

Birmingham Festival Choral Society

Registered Charity number 510847

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 May 2024

Legal and administrative details

Governing instrument and Objects Constitution, last amended July 2019. Objects 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.

President The Lord Mayor of Birmingham

Music Director David Wynne

The Society is an unincorporated association whose day-to-day affairs are managed by Trustees appointed by virtue of their being elected to various honorary positions on the Management Committee

Thomas David Fletcher (Chair)
Michael Ford (Joint Concert Manager)
Barbara Howarth (Secretary)
Roger Monk (Treasurer)
Tracy Piotrowska (Vice-Chair)
Judy Prever (Membership)
Nicola Walker (Joint Concert Manager)
Christine Wright (Marketing)

During the year, the following changes to the Management Committee were made:
Michael Cullen retired and was replaced by Nicola Walker and Michael Ford.
Deirdre Finucane retired and was replaced by Barbara Howarth, leaving the Fundraising position unoccupied.
Andrew Steel retired and was replaced by Tracy Piotrowska.

Independent Examiner Paul Bayliss

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibility The Charities Act 2011 requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, they are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Statement on going concern basis The Trustees have reviewed the Society's financial position and confirm that the Society is a going concern in their opinion.

Statement on Reserves The Accumulated Fund is the only present reserve that can be used for the day-to-day running of the Society and is designated as an unrestricted fund. For the ongoing security of this fund, a minimum amount in cash at bank or near-cash of at least £10,000 will be maintained. The amount in the Accumulated Fund at 31 May 2024 was £83,134. The Tour Fund is a designated income fund and the Commissioning Fund and the Training Fund are both restricted income funds.

Statement on investment policy The investment of the Society is held in the Charity Commission's COIF Deposit Fund, the interest on which is paid monthly, having been transferred from the COIF Income Fund during the year.

All surplus cash is held in an interest-bearing Charities Aid Foundation gold bank account,

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the interest being credited to income and expenditure account.

Statement on accounting policies

Fixed assets

This is expenditure that relates to more than one accounting period and is therefore depreciated in the annual accounts over the estimated lives of those assets in equal instalments. The only fixed assets presently held are fully depreciated.

Fixed asset investment

This is included in the Balance Sheet at year-end value.

Debtors, prepayments, creditors and deferred income

These are included on the Balance Sheet as receipts and payments that have either originally been included in a financial year but do not relate to that year or have been received or paid in a subsequent financial year, but relate back to the current financial year. Concert receipts and payments are excluded from this, as they often extend over two or more years.

Statement on expenses

Reimbursements of travel and office expenses incurred in the carrying out of their duties totalling £100 have been made during the year to two Trustees.

Statement on related parties

There have been no related party transactions during the year.

Plans for future periods

In July 2024, there will be an evening of Opera Choruses at the Ruddock Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Also performed at the same

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venue in November 2024 will be a concert of Music from America.

This will be followed in April 2025, to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Society's foundation, by Edward Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, to be performed jointly with Coventry Philharmonic Choir and Atherstone Choral Society at All Saints church, Leamington Spa. This work was given its first performance in 1900 by the Society.

Signed by Chair

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Date of Trustees' approval

17 July 2024.....

Treasurer's Report

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Overall

Judicious concert planning by the committee for the whole year ensured that we were able in March 2024 to perform J S Bach's great Mass in B minor in the splendid surroundings of Lichfield Cathedral, accompanied by a fine professional orchestra and soloists, without the Society's finances going into freefall. The confidence of the choir received a boost and we attracted our largest audience since the pandemic.

The year also saw a very welcome increase, for the second year running, in the number of new members. This helped to improve the choir's profile and financial base, as it has become obvious that concerts continue to be very expensive, and the support provided by choir members' subscriptions is very valuable.

Overall, a £4,153 deficit was made, compared with a deficit of £8,798 last year, a favourable movement of £4,645.

The main reasons for this are detailed under.

Concerts and rehearsals

For the record, you will see from note 1 under **Other matters** the list of concert outcomes for the last six years.

There were three concerts in the year – Pershore Abbey in July 2023 produced a surplus of £486, the Jazz concert in the Autumn a deficit of £1,503 and the Mass in B minor in March 2024 a deficit of £9,614. This latter was mainly caused by venue, orchestral and soloists' costs..

INCOME

Members' subscriptions

At £18,288 received, these reflect the welcome increase in new members in the year. Of course, the magnificent music chosen to be sung in the year no doubt helped in this respect.

Music hire or buy

The first two concerts of the year used quite large numbers of smaller works, which increased the cost of hiring music considerably.

Interest received

£1,360 extra was received over last year despite spendable cash resources reducing in the year, caused mainly by the rising rates of bank interest being paid.

EXPENDITURE

Conductor and soloists

There was only one major work requiring orchestra and soloists this year, compared with two last year.

Printing

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There were only three concerts as against four last year.

Venue hire

Lichfield Cathedral cost £3,618 to hire, less £1,200 deposit paid last year. This easily outstripped the amounts paid last year for four concerts.

Other concert expenses

The shortfall in choir demand for the coach to Lichfield cost £590.

Professional fees

Fee rates for the Musical Director and Accompanist were raised from September 2023, plus there were two extra weekend rehearsals held for the Bach concert.

Publicity and archives

Last year, the committee set a maximum budget of £1,500 per annum to be spent on this area of our activities, the need for which has been shown by the better audiences that we have begun to enjoy again. Of this maximum, only £1,114 was spent in the year.

Room hire

Selly Oak Methodist Church raised their hire charges again this year, as energy costs have still not fully stabilised.

Music hire and buy

Last year's costs included £563 to bind in book form all of the summer 2023 concert music, plus £282 for hiring the Christmas concert music. This year, there was no Christmas concert.

Oratorio Prize competition

This year the only costs were the three prizes given to the winner and runners-up, plus the adjudicator's fee, whereas last year we funded all the trophies for the three years that the competition is to run.

Administrative expenses

The £100 was reimbursed to two trustees.

Other support expenses

This includes £509 for the BFCS website for

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two years.

Other matters

1.

For comparison purposes, overall financial results for the past six years before exceptional expenses were as follows:

2018/19	£ 11,701 surplus
2019/20	£ 10,740 surplus
2020/21	£ 29,523 surplus
2021/22	£ 11,060 surplus
2022/23	£ 8,798 deficit
2023/24	£ 4,153 deficit

These included concert results as follows:

2018/19	£ 2,362 surplus
2019/20	£ 4,489 deficit
2020/21	£ nil
2021/22	£ 5,122 deficit
2022/23	£ 12,109 deficit
2023/24	£ 9,211 deficit

2.

Our investment in the COIF Income Fund grew in value by £87 before it was transferred to the COIF Deposit Fund on 13 November 2023, as advised by the Charity Commission. The Deposit Fund has become our reserve bank. On 31 May 2024, £10,000 was transferred from this Fund to our bank current account to maintain our cash Reserves policy.

3.

Cash at bank rose **£12,545** to **£15,258** in the year including the £10,000 in Note 2 above. Of this £15,258, technically a **negative** amount of £1,458 is available to pay for everyday running costs.

Following a committee decision in June 2020, £2,500 was set aside each year out of the Accumulated Fund and transferred into the Commissioning Fund, but the commissioning of new music was subsequently put on hold by the committee. That is why the technicality above has not been acted on.

4.

Although the choir Tour to the Rhineland took place in May 2023, some expenditure, totalling £2,135 fell into the current year. The current balance on the Tour Fund is £169.

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5.

A weekend at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire was held in April 2024, the costs of which, as in the past, were absorbed by the Training Fund, which now stands at £8,972.

6.

I am pleased to again give warm thanks to all those on the committee and in the wider Society for the help and encouragement that they have given me over the past year.

7.

Lastly, I wish to thank Paul Bayliss for his advice and assistance as Independent Examiner, which is much appreciated.

Paul has indicated his willingness to serve in the coming year and therefore I am happy to commend him to choir members for re-election.

Roger Monk,
Treasurer
17 July 2024

Birmingham Festival Choral Society**Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 May 2024****2024**

	£	£	Notes
INCOME FROM:			
Donations and legacies			
Charitable trusts	150		7
Private donors	200		7
		<u>350</u>	
Charitable activities			
Concerts			
Ticket sales	10,082		
Programme sales	726		
Provision of refreshments	189		
		<u>10,997</u>	
Support activities			
Members' subscriptions	18,288		
Music hire or buy	1,067		
		<u>19,355</u>	
Total charitable activities		<u>30,352</u>	
Other trading activities			
Members' fundraising	45		8
Rehearsal refreshments	598		8
		<u>643</u>	
Investments			
Interest received		<u>4,022</u>	
TOTAL INCOME carried forward		<u>35,367</u>	

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Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 May 2024

2024

	£	£	Notes
TOTAL INCOME brought forward		35,367	
Less:			
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds			
Rehearsal refreshments		<u>72</u>	
Charitable activities			
Concerts			
Orchestra	8,338		
Conductor and soloists	3,698		
Printing	785		
Venue hire	5,684		
Other concert expenses	<u>1,703</u>		
		20,208	
Support activities			
Professional fees	11,219		
Publicity and archives	1,114		
Room hire	4,048		
Music hire or buy	897		
Oratorio Prize competition	500		
Insurance	675		
Administrative expenses	100		
Other support expenses	<u>687</u>		
		19,240	
Total charitable activities		<u>39,448</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>39,520</u>	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(4153)	
Exceptional expenses		<u>-</u>	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE AFTER EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES		<u>(4153)</u>	

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Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2024

	2024		
	£	£	Notes
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Tangible assets	-		2
Investments	82,490		3
Total fixed assets		82,490	
<u>Current assets</u>			
Debtors and prepayments	2,850		5
Cash at bank	15,258		
Total current assets		18,108	
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
Creditors falling due in one year	748		6
Total current liabilities		748	
Net current assets		17,360	
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		99,850	
<u>Represented by:</u>			
Unrestricted income funds		83,134	4
Restricted income funds		16,716	4
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		99,850	

Signed by Chair

Date of Trustees' approval

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Birmingham Festival Choral Society

Notes for the year ended 31 May 2024

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014

2. FIXED ASSETS

Summary of movements of Fixed Assets in the year

	£	Total £
Equipment		
Cost		
Brought forward 1 June 2023		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	180	
	<hr/>	585
Carried forward 31 May 2024		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	180	
	<hr/>	585
Accumulated depreciation		
Brought forward 1 June 2023		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	180	
	<hr/>	585
Carried forward 31 May 2024		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	180	
	<hr/>	585
Net book value 31 May 2024		<hr/> <hr/> -

3. INVESTMENTS

Brought forward 1 June 2023	102,403
Net gain/(loss) on COIF Income Fund units in year	87
COIF Income Fund units sold in year	(10000)
COIF Income Fund units transferred to COIF Deposit Fund in year	
Transfer in year from COIF Deposit Fund	(10000)
Carried forward 31 May 2024	<hr/> 82,490

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Notes for the year ended 31 May 2024

£

4. FUNDS

Unrestricted income funds

	Accumulated Fund
As at 1 June 2023	87,200
Surplus (deficit) for the year after exceptional expenses	(4153)
Gain/(loss) on investments in the year	87
As at 31 May 2024	<u>83,134</u>

Made up of:

Cash	(1458)
Investment at valuation	82,490
Debtors less Creditors	2,102
Total	<u>83,134</u>

Total Unrestricted income funds

83,134

Restricted income funds

	Commissioning Fund
As at 1 June 2023 and 31 May 2024	<u>7,575</u>

Made up of:

Cash	<u>7,575</u>
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	Tour Fund
As at 1 June 2023	2149
Receipts in the year	155
Payments in the year	<u>(2135)</u>
As at 31 May 2024	<u>169</u>

Made up of:

Cash	<u>169</u>
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	New Swinnerton Heap Pascoe Training Fund
As at 1 June 2023	10,868
Receipts in the year	15,112
Payments in the year	<u>(17008)</u>
As at 31 May 2024	<u>8,972</u>

Made up of:

Cash	<u>8,972</u>
------	--------------

Total Restricted income funds

16,716

Total Funds

99,850

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Notes for the year ended 31 May 2024

5. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

2,024

£

Debtors

Gift Aid income tax refunds

2,850

2,850

6. CREDITORS

Sundry expenses

104

Professional fees

644

748

7. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Income from charitable trusts

Brotherton Trust

150

Total income from charitable trusts

150

Income from private donors

Anonymous individuals

200

Total income from private donors

200

Total income from donations and legacies

350

8. INCOME FROM MEMBERS' FUNDRAISING

Sale of preserves

45

Rehearsal refreshments

598

644

9. CHARITY COLLECTIONS DURING YEAR

**Income collected for charity
and paid over**

405

2,023

£

£

150

200

350

8,635

553

257

9,445

17,640

727

18,367

27,812

61

579

640

2,662

31,464

2,023

£

£

31,464

60

8,296

6,361

1,074

4,776

1,046

21,553

10,359

946

3,728

1,734

759

634

189

300

18,649

40,202

40,262

(8798)

-

(8798)

2,023

£

£

-

102,403

102,403

2,676

2,713

5,389

-

-

5,389

107,792

87,200

20,592

107,792

2,023
£

2,676
2,676

-
-
-

150
150

200
200
350

61
579
640

1,027

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Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 May 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	350	-	350
Charitable activities	30,352	-	30,352
Other trading activities	643	-	643
Investments	4,022	-	4,022
Other activities	-	15,267	15,267
Total	35,367	15,267	50,634
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	72	-	72
Charitable activities	20,208	-	20,208
Other activities	19,240	19,143	38,383
Total	39,520	19,143	58,663
Net ordinary income/(expenditure)	(4153)	(3876)	(8029)
Exceptional expenses	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after exceptional expenses	(4153)	(3876)	(8029)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	87	-	87
Net movement in funds	(4066)	(3876)	(7942)
Total funds brought forward	87,200	20,592	107,792
Total funds carried forward	83,134	16,716	99,850

Prior period total funds £	Pages
350	2
27,813	2
640	2
2,662	2
37,768	2
<hr/> 69,233	2
60	3
21,554	3
54,466	3
<hr/> 76,080	3
(6847)	
<hr/> -	
(6847)	
-	
(1387)	6
(8235)	
116,027	
<hr/> 107,792 <hr/>	

**Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Birmingham
Festival Choral Society on the accounts for the year ended 31
May 2024 set out on pages 1 to 7 attached**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 May 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of
report**

As the trustees of the Society, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The 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 required.

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Bayliss ACA
Birmingham 5 July 2024