	90,000	64,846	154,846	93,634
Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	90,000	64,846	154,846	93,634
Payments				
Music director, orchestra and choir fees	45,781	-	45,781	33,973
On-line sales commission and bank charges	4,396	-	4,396	1,902
Venue and other concert expenses	23,007	-	23,007	14,033
Publicity and advertising	4,298	-	4,298	6,510
Fundraising and cost of goods sold	4,230	-	4,230	3,007
Administration and insurance costs	4,068	-	4,068	3,217
Gifts	402	-	402	154
Tour expenditure	-	57,651	57,651	17,018
Governance costs	875	-	875	825
	87,057	57,651	144,708	80,639
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Total payments	87,057	57,651	144,708	80,639
Net receipts/(payments)	2,943	7,195	10,138	12,995
Cash funds last year end	37,842	7,082	44,924	31,929
Cash funds this year end	40,785	14,277	55,062	44,924

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash floats	215	-	215	215
Current accounts	35,520	14,277	49,797	41,073
Deposit accounts	5,050	-	5,050	3,636
Total cash funds	40,785	14,277	55,062	44,924
Other monetary assets				
No other monetary assets held	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current Market Value	Market Value Last year
COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units (Current value is the bid market value at the period end)	Unrestricted	£45,000	£62,790	£57,985
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Market Value	
No other assets held	-	-	-	
Liabilities	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount due	When due	
No significant expenses are outstanding at the year end.	-	-	-	

Notes to the accounts

1) Restricted funds represent amounts raised by the Choir members for future tours and social events.

2) The financial statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The financial statements on pages 10 to 11 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Roland Chant & Adrienne Long

Trustees

Geoff Poad

Trustee

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DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Donations and sponsorship	2,510	2,962
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed	2,546	3,831
Membership	17,515	15,388
Fundraising events and appeals	1,520	2,260
Tickets sales (before bank and on-line charges)	60,372	42,760
Programme sales and miscellaneous income	1,216	718
Advertising	475	1,250
Sale of miscellaneous Choir products	705	478
Music hire and sales	1,250	1,555
Friends and family event income (inc. tour income)	64,847	20,654
Interest and dividends on investments	1,890	1,778
Total income	154,846	93,634
Expenditure		
Conductors, other musicians, music and venues		
Director of Music (inc.travel costs)	11,871	9,958
Assistant Director of Music	1,070	1,192
Accompanist	3,248	2,071
Soloists	8,856	5,400
Orchestras and organists	20,735	15,353
Music hire and orchestral scores	1,962	2,119
Music purchase	223	70
Rehearsal rooms	4,668	2,001
Concert venues	17,052	8,908
Concert refreshments	1,095	-
Ticket sales and on-line payment commissions	4,396	1,902
Performing Rights Society	53	619
Other concert costs	140	385
	75,369	49,978
Programmes, tickets and other concert costs		
Ticket and programme production costs	1,964	1,595
Publicity and advertising	4,114	6,510
Purchase of miscellaneous Choir products	79	838
	6,157	8,943
Administrations costs		
Insurance and subscriptions	1,375	1,409
Finance officer	2,550	1,500
Website costs	185	164
Printing, postage and stationery	143	144
Independent examiner's fee	875	825
	5,128	4,042
Other costs		
Tours and social events	57,651	17,522
Gifts	402	154
	58,053	17,676
Total expenditure	144,708	80,639
Net income	10,138	12,995

This page does not form part of the formal financial statements and is for information only.