



Leicester Bach Choir

Trustees' Annual Report for Financial Year ending 30 June 2024

Objectives and Activities

Public Benefit

The Leicester Bach Choir aims to educate the public with a wide range of choral music through concert performances, and choral workshops for a wider audience. The choir offers opportunities for all full-time students to join them for free and they charge minimal subscription rates for younger singers who are not students. The choir aims to involve children and young people in singing activities and concerts as participants or soloists where appropriate.

Young people aged 16 and under attended concerts for free and sixth formers, full-time students and people with disabilities paid just £5.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The **2023-24 concert season** began with an outstanding performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December 2023 in Leicester where all seats were sold – over 200. The choir was joined by a professional orchestra and highly acclaimed soloists. The performance was warmly received by the audience as the positive reviews indicated e.g. *"The Leicester Bach Choir's performance of Handel's Messiah on 9 December was a triumph – combining passion, intensity, pace and an exquisite interplay of voices within the choir and with the excellent soloists. It provoked a deserved and extended standing ovation from a full hall. This is an excellent choir at the peak of its powers. Sir Alan Tuckett"*

In March 2024, the choir mounted a concert, **Exsultate Jubilate**, and was joined by Joanne Lunn, their President, who is an internationally renowned Baroque Soprano, and a small string ensemble. They performed:

Mozart – *Exsultate Jubilate*; Scarlatti – *Stabat Mater*; Patrick Hawes – *Song of Songs*; Mozart – *Laudate Dominum*; Mendelssohn – *Wer nur den lieben Gott*; Gounod – *Jerusalem*.

Once again, the performance was warmly received by a large audience who provided excellent feedback.

For the June 2024 concert, **Summer Awakening**, the choir was joined by a small professional string ensemble led by Shulah Oliver - Smith and they performed Josef Rheinberger - *Stabat Mater*; Guillaume Lekeu – *Adagio*; J S Bach - *Chorus and Chorale from Wachet Auf*; Frank Bridge - *A Prayer*; John Ireland - *A Downland Suite*; George Dyson - *Three Songs of Praise*. The performance drew these comments from our president Joanne Lunn, who was in the audience: *"My word, what a treat and a joy the concert was on Saturday evening! A great big thank you and well done to all involved. I thought that the programming was stunning by Richard, some really beautiful music with great programme notes and performed so well by you all. Both the choir and the orchestra & organist were on the finest of form. I don't think I've heard you better."*

In addition to the regular concerts the choir organised a ***Come and Sing*** workshop day in January 2024 to work on ***Puccini's Messa di Gloria*** with their conductor, Richard Laing. This annual event continues to open up the experience of choral singing to a wide audience beyond our members. The workshop attracted more than 100 participants from across the Midlands and further afield, most of whom were not current members of the Leicester Bach Choir. Participants included some who had little previous experience of choral singing but enthusiastically reported having had a very rewarding, enjoyable and educational day. Alongside their concerts, this *Come and Sing* venture continues to fulfil the choir's charitable purpose of educating the wider public about choral music, evidenced by the participation, enthusiasm and support of these large numbers of singers from outside the choir. It also proves a welcome means of substantial fundraising which helps to ensure the mounting of future LBC concerts.

LBC's Music Director, Richard Laing, who has just completed his 21st season with the choir, continues to innovate and inspire, as demonstrated by the warm positive reviews and comments the concerts have continued to receive this season.

The choir continued to offer free membership to students, which have been taken up, and also a considerably reduced membership fee to other under 25s. The Friends and Patrons continue to support the choir through their generous subscriptions and enthusiastic support at the concerts. The choir has also received generous support from further individual donors and the Helen Jean Cope Charity.

Financial Review: Treasurer's report

Following some final adjustments to the accounts, the position is as follows:

Singers' subscriptions of £11,654 were received, and Gift Aid of £3,747.60 was recovered for the previous year. We also received a very welcome £1,090 from Friends and Patrons. Non-specific donations amounted to £475. Other income during the year, from Music Hire, refreshments and miscellaneous sales, fundraisers including the Chef & Spice meal and Summer Barbecue, plus Come & Sing amounted to £4,203.44.

Expenditure for the year for rehearsal venue rental, Conductor's and Accompanist's fees, and other non-concert related items amounted to £17,989.

The Choir performed in 3 concerts during the year, with total income of £14,108.81 and expenditure of £15,417.64.

After allowing for late receipts and expenditure for the July 2023 concert, we finished with an increase in funds of £1,109.62. We now have a bank balance of £17,548.23.

The Trustees are to consider writing a Reserves Policy during the coming year.

Mike Randle
Treasurer

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Constitution adopted 13 September 1972.
Amended 7 September 1983, 28 August 1990, 2 September 1998, 2nd September 2009, 6th September 2017, 4th September 2019.

Recruitment of trustees

Nominations for trustees to be elected are submitted in advance of the Annual General Meeting in September each year. All the trustees are recruited from the choir membership except for the Concert Manager, whose post was originally advertised through local music networks, and the Treasurer, whose post was filled by a highly experienced and recommended volunteer from outside the choir, being a retired local Bank Manager and a former and present Treasurer for other local charities.

Voting to appoint all Trustees takes place at the AGM and in September 2023 all current trustees were reappointed by the membership.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees appointed by the members of the Leicester Bach Choir:

Dr Jennifer Clegg	Chair	(from 14 Sept 2022. Resigned 9 Feb 2024)
Nicola Little	Vice Chair	(from 6 Sept 2017)
	Acting Chair	(from 9 Feb 2024)
Gail Hobbs	Secretary	(from 7 Sept 2016)
Michael Randle	Treasurer	(from 22 Sept 2021)
Patricia Taylor	Friends' Representative	(from 2 Sept 2020)
Elizabeth Jennifer Casboul	Concert Manager	(from 5 Sept 2018)
Jacqueline Burden	General Trustee	(from 5 Sept 2018)
Angela Zemlak	General Trustee	(from 3 Sept 2014. Resigned 30 Oct 2023)
Paul Leonard-Williams	General Trustee	(from 2 Sept 2020)
Dr Jennifer Wilkinson	General Trustee	(from 14 Sept 2022)

Charity name Leicester Bach Choir

Charity Commission registered number 501890

Financial year ending 30 June 2024

Charity's principal address c/o Mrs Gail Hobbs
1 Eynsford Close
Oadby
LEICESTER LE2 2LN

Independent examiner

Mr Meirion Thomas
John F Mould & Co. 19 – 20
Baxtergate
Loughborough
LEICESTERSHIRE LE11 1TG

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Gail Hobbs

Gail Hobbs

Secretary, Leicester Bach Choir

September 5th, 2024



THE LEICESTER BACH CHOIR

Registered Charity No. 501890

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE – UNRESTRICTED (INCLUDING DESIGNATED) FUNDS

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME from:			
Donations		475	3,810
Singing members subscriptions	2	14,391	15,172
Friends and patrons subscriptions		1,090	890
Other	2	1,811	2,278
Charitable activities			
- Concert income	5	14,049	9,454
- Come and Sing		4,042	3,191
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TOTAL INCOME		35,858	34,795
EXPENDITURE on:			
Raising funds			
- Come & Sing		1,832	2,036
- other		-	152
Charitable activities			
- Concert expenditure	5	16,341	9,483
- other	3	18,010	16,349
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE		36,183	28,020
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NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		(325)	6,775
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		19,170	12,395
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Total funds carried forward		18,845	19,170
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All activities of The Leicester Bach Choir are intended to be continuing.

The statement of financial activities reflects all gains and losses recognised in the year.

THE LEICESTER BACH CHOIR

BALANCE SHEET – 30th JUNE 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors - gift aid tax recoverable	2,677	3,747
- concert income	-	1,448
- other (income receivable and prepayments)	339	266
Cash at bank - Co-operative Bank Community Directplus account	17,548	16,439
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Total current assets	20,564	21,900
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LIABILITIES – falling due within one year		
Creditors - concert expenses	652	1,818
- other	1,067	912
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	1,719	2,730
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NET ASSETS	18,845	19,170
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THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Unrestricted income funds	18,845	19,170
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Signed on behalf of the Managing Committee

M. Randle – Treasurer

9th September 2024

THE LEICESTER BACH CHOIR

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): 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) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future.

The Choir is an unincorporated charity, governed by its rules, registered in England and Wales as charity number 501890

2. SINGING MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS/OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Singers subscriptions	11,714	11,461
Income tax recoverable	2,677	3,711
	<u>14,391</u>	<u>15,172</u>
Other trading activities		
General fund raising events and refreshments sales	1,501	1,895
Music sales and hire	310	383
	<u>1,811</u>	<u>2,278</u>
3. OTHER EXPENDITURE		
Conductors fees – retainer and additional fees	10,359	9,291
St. James the Greater rehearsal room hire	2,810	1,634
Accompanists	2,830	2,800
Subscriptions and performing rights	641	400
Stationery, photocopying and postage	-	379
Website and advertising	1,197	1,782
Bank charges	116	63
Miscellaneous	57	-
	<u>18,010</u>	<u>16,349</u>

4. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No members of the management committee have received any remuneration for the year from the charity's funds (2023 – nil).

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023 – none).

THE LEICESTER BACH CHOIR
NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2024

5. CONCERT ACTIVITIES – 2023/24 SEASON

	Winter Concert £	Easter Concert £	Summer Concert £	Total £
INCOME				
Tickets, programmes, refreshments sales	8,712	3,445	1,892	14,049
EXPENDITURE				
Soloists and musicians	5,645	1,190	2,750	9,585
Posters, programmes & tickets	454	367	477	1,298
Venue, fees, lighting	869	922	652	2,443
Music hire	367	1,120	557	2,044
Event licence	21	21	21	63
Travel expenses	146	36	84	266
Refreshments	84	136	-	220
Flowers	-	42	-	42
Organ hire	-	380	-	380
	7,586	4,214	4,541	16,341
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON EVENTS	1,126	(769)	(2,649)	(2,292)

CONCERT ACTIVITIES – 2022/23 SEASON

	Winter Concert £	Easter Concert £	Summer Concert £	Total £
INCOME				
Tickets, programmes, refreshments sales	5,339	2,087	2,028	9,454
EXPENDITURE				
Soloists and musicians	2,960	600	950	4,510
Posters, programmes & tickets	219	163	370	752
Venue, fees, lighting	684	814	690	2,188
Music hire	828	407	347	1,582
Event licence	21	21	21	63
Travel expenses	36	60	40	136
Refreshments	121	30	73	224
Flowers	28	-	-	28
	4,897	2,095	2,491	9,483
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON EVENTS	442	(8)	(463)	(29)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEICESTER BACH CHOIR (THE CHOIR)

I report on the accounts of The Leicester Bach Choir for the year ended 30th June 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 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 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.

M. THOMAS FCA ICAEW
8 Angus Close
Thurnby
Leicester LE7 9QG

9th September 2024