



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	10 April 2019	To	9 April 2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Stile Antico Foundation

**Other names charity is known by** n/a

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1156615

**Charity's principal address** 68 South Park Road

London

**Postcode**

**SW19 8SZ**

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Stefan Paetke	Chair	n/a	n/a
2	Emma Adlard	n/a	n/a	n/a
3	Rebecca Chilton	n/a	June 2019 to April 2020	n/a
4	Geoff Hooker	n/a	April 2019 to January 2020	n/a
5	Christophe Kasolowsky	n/a	n/a	n/a
6	Lindsay Kemp	n/a	n/a	n/a
7	Jessica Robson-Hill	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
n/a	

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
n/a		

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

n/a
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## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected by each other

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The basic arrangements for the Stile Antico Foundation (SAF) are unchanged from those outlined in previous years' reports. The Foundation supports the charitable activities of the Renaissance choral singing Group *Stile Antico*, but its Constitution also allows support for other similar musical groups. To date, all funds granted by SAF have been to support and promote projects undertaken by *Stile Antico*. The Group's objectives are to bring the Renaissance choral music repertoire to new audiences by means of innovative programming and a performance style almost unique to *Stile Antico*, which sings one-to-a part and without a conductor. In the opinion of the Group and SAF Trustees, this offers a uniquely intense musical experience to audiences, enhanced by creating new ways to present the music and thus engage with wider audiences new to the repertoire.

To achieve these objectives, the SAF Trustees work closely with members of the Group, some of whom always attend Trustees' meetings. By this means the Group shares information with Trustees about current and future projects, and Trustees offer guidance and help wherever their expertise allows them to do so. In deciding to offer financial support, Trustees always have the charitable purpose of each project as the major criterion for agreeing a grant at the forefront of their minds. Being aware of this charitable requirement, *Stile Antico* plans new projects so that they satisfy this purpose.

A Business Plan for SAF was drawn up when it commenced operations in 2014, and this has been regularly reviewed and updated since that time in line with changing economic circumstances. In particular this has led Trustees strongly to support the Group's search for wider sources of funds, such as Arts Council England and other relevant providers. A considerable amount of work to this effect has been carried out in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 years, the results of which have begun to be brought to fruition in 2019/20 as detailed in the report.

A considerable matter for Trustees' attention was Governance issues. As reported previously, a great effort was devoted to satisfying the requirements of the GDPR Directive, and a series of revised documents and procedures were effected. These documents and procedures are reviewed annually to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose.

# Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance, improve, develop and maintain public appreciation of the music performed by choral groups specialising in the Renaissance repertoire. This is achieved by funding performances and concerts by choral groups, including principally but not exclusively by *Stile Antico*, as well as education workshops and projects designed to promote appreciation of choral music at little or no cost to participants. SAF's commitment to supporting the development of new programmes has recently been enhanced by providing funds to contemporary composers to write pieces for incorporating into *Stile Antico's* programmes so that modern interpretations of common themes sit alongside those written by composers such as John Dowland.

## Bursaries for Young Singers

SAF has funded bursaries for young singers since 2014. The scheme was improved following feedback from previous participants, and its scope extended to offer an award to a choral ensemble. The 2019-2021 Bursary was thus awarded to *Fount and Origin* a group of ten singers who are receiving coaching from *Stile Antico* over a period of two years, as well as a financial grant. The Foundation's total contribution will come to £2,000.

## Youth Consort

Following the Group's inaugural Youth Consort, a non-residential summer school for talented young singers which took place in 2017, an extended Youth Consort took place in August 2019. Over three days with six hours of sessions per day the participants aged 16-22 received coaching from members of the Group with the aim of developing their ensemble skills, musical interpretation, and knowledge of Renaissance repertoire.

Feedback from course participants was overwhelmingly positive. The Foundation's total contribution was £550, made up of a bursary for a school student eligible for free school meals and a training course in conducting and choral direction for the member of the Group primarily responsible for the Youth Consort project. The Foundation intends to support further Youth Consorts in the future.

## Stile Antico Newsletter and Leaflets

The Group produces and distributes a regular Newsletter which goes out to Friends and to a mailing list of more than one thousand people. Feedback from recipients identified the need to improve the professionalism of the production process and therefore in 2018 a new graphic designer was briefed to produce each edition. Trustees agreed to fund this work at an annual cost of £1,000. The same graphic designer was selected to produce leaflets to encourage support of SAF.

## Development of a new collaborative project for touring in 2019 and beyond

*Stile Antico* decided to commence the planning and development of a major ground-breaking new project in 2019/20. The lead time for the preparatory work being long, considerable resources were devoted in 2018 and the early part of 2019 to the work necessary to be ready for a series of performances after April 2019.

# Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The title of the project is *Songs of Longing and Exile*. Its structure and content drew upon a number of earlier projects carried out by the Group, and as a result it is considerably more broad ranging. The fundamental theme is refugees, and their life experiences, so some of the activities were timed to coincide with Refugee Week in 2019.

The genesis of the project goes back to 2017 when the Group carried out research for a CD entitled *In a Strange Land*. This consists of pieces from the Elizabethan period by Dowland, Byrd and White. Resonances with twenty-first century contemporary issues became evident, particularly since migration was a hot topic. Dowland himself was in exile in Denmark for many years, and this gave rise to the idea of creating a project to explore this link between the past and the present. Early input came from the Group's participation in the 2017 Dartington International Summer School, outlined in last year's report, notably the commissioning of poet Peter Oswald to write a new text to sing to Dowland's *Lachrimae*. Audience members at the world premiere commented that the juxtaposition of Dowland's music with poetry based on modern migrants' testimonies was extremely moving and effective.

The new project evolved to include several elements:

- commissioning a new piece of music from composer Giles Swayne sung to revised texts originally produced by Peter Oswald.
- performing with a choir called *Woven Gold* whose members are all themselves refugees in a venue new to this form of music, and thus to a new audience.
- introducing an oud (a lute type instrument commonly used in the Middle East and North Africa) into the programme, played by Rihab Azar, who is herself in exile, having left Syria in 2015.
- including atmospheric lighting and visual material to accompany the music.

SAF contributed £6,000 towards the overall cost of the project, a large part of which was for funding the new commission by Giles Swayne. The overall scale of the project was such that grants were sought from a number of funding organisations such as Arts Council England, the Golsoncott Foundation, the RVW Trust and the Leche Trust. Since such applications require specific expertise, Trustees agreed to fund the services of a professional fundraiser for the Arts, which cost £2,722.50, and resulted in all four applications being successful.

Performances of the programme commenced in April 2019 and included one schools performance and five concert performances. Two additional concert performances had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and discussions with Lambeth Council regarding the possibility of an additional schools performance were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention is to reschedule these in due course, should that be possible.

#### New programme featuring music by and for women, for touring in 2019/20

The Group developed a new programme of music and education entitled *Breaking the habit*, centring on music by and for women, much of it neglected for centuries. The project included rehearsing and giving performances of the programme, an open rehearsal for school children, a lecture-recital and running the vocal chamber ensembles course at Dartington International Summer School using repertoire from the programme. The initial performance was at 'Venus Unwrapped' Festival

at Kings Place, focussing on music by women, and seven additional performances of the programme took place. The Foundation contributed £3,000 towards this project.

Development of a new project for touring in 2020 to celebrate the anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage

The *Journey of the Mayflower* project, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers' voyage to America in search of religious freedom, encompasses a new programme and script telling the story of the voyage based on William Bradford's first-hand account, a Youth Polyphony project, Dartington International Summer School 2020 and a variety of other performances.

At the time of writing the script has been developed and rehearsals have taken place, with 8 performances of the programme being scheduled which are due to commence in May 2020. However, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic it is highly likely that some of the concerts at least will need to be postponed.

This project encompassed a 'Youth Polyphony' educational project which took place during the spring term of 2020. Three London state secondary schools received eight hours of coaching by members of Stile Antico, intended to be followed by an afternoon festival where all three choirs joined together with Stile Antico for a performance of a three-choir motet. The performance scheduled for 19th March 2020 unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last-minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Foundation intends to contribute £7,850 towards this project and next year's report will contain details of how the project progressed beyond April 2020. Other funding for the project was obtained from Arts Council England and income from concert promoters.

Away Day

*Stile Antico* decided to undertake an Away Day at Benslow Music Trust in order to find time away from the regular pattern of rehearsals and concerts to discuss strategic subjects, such as plans for the way forward regarding future recording contracts, without the usual constraints of time pressure. The Foundation contributed £1,361.65 towards the Away Day.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Foundation has developed its programme of grants in pursuit of its charitable object as outlined in the paragraphs above describing how funds were disbursed in the year.

Upon completion of each funded project, Trustees receive a report from the Group which describes the activities undertaken, and comments on how well the objectives were achieved. Apart from commissions to composers where an upfront payment is normal, funds are paid following receipt of such a report. As noted above the knowledge gained from this feedback has been used to modify and improve projects undertaken subsequently.

The Board of Trustees has been strengthened by the appointment of a new Trustee and the Board expresses its thanks to Geoff Hooker who stepped down as a Trustee in January 2020 after three years. The new Board has embarked on a comprehensive review of the Foundation's governance arrangements and will implement such improvements as are deemed to be necessary.







Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the  
trustees/directors/  
members of

Charity Name  
Stile Antico Foundation

On accounts for the year  
ended

9 April 2020

Charity no.:

1156615

Company no.:

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

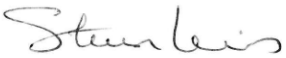
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.



30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Name:** Steven Lewis

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

FCCA

**Address:** 5 Augustus Close, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4PT

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**