



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2019

Registered Charity No. 277544

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Aug 2019

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: North London Chorus

Registered Charity Number: 277544

Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

Trustees & Elected Committee Members: Yoav Landau-Pope (Chair), Alison Salisbury (Hon Secretary), Alan Chandler (Hon Treasurer), Marcus Bartlett (to Jan 2020), Gary Bilkus, Sue Heaney, Judith Schott, Alan Wills (to Sep 2019)

Co-opted Committee Members: Kate Hodgkin (co-opted October 2019)

Musical Director: Murray Hipkin (also present at Committee)

Committee Members for part of choir year: Viv Canter, Joan Reardon

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Limited

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution as amended 25th January 2018.

Organisational Structure

The Chorus is managed by a committee as detailed above. All members of the committee are elected by the Chorus at its Annual General Meeting and hold office until the following AGM. All committee members offer their services on a voluntary basis. The Chorus employs no staff but contracts for the services of the Musical Director and Accompanist. The Chorus is not connected to other charities. New Trustees / Elected Committee Members are recruited within the ranks of the choir and are encouraged to stand for Committee at the AGM. According to the Constitution, a maximum of 6 out of 10 Committee Members can remain without standing for re-election the following year. This encourages rotation of membership and "new blood" within the ranks of the Committee. All elected committee members are Trustees also.

Objectives and Activities

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Chorus relies on income subscriptions to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of subscriptions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Chorus for those on low incomes and in these circumstances reduced subscriptions are available.

North London Chorus is a Public Benefit Entity and as such is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops and concert attendance. To this end, a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. More specific details of our activities, which benefit the public, can be found in our Musical Director's and Chairman's reports.

These objectives remain the same for the coming year.

Financial Position

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 6-10 give a detailed account of the main drivers of the finances of the Chorus. In summary, we started the year with net assets of £4,738 and ended with £2,263 making a deficit of £2,474. The Committee managed the reserves in accordance with the policy described below, through careful cost control, realistic concert budgets and contributions from outside and within the choir. As reserves are particularly low at year end (compared to previous years) the Treasurer has recommended a budget for the coming season whereby outgoings should not exceed incoming resources.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to cover other costs including unplanned emergency cancellation of concerts at short notice resulting in costs but no revenue and to fund new developments as agreed by the Trustees, from time to time. The Trustees' policy is thus to ensure normal expenditures are matched by a sufficient level of income and that an appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable the Chorus to function, to allow for unforeseen contingencies and to fund new initiatives to develop its work in accordance with its aims and objectives in a manner that does not present undue risk to the choir's financial position. The Trustees will act to increase the level of reserves where significant expenditure or increased risks are foreseen.

Chairman's Annual Report

Sept 2018 – Aug 2019

The year was a successful one for NLC. It also brought with it quite a few challenges. Some of these were expected following a very ambitious and demanding season of 2017-18. Other challenges were a result of an unfortunate series of health issues affecting several people. Looking back at the year, I can proudly say that we managed it very well, and showed what a musically capable, well-grounded and resilient choir and community NLC is.

We performed three concerts, all at St James Church in Muswell Hill.

- In the autumn concert we sang Britten *The Company of Heaven*, J S Bach *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*, and Haydn *Nelson Mass*.
- In the spring we sang J S Bach *St John Passion*. The concert was dedicated to Sally Silver, Patron of Friends of NLC, who sadly passed away at the end of November 2018. The collection at the concert, chosen by Sally's family, was in support of the Brain Tumour Research charity, raising more than £1,000.
- The summer concert included Rutter *Magnificat*, Vaughan Williams *Flos Campi*, both conducted by Andrea Brown, and Dyson *Hierusalem* conducted by Murray Hipkin.

We had two singing workshops during the year.

- A day workshop on 6 October 2018 in East Finchley
- Our annual Residential Weekend Workshop on 1-3 February 2019 at Denham Grove.

On 10 December 2018 we raised £450 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice singing carols at East Finchley underground station. On 11 May 2019 we held the annual quiz night, which is our main fundraising event for the year and raised a net profit of £1,722. We also had three choir parties hosted in members' homes, one at the end of each term, and went on outings to the opera.

Following the previous year's voice checks some members left the choir, some moved voice parts. This required some adjustment. We also faced a number of members needing to withdraw from singing due to health-related issues. This led us to start an intensive recruitment effort, which continued into the summer leading into the next season in September 2019. We introduced small group singing lessons for all members of the choir, who find them very helpful. These lessons are led by our Vocal Consultants and are funded by the choir.

Andrea Brown, our much loved and respected Vocal Consultant, could no longer continue to work with us this year on a regular basis. However, owing to the indisposition of our Musical Director, we did work with Andrea in the summer term as she stepped in to take some rehearsals and conduct part of our summer concert. Huge thank you to Andrea for all the good solid work with NLC and for saving the day!

Yvette Bonner worked with us as Guest Vocal Coach for the summer concert and at the end of the season it was decided to appoint her to replace Andrea. Yvette is now completely at home with NLC doing great work with us.

There were also changes to the Committee. Joan Reardon, who has served as Secretary for many years, needed to step down at the end of January. Joan, in her role as Secretary, held together the work of the committee, communication and coordination within the choir and outside. She did so in the most dedicated, efficient and pleasant way. A huge thank you Joan! We welcome our new Secretary Alison Salisbury, who is now fully settled in her new role. Judith Schott has been elected Vice Chair of the committee and worked very closely with the Chair to ensure the safe and smooth running of the choir.

The list of those who have contributed to the success of NLC this year is very long. NLC exists and thrives through the commitment and hard work of each and every member. The Committee coordinates and ensures the smooth running of the choir.

The choir is professionally led by our inspiring Musical Director Murray Hipkin, together with our Accompanist Catherine Borner and our Vocal Consultants Yvette Bonner and Mark Oldfield. We are blessed with the support of our Patrons Janis Kelly and Laurence Cummings and by Friends of NLC. Our biggest support comes from our loyal audience - lovers of our music. A huge thank you to each and every one of you!

Yoav Landau-Pope - Chair, February 2020

Musical Director's Review (2018/19 Season)

I have very little to add to the comprehensive report by the then Chair, Yoav Landau-Pope. It was a very successful season for the choir artistically and we achieved a good balance of repertoire covering works from the Baroque and Classical periods as well as a programme of 20th Century music by English composers. In particular, I would single out The Company of Heaven which proved to be a discovery of what many of us feel is a neglected masterpiece that deserves more exposure. I would like to add my thanks to every member of the committee, to our Vocal Consultants Andrea Brown, Mark Oldfield and Yvette Bonner, our accompanist Catherine Borner, to the Friends of NLC, to all our other supporters and sponsors and, of course, to Yoav himself for his diligence and commitment in leading us through a challenging year.

*Murray Hipkin - Musical Director,
February 2020*

 north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin

Saturday 17 November 2018 7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

J S Bach
WIDERSTEHE DOCH DER SÜNDE BWV 54

Britten
THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN

Haydn
NELSON MASS

Soraya Mafi *soprano*
 Katie Stevenson *mezzo*
 William Morgan *tenor*
 William Thomas *bass*
 Rachel Bell and Jeremy Finch *speakers*
 Murray Hipkin *conductor*
 North London Chorus
 Meridian Sinfonia

Book online:
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£23 • £19 • £11
 Concessions £2 reduction
 Also available from:
 St James Church Bookshop and
 Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill



www.northlondonchorus.org


NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)



 north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
 patrons Janis Kelly • Laurence Cummings
 musical director Murray Hipkin

J S Bach
ST JOHN PASSION
 BWV 245

Saturday 9 March 2019 7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

William Morgan *Evangelist* • Ed Ballard *Jesus*
 Rowan Pierce *soprano* • Katie Stevenson *alto*
 Jorge Navarro *Colorado* *tenor* • James Cleverton *baritone*
 Murray Hipkin *conductor*
 North London Chorus
 Meridian Sinfonia

Book online:
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 Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill

Retiring collection in aid of
 Brain Tumour Research





www.northlondonchorus.org
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 north london chorus
Meridian Sinfonia

Saturday 22 June 2019
7.30pm
St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB
 Book online:
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£23 • £19 • £11
 Concessions £2 reduction

North London Chorus
Meridian Sinfonia
Murray Hipkin *conductor*

Magnificat
Rutter

Hierusalem
Dyson

Flos Campi
Vaughan Williams

www.northlondonchorus.org
NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)






Statement of Financial Activities - Summarised

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2019

	2019	2018
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	16,736	16,867
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	3,886	3,778
Total Subscriptions related income	20,622	20,646
Hall hire - rehearsals	(4,254)	(4,622)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(12,452)	(13,982)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(613)	(804)
Administration & Other	(926)	(1,436)
Depreciation expense	(28)	(117)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	2,349	(314)
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	17,035	17,156
Concert-specific funding	750	3,600
Professional fees - concerts	(21,122)	(26,644)
Instrument & music hire	(1,179)	(790)
Concert venue costs	(2,912)	(7,774)
Flowers	(144)	(197)
Printing & publicity	(1,540)	(1,539)
Concert - other costs	(1,000)	(1,016)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(10,110)	(17,203)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	1,765	2,284
Other income incl. coffee & raffles	1,562	1,828
Annual sponsorship	1,250	1,250
Friends of NLC Revenue	710	538
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	5,287	5,899
Total surplus / (deficit)	(2,474)	(11,618)

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2019.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £46,168. Of that amount £18,273 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £27,895 on concerts. Income during the year was £43,694. Of this, £20,622 was from subscriptions related income, £17,785 from concerts and concert-specific funding and £5,287 from fundraising and sponsorship.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultants, the rates of which increased by the previous year in line with inflation. Where the year before £2,575 was invested in the voice check process, we did not have to repeat that in 2018/19 but invested more in singing lessons for all choir members with our Vocal Consultants.

Administration costs include £285 for the October 2018 workshop venue, £240 for the costs of accounting software, a fee of £200 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, as well as a range of other small expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation £28 represents the annual allocation of the cost of our conductor's stand, spread over its estimated period of use.

Of the £17,785 concert revenues for this year, £13,846 was generated from ticket sales, £1,538 from programme sales, £1,200 from programme advertising revenue, £750 was from concert specific funding (see below) and £451 from the bar. Ticket sales were approximately £815 down on the previous year whilst the other concert revenue streams all grew compared to the previous year.

The majority of the £21,122 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£12,765) and soloist fees (£6,007). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar. In addition this year, venue costs have normalised compared to the previous year as the Shoreditch venue for the Winter 2017 concert at almost £5,800 was significantly more expensive than the £1,000 or so venue costs when at St James Church.

Other donations of £1,765 relate to the surplus we made on our fundraising quiz evening (including £365 of donations from members who could not attend) plus £43 of other general donations. Other income of £1,562 consists of funds raised from the sale of beverages at our rehearsals (£1,362) and from regular raffles (£200). The Friends of NLC initiative brought in net revenue of £710.

The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,250 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital, as well as £750 to support our summer concert from the Sir George Dyson Trust when we performed Dyson's *Hierusalem*.

Balance Sheet - Summarised

North London Chorus

As at 31 August 2019

	31 AUG 2019	31 AUG 2018
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	56	84
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	3,080	5,350
Amounts recoverable by NLC	1,656	2,066
Total Current Assets	4,736	7,416
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	2,528	2,762
Net Assets	2,263	4,738
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	4,738	16,356
Current Year Earnings	(2,474)	(11,618)
Total Reserves	2,263	4,738

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2019.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns a Yamaha keyboard, some stage lighting and a conductor's stand. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC is £1,656 of which £1,070 relates to sponsorship income (£750) and programme advertising income (£320) from the period not received until after the financial year end. Additionally in this amount are the following: £407 relates to the 2020 Residential Weekend (mostly the venue deposit paid by NLC) which ultimately is paid back to the Chorus as the Residential Weekend is funded by its participants – this is just a timing issue as the deposit was paid in March 2019 and participants pay their fees later largely in December 2019; £104 relates to scores NLC has purchased to sell back to its members for the Winter 2019 concert, and we retain a £75 damage deposit with St James Church.

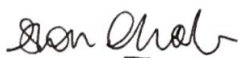
Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £2,528 include £2,200 of accruals for expenses incurred, but not yet billed, for the period. Also included is £329 of billed items paid after year end.

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2019 of £2,263 is lower than it has been for some time following a period of investment in an ambitious concert season and voice checks the previous year and disappointing ticket sales in the Summer 2019 concert. The Committee continues to monitor reserve levels carefully - budgeting to cover its costs with the revenues it raises in the 2019/20 financial year.

Approved by the Committee on 2nd February 2020 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)

Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: 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) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus’s ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year’s accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. A number of accounting policies have been added in accordance with FRS 102 but this is extra disclosure and does not represent a change in approach.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b) Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d) Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a) Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost.
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b) Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3. Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted apart from £750 which is shown on the face of the accounts as concert specific funding and was raised specifically for the Summer 2019 concert, to support our performance of Dyson’s *Hierusalem*.

4. Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner’s fees were £200 as our previous Independent examiner stepped down after two years and we appointed Verdant Accountants Limited.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Fixed Assets

5.1 Cost or valuation

Fixed assets comprise a Yamaha keyboard (£1,305), stage lighting (£182) and a conductor’s stand (£112), with no new additions in the financial year.

5.2 Depreciation and impairments

Accumulated depreciation was brought forward of £1,305 relating to the Yamaha keyboard, £182 relating to the stage lighting and £28 for the conductor’s stand. Depreciation was on a straight line basis and was £28 for the conductor’s stand, resulting in accumulated depreciation at the end of the year of £1,305 for the Yamaha keyboard, £182 for the stage lighting and £56 for the conductor’s stand.

5.3 Net book value

The Yamaha keyboard had a net book value of £0 (purchased in 2012), the stage lighting had a net book value of £0 (purchased in 2015) and the conductor’s stand had a net book value of £56 (purchased in 2017).

6. Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7. Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8. Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9. Transactions with trustees and related parties

a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b) Trustees’ expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c) Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of North London Chorus Charity no. 277544.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year ended 31 August 2019 which are set out on pages 6-10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

- (1) I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
 - the accounts did 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.
- (2) 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.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
167 Clarence Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TX

3rd February 2020