

Birmingham Festival Choral Society

Registered Charity number 510847

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025

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)

Independent Examiner Paul Bayliss

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

Statement of Trustees' The Charities Act 2011 requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial

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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 2025 was £91,616. 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. All surplus cash is held in an interest-bearing Charities Aid Foundation gold bank account, 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

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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 £38 have been made during the year to one Trustee.

Statement on related parties

There have been no related party transactions during the year.

Plans for future periods

In July 2025, there will be an evening of Folk Songs and Madrigals at Bromsgrove School. Performed at St George's church, Edgbaston, Birmingham in November 2025 will be a concert of French Music.

. Signed by Chair

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Date of Trustees' approval

9 July 2025.....

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Treasurer's Report

Overall

The absolute highlight of the choir's year was the supremely successful Dream of Gerontius concert held in Leamington Spa in April 2025, given to a packed house in conjunction with Coventry Philharmonic Choir and the Atherstone Choral Society, accompanied by the Leamington Chamber Orchestra. The tiny financial deficit was shared between the three choirs. Great thanks are due to all the participants in this truly memorable performance.

The year also saw yet another welcome increase in the number of new members, although some older members did decide to cease their membership, leaving the total number approximately the same, year on year.

Overall, a £907 surplus was made in the year, compared with a deficit of £4,153 last year, a favourable movement of £5,060.

The main reasons for this are detailed under.

INCOME

Ticket sales

Of the total of £11,834, £6,265 is attributable to the Dream of Gerontius concert alone, a record.

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 four concerts in the year – Opera Choruses in July 2024, Music of America in the Autumn and the Dream of Gerontius in April 2025 plus a charity Christmas 2024 concert.

Members' subscriptions

At £18,115 received, including Gift Aid, these reflect the welcome increase in new members, replacing those who left the choir. Of course, the magnificent music chosen to be sung in the year no doubt helped in this respect.

Music hire or buy

The Music from America concert used a specially printed songbook, which attracted a higher contribution towards the cost from choir members this year, compared to last.

Interest received

£320 extra was received over last year, caused by rising rates of bank interest and the receipt of deposits for the 2026 Tour from participating members.

EXPENDITURE

Rehearsal refreshments

This is nil because costs of purchase were paid

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from cash takings before they were banked.

Orchestra

The Leamington Chamber Orchestra cost £3,500 less than the Amicable and Musical orchestra last year.

Conductor and soloists

Soloist fees rose from £350-£400 last year to £450 this year.

Printing

There were only three concerts last year, as against four this year. Approximately £500 more than usual was spent on publicising the Leamington concert, which, in the event, was justified by an audience of record size.

Venue hire

Lichfield Cathedral cost £3,618 to hire last year, whereas Leamington Parish Church cost £1,193 this year, and there were four concerts in 2024/25.

Other concert expenses

Last year's figure included £590 loss on the provision of a coach for choir members to Lichfield, whereas this year the equivalent figure to Leamington was only £177. £300 was spent on buying our own staging. Cost contributions from Coventry Philharmonic Choir and Atherstone Choral Society totalling £334 were received.

Professional fees

Fee rates for the Musical Director and Accompanist were raised from September 2024, plus there were three extra rehearsals held for the Leamington concert. Retainer fees of £480 were also paid to the MD

Publicity and archives

In 2023/24, the committee set a budget of £1,500 per annum for this. Of this maximum, only £439 was spent in the year as a refund of £380 overpaid in 2023/24 is included.

Music hire and buy.

110 songbooks were purchased for the Summer concert, plus a hire charge for the same music that was necessary under copyright laws.

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Oratorio Prize competition

This year there were two first places costing £200 each, plus a third place of £50, as against £350 in total last year. Also there were two Adjudicators this year and one last year, costing £150 each. In the year, the next three years' trophies were bought, plus engraving, at a cost of £216.

Administrative expenses

The £38 was reimbursed to one trustee.

Other matters

1.

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

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
2024/25	£ 907 surplus

These included concert results as follows:

2019/20	£ 4,489 deficit
2020/21	£ nil
2021/22	£ 5,122 deficit
2022/23	£ 12,109 deficit
2023/24	£ 9,211 deficit
2024/25	£ 2,368 deficit

2.

Cash at bank rose **£6,305** to **£21,563** in the year.

3.

Following a committee decision in June 2020, £2,500 per annum had been transferred from the Accumulated Fund into the Commissioning Fund, but this year it was decided to abandon that policy due to the perceived unaffordability of a worthwhile piece of music for the choir to perform. Accordingly, £7,575 was transferred back to the Accumulated Fund in the year.

4.

£5,920 deposits for the 2026 Tour of Holland and Belgium have been received. £64 was paid in the year for a reconnaissance trip.

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5.

There has been no movement in the Training Fund during this year.

6.

At the Leamington concert, a retiring collection for the benefit of the family of Seb Farrall raised the magnificent sum of £1,910.

7.

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.

8.

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
9 July 2025

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Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 May 2025

	2025			2024	
	£	£	Notes	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies					
Charitable trusts	-		7		150
Private donors	220		7		200
		220			350
Charitable activities					
Concerts					
Ticket sales	11,833				10,082
Programme sales	716				726
Provision of refreshments	126				189
		12,675			10,997
Support activities					
Members' subscriptions	18,115				18,288
Music hire or buy	1,318				1,067
		19,433			19,355
Total charitable activities		32,108			30,352
Other trading activities					
Members' fundraising	22		8		45
Rehearsal refreshments	510		8		598
		532			643
Investments					
Interest received		4,342			4,022
TOTAL INCOME carried forward		37,202			35,367

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Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 May 2025

	2025			2024	
	£	£	Notes	£	£
TOTAL INCOME brought forward		37,202			35,367
Less:					
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Rehearsal refreshments		-			<u>72</u>
Charitable activities					
Concerts					
Orchestra	5,043				8,338
Conductor and soloists	4,108				3,698
Printing	1,213				785
Venue hire	3,196				5,684
Other concert expenses	<u>1,483</u>				<u>1,703</u>
		15,043			20,208
Support activities					
Professional fees	12,707				11,219
Publicity and archives	439				1,114
Room hire	3,985				4,048
Music hire or buy	1,891				897
Oratorio Prize competition	966				500
Insurance	700				675
Administrative expenses	38				100
Other support expenses	<u>526</u>				<u>687</u>
		21,252			19,240
Total charitable activities		36,295			39,448
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		36,295			39,520
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		907			(4153)
Exceptional expenses		-			-
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE AFTER EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES		907			(4153)

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Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2025

	2025		Notes	2024	
	£	£		£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	-		2	-	
Investments	82,490		3	82,490	
Total fixed assets		82,490			82,490
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	3,225		5	2,850	
Cash at bank	21,563			15,258	
Total current assets		24,788			18,108
Current liabilities					
Creditors falling due in one year	664		6	748	
Total current liabilities		664			748
Net current assets		24,124			17,360
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		106,614			99,850
Represented by:					
Unrestricted income funds		91,616	4	83,134	
Restricted income funds		14,998	4	16,716	
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		106,614			99,850

Signed by Chair

Date of Trustees' approval

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Birmingham Festival Choral Society

Notes for the year ended 31 May 2025

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 2024		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	<u>180</u>	585
Carried forward 31 May 2025		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	<u>180</u>	585
Accumulated depreciation		
Brought forward 1 June 2024		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	<u>180</u>	585
Carried forward 31 May 2025		
2 Display Boards + case	405	
2 Banner Stands	<u>180</u>	585
Net book value 31 May 2025		<u>-</u>

3. INVESTMENTS

Brought forward 1 June 2024 and carried forward 31 May 2025	<u>82,490</u>
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Notes for the year ended 31 May 2025

£

4. FUNDS

Unrestricted income funds

	Accumulated Fund
As at 1 June 2024	83,134
Surplus (deficit) for the year after exceptional expenses	907
Transfer from Commissioning Fund	7,575
As at 31 May 2025	<u>91,616</u>

Made up of:

Cash	6,565
Investment at valuation	82,490
Debtors less Creditors	2,561
Total	<u>91,616</u>

Total Unrestricted income funds **91,616**

Restricted income funds

	Commissioning Fund
As at 1 June 2024	7,575
Transfer to the Accumulated Fund in the year	<u>(7575)</u>
	-

Tour Fund

As at 1 June 2024	169
Receipts in the year	5,920
Payments in the year	<u>(63)</u>
As at 31 May 2025	<u>6,026</u>

Made up of:

Cash	<u>6,026</u>
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New Swinnerton Heap Pascoe Training Fund

As at 1 June 2024	8,972
Receipts in the year	-
Payments in the year	-
As at 31 May 2025	<u>8,972</u>

Made up of:

Cash	<u>8,972</u>
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Total Restricted income funds **14,998**

Total Funds **106,614**

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Notes for the year ended 31 May 2025

5. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors		
Gift Aid income tax refunds	3,225	2,850
	<u>3,225</u>	<u>2,850</u>

6. CREDITORS

Sundry expenses	-	104
Professional fees	664	644
	<u>664</u>	<u>748</u>

7. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Income from charitable trusts

Brotherton Trust	-	150
Total income from charitable trusts	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>

Income from private donors

Anonymous individuals	220	200
Total income from private donors	<u>220</u>	<u>200</u>

Total income from donations and legacies

<u>220</u>	<u>350</u>
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8. INCOME FROM MEMBERS' FUNDRAISING

Sale of preserves	22	45
Rehearsal refreshments	510	598
	<u>532</u>	<u>643</u>

9. CHARITY COLLECTIONS DURING YEAR

**Income collected for charity
and paid over**

<u>1,910</u>	<u>405</u>
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Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 May 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior period total funds	Pages
	£	£	£	£	
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	220	-	220	350	2
Charitable activities	12,675	-	12,675	30,352	2
Other trading activities	532	-	532	643	2
Investments	4,342	-	4,342	4,022	2
Other activities	19,433	5,920	25,353	15,267	2
Total	37,202	5,920	43,122	50,634	2
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	-	-	-	72	3
Charitable activities	15,043	-	15,043	20,208	3
Other activities	21,252	63	21,315	38,383	3
Total	36,295	63	36,358	58,663	3
Net ordinary income/(expenditure)	907	5,857	6,764	(8029)	
Exceptional expenses	-	-	-	-	
Net income/(expenditure) after exceptional expenses	907	5,857	6,764	(8029)	
Transfers between funds	7,575	(7575)	-	-	
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	87	6
Net movement in funds	8,482	(1718)	6,764	(7942)	
Total funds brought forward	83,134	16,716	99,850	107,792	
Total funds carried forward	91,616	14,998	106,614	99,850	

**Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Birmingham
Festival Choral Society on the accounts for the year ended 31
May 2025 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 2025.

**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 19 June 2025