



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: RALPH WOODWARD
PATRON: THE LORD FAIRHAVEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Objectives of the Fairhaven Singers

The object of the Fairhaven Singers 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 choir through its committee shall determine from time to time.

Structure

The Fairhaven Singers is a membership organization managed by an elected committee, as set out in its constitution.

Chair:	Robin Higgons
Treasurer:	Paul Ashley (retired 29 September 2023, to be replaced by Gavin Stark)
Secretary:	Emily Dourish
Member:	Andrew Smith
Member:	Karen Hébert
Musical Director (ex officio):	Ralph Woodward

Activities

The following reports are based on the reports presented at the AGM on 29 September 2023

Chairman's Report

This summer saw a landmark in the choir's repertoire, as we performed the last of Ralph's programmes delayed by the pandemic, i.e. the Summer 2020 repertoire. The last three and a half years have been somewhat tumultuous and challenging, but we have come through in remarkably good shape.

Having survived a pandemic, caught up with our programme plans, rebuilt our audiences, and spent (nearly) all our financial reserves, we appear to be entering a period of stability and calm. The programming and financial plans will enable us to rebuild our financial reserves relatively quickly, so the choir will be on a very sound footing for the future.

Paul is stepping down from the Committee as of this AGM, and I would like to thank him for all his hard work and sage advice over the 14 years that we have been on the Committee together. Gavin is taking over as Treasurer and I have no doubt that the choir's finances are in very good hands.

Looking forward, Ralph will be discussing our plans for the next couple of years. As always, he continues to build a really exciting and varied programme which will entertain and keep us busy for the foreseeable future. We continue to work on our ambitions to become / remain the leading amateur chamber choir in the East of England.

So, with this idyllic, stable future in front of us, the time is approaching for me to step down as Chairman, which will happen at the next AGM in 2024. By then, I will have had the pleasure and privilege of being Chairman for 15 years and it is the right time for me to step aside to allow new person with new ideas to take the choir forward. I will also take a short sabbatical from the choir at this time, although I will still be very happy to support the new Chair if requested.

As the position of Chair will become vacant next September, we are looking for someone to take over the role. We have a year for the transition, which gives the next chair plenty of time to join the Committee and gradually take over from me. If you are interested, please feel free to talk to me or another Committee member.

Robin Higgons

Musical Director's Report

Ralph presented the breakdown of the choir's activities since the last AGM and a summary of the future plans for the choir:

Activities since last AGM

October 2022	Autumn Schubertiade Appointment of Jenni Buss and Westcott Stark as Treatt Choral Scholars
November 2022	Holst, Delius, Schubert, Brahms with Gordon and Hayley at the piano
December 2022	Christmas concerts in Trinity and for Exquisite Home, and carols for tech company
February 2023	Release of Dove recording
March 2023	Bach St Matthew Passion in St John's with Florilegium
April 2023	Auction of Promises Some choir members participated in ETO Giulio Cesare
July 2023	Most of the July 2020 repertoire, with a few substitutions Cecilia McDowall premiere at IAML Congress in Trinity

Future activities

October 2023	Todd Requiem in York Minster Appointment of Choral Scholars
November 2023	Victoria Requiem and music for choir and cello, including Geoff Page premiere
December 2023	Carols at Anglesey Abbey, Christmas concert in Trinity
March 2024	Scarlatti Stabat Mater and English anthems
April 2024	Auction of Promises
July 2024	Including Bach Der Geist, Gibbons, Stanford, Saint-Saëns
November 2024	Probably including Howells Requiem, Stanford motets
Christmas 2024	repertoire pending....
March 2025	Handel Dettingen Te Deum and Haydn Heiligmesse

Ralph Woodward

Treasurer's Report

(the financial reports are presented separately)

Notes to the Income & Expenditure report

- The choir had a deficit of £4,326 overall (column 5, last row), compared to a deficit of £18,334 the previous year (last column, the year in which we incurred the expenditure to record 'Sappho Sings').
- The General Fund (i.e. normal activities plus concerts) had a deficit of £4,169 (first column), compared to a deficit of £8,160 the previous year. The deficit on the (otherwise wonderful) March concert (£11,443) was an obvious contributing factor.
- The Dora Kemp Commission Fund had minimal activity last year.
- The Recordings Fund activity is attributable to the sale of Sappho Sings CDs, and the purchase of a video recording of the making of our own recording.
- The Alyson L Harvey Fund had a small deficit – the fund paid for the Auction of Promises dinner.
- We received £2,450 from HMRC for our Gift Aid refund to 31 August 2022. The claim for 2022-23 will be made soon.

Notes to the Balance Sheet

- Our assets have decreased by £3,310, mainly attributable to our income and expenditure deficit.
- The lower table shows the asset balances distributed between the four funds as of 31 August 2023.
- The massive negative balance in the Recordings Fund will be reduced by transfers from the General Fund over time: any balance over £20k in the General Fund will be transferred 85% to the Dora Kemp Commission Fund and 15% to the Recordings Fund. (This is a book-keeping exercise that makes no difference to the financial position of the choir, but does make clear the cost of recordings and commissions).
- CDs are currently valued for accounting purposes at: Sappho Sings £5; Full of Grace £5; Todd Requiem £1; Into the Stars £1. The CD Blue Skies That Sparkle, and recipe books are valued at £0.

General comments on our financial performance and forecast

The choir has survived covid, the Sappho Sings commission and CD recording, and the (expensive) March St Matthew Passion concert in good financial shape. In an ideal world we would retain a reserve in our bank balance of upwards of £20,000, to protect us against the next covid (or other 'event'). We currently have £6,394. However, I anticipate that the future direction of this bank balance will be upwards for the next few years. In a real emergency, we retain the investments in the Alyson Harvey Fund (although they are intended to be used for assisting with the social welfare of the choir).

Paul Ashley

Fairhaven Singers
Income and expenditure
1 Sep 2022 - 31 Aug 2023

	General Fund	Alyson Harvey Fund	Dora Kemp Fund	Recordings Fund	Total 2022- 2023	Total 2021- 2022
Income						
Ticket sales	12,908.68	-	-	-	12,908.68	9,970.32
Members' income	11,937.50	-	-	-	11,937.50	9,343.50
Friends' income	2,579.97	-	-	-	2,579.97	1,854.33
Fund raising	1,785.00	-	-	-	1,785.00	2,201.50
Performance fees	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	500.00
Donations income	630.00	250.00	50.00	-	930.00	5,585.81
Other sales income	154.80	-	-	461.60	616.40	74.64
Cost recovery	18.40	-	-	-	18.40	115.14
Total Income	31,014.35	250.00	50.00	461.60	31,775.95	29,645.24
Expenditure						
Soloists, orchestras & instrument hire	13,787.50	-	-	-	13,787.50	21,940.77
Musical Director	12,445.00	-	-	-	12,445.00	13,025.00
Marketing & publicity	3,049.00	-	-	-	3,049.00	3,393.45
Venue hire	1,862.00	-	-	-	1,862.00	1,851.25
Concert programmes	1,470.00	-	-	-	1,470.00	1,295.00
Sheet music printing & hire	902.00	-	-	-	902.00	791.25
Concert catering	725.77	-	-	-	725.77	394.07
Professional fees & services	669.51	-	-	-	669.51	325.54
Other costs	147.34	-	-	424.00	571.34	2,001.43
Social event costs	-	494.50	-	-	494.50	-
Recording engineering and production	-	-	-	-	-	2,700.00
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	244.00
Ticket refunds	-	-	-	-	-	19.00
Total expenditure	35,058.12	494.50	-	424.00	35,976.62	47,980.76
Surplus/deficit	(4,043.77)	(244.50)	50.00	37.60	(4,200.67)	(18,335.52)

See note 1 for analysis of income and expenditure

Fairhaven Singers

Balance Sheet as of 31 Aug 2023

	As at 31/08/2023	As at 31/08/2022	Note/tab
Current assets			
A101: Lloyds Bank	6,393.60	10,914.31	3
A102: Paypal	125.62	-	4
A103: Petty cash	142.42	104.20	7
A105: Charles Stanley cash funds	3,265.52	3,095.38	5
A106: ALH Fund investments	14,284.85	14,377.20	5
A110: CD stocks	1,277.00	235.00	7
A111: Other stock	18.00	27.00	7
Total Current assets	25,507.01	28,753.09	
Liabilities			
6699: Agency collections	48.00	100.00	6
Total Liabilities	48.00	100.00	
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	25,459.01	28,653.09	
Represented by			
General fund	20,185.39	24,268.80	
Dora Kemp Commissions Fund	2,569.39	2,519.39	
Recordings Fund	(14,288.98)	(15,295.02)	
Alyson L Harvey Fund	17,093.21	17,259.92	
Agency (Umo So Voz)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
Total	25,459.01	28,653.09	

Fairhaven Singers

Charity No. 802542

Accounts for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

I have independently examined the accounts for The Fairhaven Singers for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 as set out and required by The Charity Commission Act, (CCA).

The Fairhaven Singers have chosen to prepare their accounts on the receipt and payment (RP) basis and subject them to independent examination which falls within the scope of the regulations.

My objectives are thus:

1. To identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept.
2. To check that the accounts agree with the accounting records.
3. To look for significant errors in the accounts.
4. To ensure that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with CAR – in so far as they apply to accounts maintained on an RP basis.

Report

No matters have arisen during the course of my examination where I have to give an adverse report.

I consider that the annual financial statements of The Fairhaven Singers as presented to me reflect a true and fair statement of the status of each fund.

Stephanie J. Barnes

S.J. Barnes

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Date 12 DECEMBER 2023.