

## **National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### **DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT**

for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The directors present their Directors' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the directors of National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the company is to establish and maintain the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland (NYCNI) and promote the highest standard of choral singing and vocal skills among young people of Northern Ireland.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The directors and the Administration Manager have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the company and have put in place a risk management plan to mitigate any exposure to those risks.

#### **Reference and Administrative details**

The company, limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, was incorporated on 12 January 1999 and has a charitable status - ref XR29957. The company number is NI035447. Its principal and registered office is C/O Campbell College, Belmont Road, Belfast, BT 2ND. The company is registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland NIC 100542.

#### **Directors**

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Eibhlís Farrell  
Gillian Greenfield (Resigned 12 December 2023)  
Paul Mulholland  
Graeme Stewart (Resigned 12 December 2023)  
Catherine Dalzell  
Amy Bennington  
Sarah Minford (Appointed 27 February 2024)  
Laura Salt (Appointed 27 February 2024)  
Siobhan Savage (Appointed 27 February 2024)  
Emma Quinn (Appointed 13 March 2024)

#### **Objectives and activities**

The main objective of the charity is to promote the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by the presentation of concerts and other activities for the people in Northern Ireland.

The activities undertaken during the year by NYCNI included school workshops, residential music courses, master classes and concerts.

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**Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance**

In the 12 month period to 31 March 2024 NYCNI artistic activity continued to develop and expand.

In April 2023 seventy-six girls attended the Girls' Choir course, directed by Andrew Nunn and for 2023 the course was expanded from three to four days. At the same time the first Boys' Choir course took place over three days. This is a new choir, aimed at younger boys aged 8 to 12 and forty-seven boys took part under the direction of Alison McNeill. The courses culminated with a short concert featuring programmes from each choir and a joint finale.

In July 2023 NYCNI delivered three choral courses at Campbell College. A total of 243 young singers attended. The senior and training choir courses were led by Artistic Director Andrew Nunn while the junior choir was conducted by Alison McNeill. The Senior and Training Choir courses were both for seven days and were residential, while the Junior Choir was for five days and non-residential. Each course finished with a concert. The Junior and Training Choir concerts took place in Campbell College while the Senior Choir concert was in St George's Church in Belfast.

Between October 2023 and March 2024 NYCNI delivered school workshops and open audition sessions across Northern Ireland for the 2024 summer courses and the Girls' and Boys' Choir Easter courses.

The AGM was held on 12 December 2023. Six full board meetings were held during the year.

**Financial Results**

The results are set out on pages 9 and 10. NYCNI had a net outgoing resource for the 12 month financial period to 31 March 2024 of £54,033. Following a prior decision to appoint a part time Chief Executive funded from reserves in the first year, the directors anticipated a loss for the year to 31 March 2024. However, during the year the company had a significant employee issue which necessitated additional expenditure in the form of salary costs and legal and professional fees. This resulted in the reported loss for the year and a reduction in unrestricted reserves to £16,324.

**Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards**

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS102)

**Reserves Policy**

The Directors' policy in relation to unrestricted reserves is to maintain a level of reserves to protect the company against unexpected additional costs or reductions in income. The Directors consider that an appropriate target level is between three and six months normal recurring expenditure, currently between £20,000 and £40,000. At 31 March 2024, unrestricted reserves are £16,324, which is less than target.

**Structure, Governance and Management Organisational Structure**

The National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland (NYCNI) is governed by a Board of Directors which delegates responsibility for the administrative and artistic running of the company to a Chief Executive with administrative support and an Artistic Director.

During the annual courses, NYCNI also engages the services of conductors, a team of section coaches for sopranos, contraltos, tenors and basses, vocal tutors as well as a team of welfare personnel.

**Governing Document**

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital. It is registered in Northern Ireland (registration number NI035447) and has obtained charitable status with Charity Commission Northern Ireland (reference number 100542). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors have an induction meeting with the Chair of the Board. They are briefed on a range of issues including a full introduction to the organisation, its decision-making process, its business plan and its recent financial performance and the roles and responsibilities of a Board Member.

**Special Provisions relating to small companies**

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

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Approved by the Board of Directors on 18-Dec-24 | 10:35 GMT and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

*Paul Mulholland*

Paul Mulholland  
Director