

THE CARICE SINGERS

Registered Charity Number 1170689

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Trustees

J GRAHAM-HALL

D M GRIMLEY

D HODGES

C KING (joined 17 October 2019)

G PARRIS

M TATTERSALL

Charity registered number

1170689

Charity registered address

Fexloe House, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire, CV35 0QR

Charity staff

George Parris – Artistic Director

Jacob Ewens – Projects Administrator (appointed 1 Feb 2019)

Treasurer

James Synge

Independent auditor

John McKail

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the CIO's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and Activities

a. Policies and objectives

The objectives of the CIO are for the public benefit:

To advance the education of the public in the arts and in particular the art of choral music by British composers of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Mission Statement

The Carice Singers exists to connect music to people of all ages and backgrounds through its performances, recordings, and outreach work throughout the UK and beyond, often visiting less familiar venues. Named after Elgar's daughter, the charity is committed to promoting curiosity and appreciation for its ever-widening repertoire among audiences and performers alike while also supporting the early careers of the young professional musicians it engages. The charity strives for the highest artistic calibre in all its work and is proud to be gaining a reputation for imaginative concert programmes.

Background

The Carice Singers is emerging as one of the most distinctive professional vocal ensembles in the UK, defined by its unique sound and imaginative choice of repertoire. Founded in 2011, the ensemble began life giving concerts in Cotswold churches and focusing on the choral music of Edward Elgar, naming itself after the composer's daughter and only child. Securing a contract with the Naxos label in 2013 for a three-part series of CD recordings gave the ensemble new momentum and confidence to develop ambitious artistic projects while also remaining loyal to audiences based in rural areas of the UK.

Since 2018, the choir has accepted invitations to perform at prestigious UK music festivals including Cheltenham Music Festival and the Oxford Lieder Festival and to record its chosen repertoire for the *BBC Music Magazine*. At the same time, the charity has undertaken its own special projects aimed at enchanting and inspiring audiences as well as developing the skills and professionalism of its members. Partly through the diverse and far-reaching interests of Artistic Director, George Parris, cultivated during his time at the Sibelius Academy in Finland, The Carice Singers now occupies a unique space among the UK's professional vocal ensembles as it strategically presents its specialist repertoire within a wider artistic arena, taking listeners on journeys that forge poetic links across nations and centuries.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

1. To inspire our audiences with work of the highest artistic calibre
2. To provide our audiences with pre-concert talks and workshops which contextualise our chosen repertoire and encourage them to draw their own interpretations from the music
3. To cultivate new audiences for choral music by undertaking our work in an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere
4. To undertake projects which enable the ensemble to travel out of the metropolis and bring our performances to areas of the UK that normally do not have access to a high level of music-making
5. To support the artistic and professional development of young freelance musicians by securing performances at prestigious venues and festivals and by creating artistically demanding programmes within a supportive atmosphere
6. To develop an ethical and environmentally sound approach to all aspects of our work

c. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and planning future activities. Below is a record of the public benefit activities for 2019.

The Carice Singers undertook 14 public engagements, including revisits to Cheltenham Music Festival and the Oxford Lieder Festival after successful performances in 2018. This is the highest number of engagements undertaken in one year in the charity's history, and 3 more than in 2018.

50% of our public engagements took place in venues belonging to small rural towns or villages, with the venues of other performances being in Cheltenham, Oxford, and London respectively.

The charity engaged 33 young freelance singers and was able to increase the level of its financial support to them by 10%.

The charity appointed a new member of staff, Jacob Ewens, as Projects Administrator in February. This greatly enhanced the charity's ability to develop, plan, and carry out its projects and public engagements.

The charity appointed Matthew Whittall as its Associate Composer in March with the view of later commissioning Matthew to write an extended unaccompanied setting of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Songs of Travel*. The charity specifically had its charitable aims in mind when setting out the details of Matthew's commission.

Achievements and performance

a. Key financial performance indicators

Income received from music festivals and music venues/societies remains a core element of the charity's financial stability. In 2019, this figure was lower than average, making up 35% of total income, however ticket income was higher than average, making up 19% of total income.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Donations given by individuals or Trusts and Foundations supported just beneath half of the charity's total income, bringing in a total of £12,405 with Gift Aid Tax Recovery included.

b. Review of activities

Concerts reached a larger number of audience members than in previous years and attracted the attention of national media including the BBC. The charity was able to perform an even wider range of repertoire twinned with an even more impressive display of artistic excellence.

In January the charity staged its first ever Twelfth Night Concerts in London and Warwick, with both performances near to selling out. In the summer, the charity organised its most ambitious project to date, following the success of 'Sounding North' at the 2018 Oxford Lieder Festival. The choir was invited to appear on BBC Radio 3's live afternoon show *In Tune* to showcase its forthcoming 'Sounding North' concerts.

A large audience attended George Parris's Pre-concert Talk at the Cheltenham Music Festival where he was joined by Oxford Music Professor and authority on Nordic music Daniel M. Grimley. Judging by the number of questions asked, and the later reaction to the concert, the audience had been very inspired by the programme and provoked into thinking about their own interpretations of 'North', which was precisely the charity's aim.

"I was enthralled by the 'Northern' music, the discussion and especially that remarkable performance art/ musical piece by Kaija Saariaho! A complete revelation! "
Audience member

In October, the charity was honoured to be included in the High Sheriff of Warwickshire's celebrations and Legal Service which proved as another excellent way of connecting with audiences in the Warwickshire region. Around this, the charity performed its new 'In Paradisum' programme to sold-out audiences in London and at the Oxford Lieder Festival. The programme once again saw the musicians working in a range of languages and musical styles which impressed both the audiences and the senior management of the Oxford Lieder Festival.

In December the charity gave three Christmas carol concerts in less familiar UK venues (Leamington Spa, Hungerford, Chipping Campden), but of which all were fee paying making it one of our most financially stable projects to date. Our concert for Chipping Campden Music Society was sold out and also included a pre-concert talk given by George Parris and a quartet of singers which proved very popular with those attending.

Membership and Support

The Carice Singers is enormously grateful to its many Friends, Benefactors and other donors whose support is vital to realising artistic ambitions and helping to secure the future. In 2019, the number of our supporters increased by 15%, reaching 59 supporters.

Along with donations from individuals, we are extremely grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who supported the charity in 2019.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Support from individuals, the associated Gift Aid, and support from Trusts and Foundations amounted to £12,405. This represents 46% of total income for the year.

Plans for future periods

In February 2020, the choir will be making its debut performance in Finland, at the Sibelius Academy Concert Hall in Helsinki as part of George Parris's Master's Degree Recital. The charity will also be using this trip to begin an association with Finnish choir Spira Ensemble, performing alongside them in the concert and discussing future collaborations.

In March, the choir will undertake a UK tour with the programme 'Tis' Nature's Voice', visiting Witney, Hampton Lucy, and Richmond (North Yorkshire), followed by a performance of the same programme at the Newbury Spring Festival in May.

The charity is currently in discussion with a number of festivals and music promoters about future performances in 2020 and 2021. Our aim is to search for every opportunity where a pre-concert talk or audience workshop can be attached to a performance, therefore maximising the potential of our audiences feeling welcomed and included.

The charity will also be entering the next stages of commissioning Matthew Whittall's new work and will begin applying for funding from various sources early in the new year. Should funding be confirmed, the charity hopes to schedule a world premiere of the work in summer 2021 followed by a recording soon after.

Financial Review

Income received for the year totalled £27,255, of which 54% was income from performances, and the remainder in the form of donations and subscriptions.

Please note as these accounts are receipts and payments, they exclude £5,000 that was not received until early January in respect of two events in 2019.

Net outgoings were (£5,786), but with the addition of the above would have been only (£786). Actual funds at year end were £951, so there was no negative cash impact.

The trustees believe the charity is financially viable with the current continuing level of support, and each event is carefully designed with the objective of breaking even or achieving an outcome within the Charity's funding constraints.

There were no debtors or liabilities at the year end, other than mentioned above.

Please see below details of the financial results for the year, and comparison with the previous period.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Carice Singers

No (if any)
1170689

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| For the period from | Period start date 02/01/2019 | To | Period end date 31/12/2019 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Fees | 9,524 | - | - | 9,524 | 17,064 |
| Tickets & Programmes | 5,279 | - | - | 5,279 | 3,837 |
| Artists Contributions | - | - | - | - | - |
| CD Sales | 47 | - | - | 47 | 364 |
| Donations | 9,906 | - | - | 9,906 | 12,097 |
| Capital Sums introduced | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gift Aid recovery | 2,499 | - | - | 2,499 | 2,713 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 27,255 | - | - | 27,255 | 36,075 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 27,255 | - | - | 27,255 | 36,075 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Artists fees & expenses | 25,635 | - | - | 25,635 | 29,026 |
| Venue Hire | 2,580 | - | - | 2,580 | 666 |
| Printing/Stationery/Website | 877 | - | - | 877 | 1,034 |
| Advertising | - | - | - | - | 124 |
| Producer / Engineer | 200 | - | - | 200 | 2,495 |
| Music & Materials | 226 | - | - | 226 | 559 |
| Sundry | 878 | - | - | 878 | 772 |
| Salaries and Other Administration | 2,646 | - | - | 2,646 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 33,041 | - | - | 33,041 | 34,675 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 33,041 | - | - | 33,041 | 34,675 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | - 5,786 | - | - | - 5,786 | 1,399 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 6,737 | - | - | 6,737 | 5,338 |
| Cash funds this year end | 951 | - | - | 951 | 6,737 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Bank Account -opening | 6,737 | - | - |
| | Transactions in R&P Ac above | - 5,786 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 951 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |
| | | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | | | |
| | Funds due for prior year performances | 5,000 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | Choir payments due | Unrestricted | 2,953 | Jan. 2020 |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval | |
| | | G Parris | 25/08/2020 | |
| | | | | |



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Carice Singers

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2019

Charity no
(if any)

1170689

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2019.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you 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 Trust'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

2nd Sept 2020

Name:

J M F McKail CA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Accountant

Address:

Brambles, Back Lane

Oxhill

Warwickshire CV35 0QN