

Huntingdonshire Philharmonic (Registered charity: 280451)
Report to the Charity Commissioners for the Period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

Charitable objectives:

To educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the arts and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

Organisational structure:

The Charity, Huntingdonshire Philharmonic (also referred as “Hunts Phil”), is governed by its Constitution document and is managed by a committee (the Committee). The Charity also employs a Musical Director, a Chorus Master and an Orchestral Leader, on the basis of a fixed term agreement which pays their rehearsal fees, concert fees and out of pocket expenses (if any) on a sessional basis. The weekly rehearsals provide educational opportunities for all members to learn about the musical pieces and to practice the singing and playing techniques required for the performances. Where,

- soloists are required for certain choral or orchestral repertoire; and
- additional specialist orchestral players are needed to enhance particular items in a repertoire,

they are employed on the basis of one-off pre-agreed payments.

The **Committee** for 2019/20 is comprised of 7 Charity Trustees including:

Dr Katrina Coope

Peter Downes

Karen Mason (Honorary Treasurer)

Bronwen Rayner

Jenny Robertshaw (Chairman)

Bernadette Wong (Honorary Secretary, from 13 October 2020)

Nicholas Sarkies (co-opted from 4 March 2020)

Hunts Phil members are elected to join the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. The appointments are governed by the Constitution document. The division of workload is spread throughout the Committee, with those with specific interests in for example, publicity, taking the lead on those projects. We are also grateful to non-Committee members who volunteer on a regular or ad-hoc basis to assist in the smooth running of the Charity.

The work of the Committee is fed back to the members at rehearsals and via emails and the member specific pages of the website. The website (<https://www.huntsphil.org.uk>) has been updated to improve the ease of communication between members.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 13 October 2020 via video conference due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendance was fair, and in line with the constitution, a new Committee for 2020/21 was elected.

Review of the year to 31 July 2020

The Committee decided to continue delivering six concerts over the year, including two choral concerts (with a chamber orchestra drawn from orchestral members as far as possible), two orchestral concerts and two joint choral/orchestral concerts. This would continue to provide opportunities for both the choir and the orchestra to broaden their repertoires.

The 2019/20 season programme has been performed at St Mary’s Church, Godmanchester for the Choral only concerts and at the Performing Arts Centre, Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon, for the remaining concerts.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and national lockdown from 16 March 2020, our planned concerts and all our face-to-face rehearsals were cancelled for the remainder of the season. Our planned repertoire including works by Beethoven, Brahms, Grieg, Purcell, and Schumann were put on hold. However, the choir were able to meet virtually to sing online during the summer term.

Date	Concert type	Programme
2 November 2019	Choral	Choral concert by candlelight
<p>Our first choral concert started the season with the “Choral concert by candlelight” theme.</p> <p>The programme begins with French composer Gabriel Fauré's <i>Requiem</i>. Alongside this masterpiece, the choir sang Marcel Dupré's setting of Psalm 130, <i>De Profundis</i> ("Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice"). Both works were composed in memory of death. For Fauré, it was the death of his father; and for Dupré, in memory of the many dead of the First World War.</p> <p>The soloists for the evening were Jessica Smith, (soprano), Joseph Doody (tenor), and Jonathan Midgley (bass).</p> <p>The net proceeds of this concert, amounting to £500, was donated to St Mary's Church Godmanchester (choral concert venue) to help with their renovation project.</p>		
23 November 2019	Orchestral	Khachaturian: Spartacus Suite no. 2 Mahler: Symphony No. 5
<p>This was our first orchestral only concert which was conducted by our Musical Director, Bjorn Bantock. It was an ambitious programme requiring a large orchestra and was designed to appeal to orchestral players from a wider catchment area and attract them to come and join the Hunts Phil for this performance. The concert opened with the Khachaturian <i>Spartacus Suite no.2</i> which was followed by the headline event being Mahler's <i>Symphony No.5</i>. Overall the concert was a success both in terms of audience numbers and satisfaction amongst orchestral members.</p>		
14 December 2019 (Christmas concert)	Choral and Orchestral	Poulenc: The Story of Babar, the little Elephant Poulenc: Gloria Anderson: A Christmas Festival Trad., arr Rutter: Esta noche and a number of traditional carols
<p>Our choir member, Richard Walmsley, was the narrator in Poulenc's <i>The Story of Babar the little Elephant</i>. The soloist was Eve McGrath (soprano) for Poulenc's Gloria.</p> <p>At Christmas we presented our popular Family Concert and a wide variety of traditional and contemporary carols with our Musical Director Bjorn Bantock (our conductor) and Katie Crozier (conductor for HCYO). It has now become something of a tradition to feature community involvement by members of the Huntingdonshire Community Youth Orchestra (HCYO). They performed their own pieces (including <i>Dr Who</i>; <i>Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas</i>; and <i>Winter Wonderland</i>) and were also able to join the full orchestra for some items.</p> <p>We welcomed the return of the Ramsey Junior School Choir for the second year. They performed their pieces (including <i>Away in a Manger</i>; and <i>The Rhythm of Life</i>) and also joined us in performing Rutter's <i>Esta noche</i>.</p>		
Spring term	Orchestra Choir	Brahms: Symphony No.4 in E minor Op 98 Schumann: Missa Sacra
<p>The orchestra spent the spring term rehearsing Brahms Symphony No.4. Although the final concert had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020, the orchestra enjoyed the experience of rehearsing this work and reaching performance standard under the baton of their</p>		

Date	Concert type	Programme
<p>Musical Director, Bjorn Bantock.</p> <p>The choir spent the spring term rehearsing Schumann Missa Sacra. This was the first time the choir tackled Schumann's choral repertoire and the choir thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing this piece of work under the guidance of their Chorus Master, Lee Dunleavy. Unfortunately, this was cancelled around two weeks before the concert date due to national lockdown.</p>		
<p>Summer term</p>	<p>Choral</p>	<p>The Choral Songs of Herbert Howells</p> <p>The Chorus Master was able to carry out virtual rehearsals with the choir, with the following Herbert Howells' works including: <i>A Golden Lullaby</i>; <i>A Maid Peerless</i>; <i>A New Year Carol</i>; <i>Delicates so dainty</i>; <i>Pink Almond</i>; <i>Piping down the valley's wild</i>; <i>Sweet content</i>; <i>The Saylor's Song</i>; <i>The Tinker's Song</i>; <i>The Winds Whistle Cold</i>; <i>Tune Thy music</i>; <i>Weep you no more, sad fountains</i>.</p>

Musically, the 2019/20 season proved to be rewarding, but also challenging, in particular with new repertoire to learn. Unfortunately, this came to a halt due to the global pandemic. The Trustees are grateful to all choir and orchestral members who have given tremendous support throughout the year.

Financial matters

The Committee regularly reviews the Charity's finances. Until activities were suspended in March 2020 we continued to energetically promote our concerts (mainly by local publicity and by word of mouth) together with our social and fund-raising events to make our financial position more solid and to increase the sense of community (in particular the younger generation) within the society. From March 2020 the focus has been on protecting our members and closely monitoring the impact of the pandemic on the Charity's financial position.

Total spending during the twelve months to 31 July 2020 of £24,107 (2019: £31,781) was exceeded by total income of £30,191 (2019: £34,646), giving a surplus to add to reserves of £6,084 (2019: £2,865). Our reserves have increased from £16,945 (2019) to £23,029 (2020). This is mainly due to savings from concert related expenses due to the cancellation of concerts.

It is pleasing to generate a surplus which will provide us with additional buffer in our reserves, in particular with the uncertainty from the pandemic. The Charity currently holds a healthy level of reserves which will help us financially in the forthcoming season due to the uncertainty as to when we could safely hold physical concerts. The Charity has a cash reserves policy and aims to hold a minimum of £16,000, which will be kept under review by the Committee.

The Charity holds a bank account with Barclays Bank UK PLC (Market Hill Branch, Huntingdon, PE29 3AE) for the day-to-day running of the Charity.

The Charity also invests in two funds with CCLA Fund Managers Limited (Registered Address: Senator Hours, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET):

- COIF Charities Deposit Fund (£9,030 as at 31 July 2020), which aims to provide a high level of capital security and a competitive rate of interest, whilst retaining reasonable access for reserves purposes.
- COIF Charities Investment Fund (£3,195 as at 31 July 2020), which aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and income distributions.

In addition to our musical performances, we are pleased to continue our support for the Huntingdonshire Children's Charity "Dreamdrops" (<http://dreamdropschildrenscharity.org/>). This is

a local charity which raises funds for the provision of services and equipment (not covered by NHS public funds) for sick children and their families. We continue to support this charity by encouraging attendance from Dreamdrops members at concerts with the purpose of making a 'bucket collection' at the end of the concerts, publishing and selling items and also helping the Hunts Phil by selling programmes prior to the national lockdown.

When considering subscription rates for the 2020/21 season, the Committee took into account the uncertainty as to how many concerts and live rehearsals would be permitted for the 2020/21 season, and the fact that, whilst virtual rehearsal have been possible for some choir members, we have not been able to offer alternative opportunities to other choir members or to any orchestra members. The Committee therefore proposed a reduction in annual full membership subscription from £140 to £80 (Choir members) and £50 (Orchestra members). As always, members' personal circumstances would be taken into account if necessary.

We would like to express our gratitude to our Chorus Master, Lee Dunleavy, and our Musical Director, Bjorn Bantock for this challenging season. We sadly had to say farewell to Bjorn who resigned at the end of the season and his presence will be sorely missed.

Bernadette Bo Yee Wong
Secretary to the Charity Trustees
29 May 2021

Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Society
Registered charity: 280451

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2020 which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 accounts 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 reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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 accounts to be reached.

Bruce Gentles
37 High Street
Brampton
PE28 4TG



30 September 2020

Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Society
Registered charity: 280451

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the Year Ended 31 July 2020

	<i>Notes</i>	Year ended 31 July 2020	Year ended 31 July 2019
		£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary income sources			
Members' subscriptions		13,645	13,465
Donations		775	1,282
Gift aid		2,748	2,904
Fundraising income		363	460
		<u>17,531</u>	<u>18,111</u>
Investment income		142	148
Receipts from charitable trading			
Concert income		10,579	15,194
Sales to patrons/ season tickets		1,391	698
Sundry income		548	495
		<u>12,518</u>	<u>16,387</u>
Total receipts		30,191	34,646
Payments			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Concert expenses		11,394	17,711
Hire of rehearsal room		425	1,963
Rehearsal fees		8,220	10,293
Covid-19 cancellation fees		1,790	-
Making Music subscription and insurance		670	645
Purchases		1,036	587
		<u>23,535</u>	<u>31,199</u>
Other expenditure			
Publicity		77	70
Administration		495	512
		<u>572</u>	<u>582</u>
Total payments		24,107	31,781
Net receipts		<u>6,084</u>	<u>2,865</u>
Cash funds last year end		16,945	14,080
Cash funds this year end		<u>23,029</u>	<u>16,945</u>

Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Society
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 July 2020

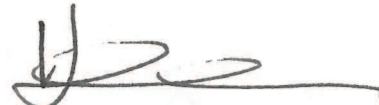
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	<i>Notes</i>	At 31 July 2020	At 31 July 2019
		£	£
Cash funds			
Deposit account		9,030	8,888
Bank account		13,999	8,057
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total cash funds	2	23,029	16,945
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Investment assets			
COIF Investment fund		3,195	3,188
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Assets retained for own use			
Timpani	3		
Electronic keyboard			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Amount due from Ticketsource		-	1,784
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Liabilities			
Printing		-	642
Piano tuning		-	200
Total		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	842
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Approved by the committee on 30 September 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Jenny Robertshaw, Chair



Karen Mason, Honorary Treasurer



Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Society
Registered charity: 280451

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2020

1. Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments convention as permitted under section 133 of the 2011 Act.

Quoted investments have been stated at bid market value at 31 July 2020.

2. Cash funds

Cash funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

3. Assets retained for own use

Additional information relating to assets retained for own use is set out below. Current valuations are not carried out.

Description of asset	Year of purchase	Cost
		£
Timpani	1987	3,660
Electronic keyboard	2003	2,694

4. Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the period that require disclosure (2019: £Nil).