



SHEFFIELD ORATORIO CHORUS

Registered Charity No. 500578

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
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Legal Information

Trustees August 2022 - July 2023

Elected Trustees

Bill Clarke	Chair to February 23
Lydia Fielder Lord	Co-Chair from February 23
Philip Hirst	Co-Chair from February 23
Janet Smith	Secretary
Margaret Thompson	Treasurer to February 23
Helen Ledger	Treasurer from February 23
Lois McGrath	Concert Manager
Lydia Fielder Lord	Singing Representative to February 23
Philip Hirst	Singing Representative to February 23
Helen Ledger	Singing Representative to February 23
Kirsten Cubitt Thorley	Singing Representative
Hilary Fawcett	Singing Representative from February 23
Helen Smith	Singing Representative from April 23

Co-opted Members

Richard Thompson	Making Music Representative to February 23
Paul Clarke	Making Music Representative from April 23

Director of Music	Alan Eost MA ARCO ARCM
Voice Coach	Dr Vivien Pike M Mus GRSM ARMCM LGSM FRSA
Accompanists	Peter Heginbotham and Robert Webb

The Director of Music and Voice Coach attend and report to Committee meetings as non-voting members.

Registered Charity Number 500578

Principal Address

101 Whirlowdale Road
Millhouses
Sheffield
S7 2NF

Independent Examiner

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Bank

Natwest Bank plc

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Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005, in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted 16 September 1970 and amended 3 October 1979, 18 February 1987, 30 September 1992, 13 October 1993, 12 March 1997, 25 June 2003, 8 July 2009, 23 November 2016 and 7 July 2021.

The organisation's finances and policies are administered by the Trustees.

New Trustees are elected for three-year periods at the organisation's annual AGM or a Special General Meeting. The new members are given the information they need, including copies of the Constitution and policies and procedures. The Trustees from time to time may co-opt up to three further members, who attend committee meetings, but are not Trustees unless subsequently elected by the membership. The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2 of the report.

Objectives and activities

The main objects of the Chorus are 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 ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

Review of activities

During the year the Chorus has continued to consolidate its position following the pandemic. Membership has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, the Chorus has been able to perform a more ambitious programme with a performance of Bach's 'St John Passion' marking its return to Sheffield Cathedral and a very well received performance of Will Todd's 'Mass in Blue' conducted by the composer and accompanied by Will Todd's jazz Trio. The 'Mass in Blue' performance was supported by the Sheffield Chamber Choir and also gave the opportunity for the Chorus to host a workshop day led by Will Todd which was attended by guest singers from across the UK.

The Committee membership changed significantly at the last AGM with the previous chair and treasurer reaching the end of their term of office and new Co-Chairs and Treasurer being elected as well as new singing representatives. The committee has met regularly through the year and has focussed on planning for the future development of the Chorus given its post-pandemic situation and taking account of the results of consultation with the membership.

Director of Music's Report

At the end of the 21/22 season SOC was strapped for cash, so the November concert had to be (unusually) without orchestra; this autumn concert then consisted of Britten's "Festival Te Deum" and "Hymn to St Cecilia", Chilcott's "Canticles of Light" and Victoria's "Missa O quam gloriosum est regnum". By using semichorus instead of soloists more money was saved. The concert was moderately successful, but it was hoped that financial pressures would ease somewhat and allow a return to a more "normal" autumn concert in future.

For the Christmas concert in Ecclesall church we welcomed the Lodge Moor Children's Choir who provided a delightful contrast to our traditional range of choral carols

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The spring concert consisted of Bach's "St. John Passion" and we welcomed back the Northern Chamber Orchestra and an excellent sextet of young soloists to create a very good concert. An added bonus was our return to Sheffield Cathedral after three and half years away.

For the Summer concert we returned to Ecclesall church for an equally memorable evening performing Will Todd's "Mass in Blue" and Chilcott's "Nideros Jazz Mass". We also welcomed "Sheffield Chamber Choir" who joined us for the "Mass in Blue" and performed Martin's "Mass for double choir". With Will Todd conducting and his ensemble providing the accompaniment this was an exciting and lively evening for all concerned. There was the added bonus of a workshop with Will Todd, three weeks before the concert. This proved highly beneficial and enjoyable for those who took part.

For this season, in an effort to keep costs down and to allow instrumental support for all our main concerts we are engaging South Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra. In November we are offering Mozart's "Coronation" Mass and "Vespers". Completing the programme will be Haydn's "Little Organ Mass". This is a must for devotees of standard choral repertoire. For Christmas we welcome the Steel City Choristers, founded initially from the former Cathedral Choir. For the March concert we return to Sheffield Cathedral to offer Rutter's "Requiem" (now an established part of the choral repertoire) and Le Fleming's somewhat under-rated "Five Psalms". For the summer concert we are joining with Sheffield Bach Society to put on Brahms "Requiem". This will be our first joint concert with SBS since 1997 and will take place in the Victoria Hall

Last season, vocal support sessions were offered to all members as part of the Academy scheme to assist and improve aspects of vocal technique. This season there will be some further classes.

I would like to thank Bill Clarke, Chairman until last January for his support and leadership particularly in overseeing the Will Todd concert and workshop. Thanks also to Vivien Pike for her work with the Academy and support and also to our two accompanists, Peter Heginbotham and Robert Webb. Peter now returns as our full-time accompanist. Lastly, thanks to Lydia, Phil and the Committee for their support and assistance in driving the Society forward.

Alan East. Musical Director

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Financial Review

This season saw an increase in income to £39,120 compared with £23,105 in the previous year and reflects an increase in tickets sales and donations.

Expenditure increased to £37,729 compared with the previous year's £28,897 additional expenses were incurred because we have completed a more ambitious concert programme this year including welcoming the Will Todd Ensemble, who joined us for the July concert.

This year's concert costs were greatly helped by our successful fundraising including a grant of £1,000 received from the JG Graves Charitable Trust and sponsorship of the July concert by members of the choir. We also benefited by another sponsored mountain climb, this time Ben Nevis by our Musical Director and friends. Donations, grants and sponsorship totalled £9,749.

Other fundraising activities comprising marmalade sales, the hamper raffle at the Christmas concert and interval cakes which raised a further £1,279.

Reserves policy

We began the year with total reserves of £35,203 and ended with £36,594 to underpin our future activities. The Chorus aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of £15,000. This represents a suitable amount to provide the necessary security for booking orchestras, soloists and venues at least a year ahead. The need for reserves was illustrated in the past two years as the impact of a communicable disease is not covered by insurance. The unrestricted reserves at 31 July 2022 were £35,502. See Fund breakdown on page 10 for full details.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus take our responsibilities seriously. We are confident that the society's activities meet the public benefit guidance of the Charity Commission, in particular our main object as stated above. Our singing members benefit considerably in terms of improved musical education and mental wellbeing associated with singing with a choir. We offer opportunities to young singers to develop their skills by participating in our concerts as soloists and we welcome audiences to enjoy our music with us.

The Membership fee for the 2022-23 Season continued at the rate of £150 per year. However after a review an increase to £160 per year, was agreed at a special AGM in June 2023, this will commence from the start of 2023-24 season. On the principle that no one should be excluded on grounds of cost, there is always a 50% reduction for members on low incomes.

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Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which show the state of affairs of the charity and of net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- State whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable the trustees to prepare the financial statements. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18/01/24 and is signed on their behalf by:



Lydia Fielder Lord
Co-Chair



Phil Hirst
Co-Chair

**Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Annual Report and Accounts for Year ended 31 July 2023**

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Sheffield Oratorio Chorus

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 10

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 Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed



Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date:

5/10/2023

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Concert Income				
Ticket Sales - Concerts				
Ticket Sales - Workshop	8,610		8,610	5,383
Programme Sales, Cushion hire, Refreshments	1,154		1,154	
Music & Folder Hire & Sales	663		663	430
Sponsorship & Grants	951		951	688
Subs from Guest Singers	2,460	1,000	3,460	-
Total Concert Income	415		415	375
General Income	14,254	1,000	15,254	6,876
Subscriptions from Members			12,400	11,937
Donations & Bequests	12,400		3,923	813
Fundraising	3,923		3,953	1,206
Gift Aid (HMRC Refund)	3,953		2,744	2,199
Bank Interest (COIF account)	2,744		845	74
Total General Income	845		845	74
Total Receipts	23,865	-	23,865	16,229
	38,120	1,000	39,120	23,105
PAYMENTS				
Concert Expenditure				
Orchestras			9,764	6,584
Concert organists/pianists	9,764		1,050	1,150
Soloists	1,050		2,876	2,043
Concert Conductors	2,876		1,450	2,050
Other concert expenses & equipment	1,450		428	-
Venue Hire - concerts	428		3,357	1,439
Music Hire & Purchase	3,357		919	1,458
Publicity, programmes, tickets	919		1,234	978
Performing Rights fees	1,234		207	-
Total Concert Expenditure	207		207	-
	21,285	-	21,285	15,702
General Expenditure				
Musical Director & Accompanists			10,064	8,630
Venue Hire - rehearsals	10,064		4,209	2,890
Education Costs	4,209		432	-
Publicity - Annual Brochure, website etc	432		457	580
Administration & minor equipment	457		314	432
Fundraising expenses	314		87	-
Accountancy	87		175	175
Gifts & Donations by SOC	175		162	106
Making Music (Annual sub and insurance premium)	162		544	382
Total General Expenditure	544		544	382
Total Payments	16,444	-	16,444	13,195
Surplus/Deficit (Net receipts/payments)	37,729	-	37,729	28,897
Fund balances brought forward 01/08/2022	391	1,000	1,391	(5,792)
Transfers between funds	35,203		35,203	40,995
Fund balances carried forward	35,594	1,000	36,594	35,203

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 July 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Assets		
Balance at bank		
Current Account	7,470	6,132
Deposit Account (COIF)	29,000	29,000
Cash in hand	124	71
Total Assets	36,594	35,203
 Liabilities		
Venue Hire for June 22 concert		660
PRS fee for December 21 Concert		42
Accountancy & Independent Examination	175	175
	175	877
 Funds represented by		
General Fund	35,502	35,111
Restricted Funds:		
Funds raised for June 2024 concert	1,000	
Chamber Choir	92	92
	36,594	35,203

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18/01/24 and is signed on their behalf by:



 Lydia Fielder Lord and Phil Hirst
 Co-Chairs


 Helen Ledger
 Treasurer

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023

Receipts and payments accounts

Because the level of income and expenditure is below £250,000 the group has opted for accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis. This is in line with the Charity Commissioners' guidelines for small charities and is seen as more appropriate for this organisation.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds held for the general purposes of the charity at the trustees' discretion.

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which trustees have earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Restricted funds represent funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise where the donor specifies or where the funds raised are for a particular restricted purpose.

Restricted funds brought forward to this financial year represented:

Chamber Choir	£92
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At the year-end sums carried forward in restricted funds amounted to:

Chamber Choir	£92
Concert Costs (June 2024 Sponsorship)	£1,000