WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th JUNE 2026

Reg. Charity No.: 263150

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT	***Ian Partridge CBE***
MUSIC DIRECTOR	***Daniel Mahoney MA MMus BMus***
CHAIR	***Alex Youel FRSA***

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Registered Charity Number 263150
www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk

Objects

The Objects of the Society are to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and other activities involving or relating to choral music.

Governance & Administration

Wimbledon Choral Society is a charity, registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 263150) and operates under the same name within the rules of a revised Constitution adopted on 24 September 2001 and approved by the Charity Commissioners. The principal address of the charity is 13 Augustus Court, Augustus Road, SW19 6NA.

The charity is administered by a Committee as defined by the Constitution comprising an Executive Group of Trustees, who are registered with the Charity Commission, plus other Society members making up the full Committee. All the Committee roles are occupied by Society members only and all members are eligible for any of the roles. No member of the Committee, Trustee or otherwise, is paid for his or her role. For the season ended 30 June 2026 the members in these roles were:

<u>Society Members</u>		
Chair	+	Alex Youel
Vice-Chair	+	Ian Gleeson
General Secretary	+	Tracy Sherman
Treasurer	+	John Gale
Publicity Officer	+	Anna Lemmon
Concert Co-ordinator	+#	Paula Lambe
Sponsorship Officer	#	unfilled
Membership Secretary		Laura Stewart
Librarian		John Britton
Voice Representatives	*	Thérèse Kennedy-Laing, Sharon Smith
	*	Angela Wake, Sarah Harris
	*	Martyn Wake
	*	Jeremy Collis, Robert Owen
<u>Ex Officio Appointment</u>		
Music Director		Daniel Mahoney

\+ Trustees of the Society and Members of the Executive Group.

\# These posts are appointed or co-opted by the Committee as permitted by the Constitution and are, therefore, not elected at the Annual General Meeting.

* Voice Representatives are elected for a two-year period, half of them retiring/standing for re-election each year.

Employees

The Society has no employees. During the 2025/2026 season, two professional musicians, the Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, were hired on a renewable contract.

Advisers

Bankers	Santander & NS&I
Independent Examiner	Annette Cowley, BA FCA

Public Benefit

Mindful of the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, our aim is always to perform a varied repertoire in a range of venues and provide the widest possible access to our events in terms of ticket prices charged. We work hard to keep up the profile of the Society in our community, despite the limited number of venues suitable for large scale performances locally

Each year since 2017 we have run a one-day concert giving opportunities for a great range of local choirs based in Merton to perform in front of the public and their fellow choral singers. Wimbledon Choral hosts, pays for and organises the whole event, at which this year (2026) some 16 choirs took part, of all ages and styles, from school groups and church choirs to the Community Chorus and the Wimbledon Oldies. We are delighted to have collaborated closely with Merton Music Foundation from the outset and celebrate their continued involvement to this day.

The local charity collections at our two Christmas concerts this year were in aid of Wimbledon Music Foundation and The Amber Trust. Our audiences donated a total of £2,014 (2025: £1,436). Our Chair has kept in touch with the Amber Trust, which provides music support for blind children and young people.

On 7 December 2025 we sang Christmas Carols lustily, again as part of a wider event in Wimbledon Village which involved singers and musicians from across Merton Borough.

The Society values diversity and membership is open to all; but as with many similar organisations, subject to applicants undergoing a voice test to ensure their vocal ability meets the standard required. The standard is agreed between the Society's Committee and the Music Director.

Reduced membership subscriptions are available for full-time students, those under the age of 26 and those who are registered as unemployed.

Events for the year ended 30 June 2026

One of the first tasks of our still relatively new Music Director Daniel Mahoney during 2025 was to work with the executive team to recruit a successor as accompanist, following the departure after 17 years of Michael Higgins who has been such a wonderful and integral part of the professional music team, under three music directors. As reported last year, Michael left us to expand his focus on music publishing and composing (and we look forward to performing the world premiere of a major new work of his in our 2027 programme). We were thrilled in September 2025 to be able to secure the services of another magnificent accompanist in the form of Ben Giddens, who has slipped seamlessly into Michael's over-size shoes.

It has become a tradition, and one which we are delighted to honour and continue each year, that members of Wimbledon Choral lead the community singing at the Remembrance Day service held at the War Memorial in Wimbledon Village (9 November 2025). It was again a sombre and moving occasion, attended by substantial, indeed increasing, crowds of local people and led by a host of civic dignitaries.

Our Autumn concert, on 15 November 2025, delivered a powerful performance of Dvorak's Requiem to a packed audience in Southwark Cathedral. Only a week later a major contingent from our choir supported the Bach Choir and other choirs - 350 of us in total - in a knockout performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana in the magnificent setting of the Royal Albert Hall, with an audience in excess of 4,500 people.

On 13 December we had great fun singing Carols for Choir and Audience at St Paul's in Southfields, where in recent years we have had to perform twice in one day in order to meet demand. The afternoon's programme was designed with young families in mind, the evening more with an adult audience in our thoughts. Both featured very full audience participation in The Twelve Days of Christmas! We celebrated the end of the year with a fine Christmas party, organised by our own members (thank you Diana!) at our most local pub.

Towards the end of 2025 we were keenly awaiting the delivery of music for our own commission, of *Critical Mass*, from Croydon-born but America-based composer Tarik O'Regan. We are an ambitious choir, keen to sing new works and occasionally to commission them ourselves. But commissioning is a high-risk business, calling for considerable nerve, patience, wholehearted commitment and considerable investment on the part of everyone involved - in this case ourselves! But we were amply rewarded with a fine composition, centred around the *Agnus Dei* which was specially written for the King's Coronation in 2023, and of which we were delighted to perform the world premiere of the completed *Critical Mass* at the Cadogan Hall (18 April 2026), with the composer himself in attendance, plus creators of some of the texts, supported by Wild Plus Arts. We hosted a brief but jolly celebratory party just before the performance; all in all, a great night. We look forward to recording the work in the Autumn of 2026.

On 16 May 2026 we welcomed no fewer than 16 local choirs to join us for Merton Singfest, hosted by Wimbledon Choral and supported by the Merton Music Foundation. It was a splendid day of the greatest possible variety of joyous choral music-making, showcasing the talents of the youngest school children right up to the Wimbledon Oldies and everyone in between. This year the anthem which is sung by every participating choir was written by our Music Director Daniel and composed by a member of the choir, Peter Burton. All available on YouTube!

Our summer concert on 13 June 2026 featured Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, together with more modern works also on the theme of Psalms, and fittingly - given our appetite for new works - the London premiere of a 2025 work by Joanna Marsh, Psalm 90.

A successful year for Wimbledon Choral, with the highlight being the major work which we commissioned ourselves and which, funds permitting, we plan to record later in 2026.

Responsibilities of the Trustees in relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable it to ensure that financial statements comply with the applicable law. They 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.

Society Representatives

Gift Aid Officer: John Gale

Reserves Policy

The Trustees consider it prudent that the Society should maintain reserves sufficient to cover the costs for a whole season.

Financial Matters

With the exception of the professional musicians in the capacity of Music Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, the Society is dependent on the services of its membership and others as unpaid volunteers. Full details of the financial statement of accounts for this past financial year are filed with the Charity Commission with this Annual Report.

We had a successful concert season in 2025-26. It is becoming more difficult to predict the size of our audiences, but overall numbers attending were an improvement on the previous year. Highlight of the year was our April Concert at Cadogan Hall when we premiered "Critical Mass" commissioned from Tarik O'Regan. Inevitably having to pay the balance of the commission fee, together with additional expenses in relation to the premiere, resulted in considerably greater expenditure. General expenditure was however similar to that in previous years and we experienced a modest increase in income.

The overall financial result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts for the year. Our cash funds decreased from £95,522 to £79,009 and our total assets from £115,031 to £103,023.

Risk Management

The Trustees perform regular reviews of its operations and strategic objectives to ensure adherence to its principal charitable objects and financial controls. They are satisfied that there are sufficient systems and procedures in place to identify and address in a timely manner those risks that the Society may face from time to time. A constant potential risk throughout any season is that of having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Implementation of the Reserves Policy above together with subscription to Making Music's insurance scheme is agreed by the Trustees as being of an adequate nature to minimise this particular risk.

Financial Controls

The Trustees perform regular reviews of its financial controls to ensure compliance with the Charity Commission's guidance of internal financial controls for charities. Controls include:

- Annual budgets are prepared and approved by the Trustees and full Committee.
- Performance is measured against the budget at regular intervals.
- Financial management information is discussed by the Executive and full Committee at regular meetings.
- As required by law, the Annual Accounts are subject to Independent Examination.
- There are no trading activities other than the direct sales of tickets for events in furtherance of the Society's Objects
- The Society does not make grants to any third party.
- All payments from the Society's bank accounts require two signatures from an approved list of signatories. This includes cheques, BACS payments and transfers between accounts.
- Expenses are reimbursed only in those cases where both (1) an individual has incurred those expenses in the course of carrying out the Society's business and (2) prior agreement has been obtained from either the Society's appointed Treasurer or Chair or both.

Signed – Alex Youel
Chair for the year ended 30 June 2026
For and on behalf of the Trustees
10th September 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wimbledon Choral Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2026 set out on pages 5 and 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustrees of the Trust, 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 s145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(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 give 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed : Annette Cowley BA FCA
Cowley & Co, *Chartered Accountants*
210 Worple Road, London SW20 8RH

Dated: 3rd October, 2026

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2026

	2026 Unrestricted Funds £	2026 Restricted Funds £	2026 Total Funds £	2025 Actual £
Receipts				
Members subscriptions	39,448		39,448	39,218
Friends subscriptions	1,475		1,475	1,490
Donations	755	6,014	6,769	1,006
Tax recovered (gift aid)	7,978		7,978	14,454
Easyfundraising and similar receipts	296		296	278
Music hire to other choirs	2,983		2,983	2,268
Sale of folders (net)	(42)		(42)	(42)
Sale of promotional goods	1,306		1,306	-
Choir performance fees	1,450		1,450	-
Fundraising activities			-	483
Income from recordings	346		346	38
Refreshment income (net of expenses)	427		427	538
Interest received	836		836	834
Collections received		611	611	2,445
	57,258	6,625	63,883	63,010
Payments				
Rehearsal hall hire	6,511		6,511	5,222
Musicians fees	16,200		16,200	14,060
New Commission	7,500	10,000	17,500	10,000
Purchase of promotional goods	5,835		5,835	-
Marketing & publicity	895		895	1,506
Website costs	940		940	640
Insurance	408		408	157
Making Music and other subscriptions	540		540	520
Administration & sundries	87		87	190
Librarian's expenses	537		537	448
Payments in advance (movement)	(252)		(252)	(440)
Card charges	790		790	748
Social activities (Net of income)	-		-	1,736
Collections paid		611	611	2,445
	39,991	10,611	50,602	37,232
Net ordinary receipts	17,267	(3,986)	13,281	25,778
Concert receipts				
Ticket sales	44,225		44,225	40,266
Programme sales	1,871		1,871	2,540
Refreshments	-		-	731
Music hire and purchase	6,494		6,494	7,897
Singfest income	993		993	1,087
	53,583	-	53,583	52,521
Concert payments				
Hire of venues	17,357		17,357	12,685
Staging	6,076		6,076	4,704
Agency commission	1,288		1,288	1,222
Musicians	38,921		38,921	32,526
Instrument tuning & hire	830		830	725
Music hire and purchase	6,404		6,404	7,799
Other concert costs	2,776		2,776	300
Program design & printing	2,918		2,918	2,768
Advertising expenditure	3,966		3,966	2,645
Royalties	1,419		1,419	1,640
Singfest costs	1,422		1,422	1,671
	83,377	-	83,377	68,685
Net concert payments	(29,794)	-	(29,794)	(16,164)
Net receipts (payments) for year	(12,527)	(3,986)	(16,513)	9,614
Cash funds at 1st July 2025 (2024)	87,870	7,652	95,522	85,908
Cash funds at 30th June 2026 (2025)	£ 75,343	£ 3,666	£ 79,009	£ 95,522

WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 30th JUNE 2026

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Cash Funds				
Bank current account	607	-	607	25,955
Bank deposit accounts	74,736	3,666	78,402	69,567
	75,343	3,666	79,009	95,522
Other Monetary Assets				
Other amounts owed to the society	-	-	-	252
	-	-	-	252
Investment Assets				
M&G Charifund Units	24,014	-	24,014	19,257
Liabilities				
Amounts owed by the society	-	-	-	-
Total Assets of the Society	£ 99,357	£ 3,666	£ 103,023	£ 115,031

Approved by the Committee on 10th September 2026 and signed on its behalf by

A Youel - Chairman

J Gale - Treasurer