

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT for the period 1st August 2021 to 31 July 2022

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus – Who we are and what we do

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus (SPC or the Chorus) is a local music making charity which presents choral concerts in Sheffield and beyond. It is a member of Making Music, a national charity which supports music-making individuals and organisations, and Classical Sheffield, a local umbrella organisation for classical music-making in Sheffield.

Our Constitution sets out our charitable objects *'to advance the education of the general public in choral music by the regular performance of such music from the widest possible repertoire and such means as the Committee think fit'*.

Positive reviews and audience feedback confirm that we present high quality and innovative performances that are pleasurable cultural experiences for both audience and participants, even when we select difficult works that extend everyone's musical knowledge. Concerts are open to everyone, with accessible venues and concession prices for young people and those in receipt of benefits. Chorus members greatly value the opportunity to engage in creative, enjoyable and fulfilling performances and recordings that help them to develop their vocal technique and musical repertoire. Singing membership is open to anyone who can sing to the required standard, and we do not exclude people on any other basis than their ability to sing. Registered blind people are valued members of the Chorus, and we have ensured that members with limited mobility are able to sing from the rather steep City Hall choir risers by regularly using a stair-climber, which we obtained using Lottery funding. We offer special arrangements to those unable to pay the full subscription fee.

We continued to implement precautionary measures in order to protect our members from Covid-19, with good ventilation, increased spacing at rehearsals and the cessation of refreshments during breaks. Concerts re-commenced during the 2021-22 season, so we are confident that, despite the pandemic, our activities meet the public benefit requirements set out in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006.

SPC was an unincorporated charity (registration number 518073) until 17 October 2017 when it was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registration number 1175185. The process of transferring our assets to the CIO proved to be unbelievably difficult, lengthy and time-consuming, and had still not been completed by 31 July 2022. However, we are confident that the unincorporated charity will be wound up in accordance with the procedure required by the Charity Commission by the end of August 2022.

Our Constitution was agreed by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 15 November 2016. It is based on the Charity Commission's 'Association' model and can only be amended at a meeting of all the members, which happened in October 2017 and again in November 2018.

Our Rules are not part of the formal Constitution but form an Appendix to it. The Rules include arrangements for appointing the Music Director and Accompanist and for auditions and re-auditions, minimum attendance requirements, concert procedure, and the chorus dress code. The Rules were last updated in May 2018.

Our Trustees plan what we do, ensuring our activities benefit the public by meeting our charitable objects. Anyone can stand as a Trustee, as long as they are eligible under Charity Commission requirements and have been a member of the Chorus for at least a year. Trustees are normally elected by the members at the AGM but may also be appointed by the existing Trustees.

The Trustees form a Chorus Committee, which meets approximately five times a year to plan and manage Chorus affairs. Trustees receive a Trustee Pack which includes guidance documents produced by the Charities Commission to help them understand and meet their responsibilities.

The Trustees appointed in November 2021 were:

Chair: Paul Henstridge	Administrator: Anne Adams
Finance Officer: Jane Parkin	Membership Officer: Marianne Grayson
Librarian: Alan & Rosemary Anderson	Rehearsals and Concerts Manager: Jim Monach
Minutes Secretary: VACANCY	New Members' Officer: Sally Turnbull
Social Events Officer: Helen Kirk	Marketing and Publicity Officer: Amy Howe
Transport Officer: Paul Duffield	Education and Outreach Officer: Georgina Hulse
Members' Representatives: Anne Burleigh, Allan Lacey	

Our Professionals The Trustees are responsible for appointing the Music Director, Accompanist and Voice Coach, whose expertise and commitment play a huge part in enabling the Chorus to meet its' charitable objectives. In addition, from time to time the general membership elects a President in recognition of her/his special contribution to the work of the Chorus. During 2021-22 our professionals were:

President: Rachel Copley	Music Director: Darius Battiwalla
Accompanist: Rachel Fright	Voice Coach: Margaret McDonald

Our helpers Other than Trustees, various other members helped the Chorus meet its' objectives:

Voice Reps: Katrina Hulse, Jacqui Amos, Pat Hall, Nerissa Kisdon, Kate Reece, Jim Monach, Richard Salt, Allan Lacey.

Website: Anne Adams, Matthew Morgan, Bill Best

Independent Examiner: Richard Pike

Making Music Representative: Jim Monach

YouTube channel: Matthew Morgan

The Trustees are most grateful for the work of these generous and committed individuals.

The 2021-22 season – Chair's report

What a relief it's been to be able to come together to sing again after our disjointed 2020/2021 season. On 3rd November last year, in the City Hall Ballroom, we sang to a large and appreciative audience four Motets by Copeland, Barber's *Agnus Dei*, Whitacre's *Sleep* and Amy Beach's *Over Hill, Over Dale* for women's voices, all under Darius' direction.

The annual Carol Concert at the City Hall was on 18th December with Darius, the Black Dyke Band and Petroc Trelawny. Although we only had the one afternoon concert, as previously it was very well attended and very well received.

On 15th January we joined the Manchester Camerata and the Indonesian conductor Rebecca Tong to sing the Faure *Requiem*. We gave a confident, accomplished performance that drew many compliments from the audience including, I'm pleased to say, the representative from the Halle who was there to hear us. In addition, we were privileged to hear Darius play the wonderful Poulenc *Organ Concerto* – a real tour de force!

On 12th March we were back in St Mark's, Broomhill to sing Rachmaninov's All Night Vigil as part of an all-Russian programme. The Vigil is a very challenging thing to sing given its length but we gave a very good performance and in addition, we were able to hear our own Rachel Fright accompany Charlotte Badham sing songs by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky – another real treat.

The 23rd April was a big day for us when we performed Handel's *Messiah* as we've never done it before, with our friends, the Black Dyke Band. This was the concert postponed from 2021. We were joined by members of the Philharmonischer Chor Bochum and the Ensemble Vocale from Perigeux. It was a great occasion and included three choruses arranged by Darius. Our guests from Europe were entertained, and in some cases put up, by members of the Chorus during their time in this country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with a special mention of Matthew Morgan, Graham and Louise Dawson and Lucy Marston for all their hard work to make our guests stay so memorable. Thanks also to Helen Kirk for organising the brilliant party in the Ballroom after the concert to entertain our visitors. We were also able to present our Golden members Rachel Copley, Helen Eyre and Sally Knight with specially bound copies of their favourite choral works in recognition of their 50 years membership of the Chorus. There were gifts for retiring trustees Graham Dawson, Els Pearce and Sue Pennington in recognition of their service and commitment, and a very special gift for Darius Battiwalla to celebrate his Silver Anniversary as conductor of the Chorus.

Our last concert of the season was a performance of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* on 11th June under the baton of Finnegan Downie Dear and with the Halle Orchestra. We were joined by a large contingent from the Leeds Festival Chorus and it was a great way to finish the year.

Some of us took part in a service, in June at All Saints, Totley, to commemorate the life of Stella Jockel, one of our longest serving members who sadly died last year. It was followed by tea in the Church Hall hosted by her family. Stella has made an extremely generous bequest to the Chorus which the committee has decided to use to fund the Stella Jockel Young Composers Competition, which is planned for next season

I must end with our thanks to our three professionals, Darius, Rachel and Maggie, whose work and skills have had such incalculable effects on the quality of our performances.

Paul Henstridge, Chair

Achievements and performance

The Aims of the Chorus are to '*advance the education of the general public in choral music by the regular performance of such music from the widest possible repertoire*', and the people who benefit are chorus members, concert-goers in Sheffield and the surrounding area, and the wider listening public.

The 2021/2022 season has been a great success in terms of the above aims, since in the last year we have put on six concerts in a variety of venues around Sheffield and performed a wide range of music from some well-known and some lesser-known composers from the 18th to the 21st centuries. In among these pieces there have been some that were new to us all and some old favourites. We have performed with choirs from France and Germany and with our friends from Leeds Festival Chorus.

Achievements against targets set last year

Recovering from the various issues created by the Covid pandemic became the major focus of the season, and the Chorus was determined to rehearse as effectively as possible while continuing to take precautions, given the extra dangers posed by singing in an enclosed space. The Chorus was also keen to complete a full season of concerts, including the long-awaited brass *Messiah* with visiting choirs which had had to be postponed. We decided to combine proposed visits by our

friends from France and Germany so that both choirs joined us for what was a truly memorable event.

Target	Outcome
Support one another as we emerge from the pandemic, following our route map through to a successful return to full rehearsal in as safe a way as we can (key aim)	Rehearsals were carefully managed as Covid restrictions were lifted, with ventilation, use of both floors and spaced seating continued throughout the 2021-22 season of rehearsals.
Grow our membership	We gained 22 new members, more than in any of the four previous years. Unfortunately, this was offset by the numbers leaving.
Increase diversity across both the committee and the Chorus itself	
Explore ways in which the Chorus might support young musicians in Sheffield and the wider area	Plans to undertake a Young Composer Competition were developed during 2021-22. This will be funded by the generous legacy bequeathed to the Chorus by former member alto Stella Jockel, who died in 2020.
Complete the policy bundle by adding a set of financial procedures	First draft of the financial procedures completed.
Have a celebratory social event as soon as restrictions are lifted such that we can eat, drink and be merry together.	We had a wonderful party following <i>Messiah</i> in the City Hall, with friends from France and Germany together with the Lord Mayor and other civic leaders.

Engagement with the website improved in 2021-22, with 8,575 visits (clicks on a page) compared to 7,123 last year, an average of 714 visits per month (593 last year), an increase of 17%. The visits were from 5,391 individuals (unique devices) compared to 3,736 last year, an average of 449 individual visitors per month (311 last year), which is a 31% increase.

Our exploration of ways in which the Chorus might support young musicians resulted in the development of a Young Composer Competition, planned to take place in 2022-23, supported by Stella Jockel's very generous legacy.

The Finance Officer transferred our funds to a new bank account with the Co-op, enabling us, hopefully, to be able to transfer our funds from the old charity to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, thus completing a change that has taken far longer than we could have envisaged. The Finance Officer also organised the accounts onto an online system specially designed for charities, and which usefully automatically calculates Gift Aid, thus saving much time and effort.

Plans and targets for the 2022-23 season

The 2022-23 season begins with a self-funded concert at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, when we will sing works by Finzi, Delius, Coleridge-Taylor, Dove and Parry. This marks a change from the usual After Hours concerts in the City Hall ballroom, following the imposition of a fee which would have made the continuance of the After Hours concerts unduly expensive. Our annual Christmas concert with Black Dyke Band is on Saturday 18 December, but sadly just one performance at 2.30pm. January 2023 sees us return to the City Hall for a performance of Caroline Shaw's beautiful piece *Music in Common Time* with Manchester Camerata. We will join Hallam Choral Society, Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra and Hallam Sinfonia in the City Hall to present Mahler's magnificent Symphony No. 2 in March 2023, a concert forming the finale of the Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend. The season ends in June 2023 with Verdi's magnificent *Requiem* in the City Hall, with the Halle and Leeds Festival Chorus.

We also plan our usual raft of elective events, with a concert for the Friends of Sheffield Museums in the Millennium Gallery in December, a return to the popular carol service for St Luke's in the cathedral, and a carol sing in Meadowhall for the homelessness charity Roundabout.

We will increase our efforts to grow our membership and aim, at long last, to complete the work started over five years ago, to convert the Chorus into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and to transfer the charity's assets to the new organisation. We will investigate the feasibility of enabling members to pay their subscription fees via Direct Debit and will complete our policy bundle by adding a set of financial procedures. We will consider setting out the longer term aims of the Chorus, including steps to achieve financial sustainability, into a formal plan. Our most ambitious plan is to launch the Stella Jockel Young Composer Competition in support of young composers from Sheffield, using some of the very generous legacy bequeathed to the Chorus by former member alto Stella Jockel, who died in 2019. The winning work will be sung in the first half of the Classical Sheffield festival finale concert in the City Hall.

Financial review

The accounts presented here reflect all the financial activities from 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022 inclusive. The accounts are shown in two tables reflecting the style of account reporting appropriate for a CIO. The Summary of Fund Movements 2021-22 lists where all the funds are held and shows totals of all the movements during the financial period to 31st July 2022. The statement of all the financial activities between 1st August 2021 and 31st July 2022 shows a comparison of the income and expenditure categories between this financial accounting period and the previous one and where funds are being held or used for restricted purposes.

Income/costs for events have been grouped together to give individual concert income/expenditure information. For income this includes sale and hire of music, ticket and programme sales etc. Event costs include chorus master and accompanist rehearsal and concert fees, artistic costs, purchase and hire of music, printing, and publicity etc. The Concerts Finance Summary shows the balance of income and expenditure for each of our concerts.

The same format has been used to develop a budget sheet for the current season and a predicted budget sheet across the next 3 seasons where information is known. Most amateur choirs make a loss on their concerts, and this is the case for SPC.

Gift Aid

In line with the accrual system of accounting, the gift aid income tax expected has been entered as estimated by the accounting system. The gift aid claim submitted in August 2021 covered the

whole season and a few days of the previous one. Where members are able to gift-aid this provides a significant additional income stream and helps keep subscription rates down.

Risk Assessment

For each self-promoted concert, the Committee produces a risk assessment document which, amongst other factors, covers financial aspects of risk. Appropriate actions are taken depending on circumstances including taking out additional insurance cover when necessary.

Reserves

SPC has a reserves policy which recognises significant financial risks and aims to hold sufficient funding to cover all activities in the current season and any firm commitments in the following season. The current level of funding meets this reserves policy. At current rates of income and expenditure we need and have a reserve of around £20,000.

Income

The principal funding sources are generally membership subscriptions, friends, supporters and donations and people's extreme generosity ensures we can fund self-promoted concerts, with many members deliberately paying much more than is required. This year we were grateful to receive a bequest of £35,000 from the estate of a long-standing chorus member. We intend to use this bequest for special projects rather than letting it subsidise regular chorus activities. Although membership was down following Covid-19, some new members have joined, and subscriptions totalled over £20,600 during the year; it is important that we try to maintain our membership level both for the ability to perform demanding works and to bring in an appropriate level of funding. In line with our policy of inclusion, members can choose a payment method which suits them best though we encourage them to use internet bank transfer or standing order and hope to implement direct debits for next year. There is a concessionary rate for students and those that cannot afford the full amount.

Expenditure

Principal regular items of expenditure during the financial year include paying for the services of the Music Director, Accompanist and Voice Coach. Their fees are reviewed by the Committee annually. The fee structures for the Music Director and the Accompanist include a retention element. The expenditure for room-hire includes the costs associated with rehearsals and auditions. Artistic costs for concerts can be significant with soloists for self-promoted concerts being chosen to meet the necessary artistic requirement and agreed budget availability. Such expenditure is now added to the appropriate event costs. City Hall concerts provide a level of financial income to off-set artistic costs dependent on a ticket sales formula, but year on year we seem to have to pay a greater contribution to each concert. The Messiah concert which included choirs from France and Germany was rescheduled from 2020. Thanks go to all chorus members for working so hard to sell concert tickets and for entertaining and providing hospitality for the visitors. The net cost of this event was much reduced because of their great support.

Subscription Rates

It has been very satisfying to be able to return to live concerts following Covid-19. Having given much thought to the situation and, recognising that the subscription rate has not been increased for 6 years, we raised the full annual subscription to £144 for the 2021-22 season. In view of the high level of inflation over the first 7 months of 2022, the Committee recommends that the subscriptions for the 2022-23 year be set at £150 (full rate) or £40.50 (reduced rate).

Thanks are due again to Richard Pike for providing the independent examiner function in a thorough and professional manner. Finance Officer Jane Parkin would like to thank Graham

Dawson, the retiring Finance Officer for all the help and encouragement he has provided during this first year of her tenure. She is also grateful to Committee members and all the membership for the support she has received during the year. It is much appreciated.

SPC CONCERT FINANCE SUMMARY 2021/2022 as at 31 July 2022							
	Ballroom Nov 2021	Christmas 2021	Faure Jan 2022	Vespers Mar 2022	Messiah Apr 2022	Belshazzar Jun 2022	TOTALS
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Orchestra					4,620.00		4,620.00
Instrumentalists					150.00		150.00
Conductor	500.00			500.00	850.00		1,850.00
Soloists			1,450.00	950.00	1,500.00	1,268.45	5,168.45
Venue hire				400.00	10,131.10		10,531.10
Purchase/hire music	972.25		39.60			214.22	1,226.07
Publicity				15.08	17.03	17.00	49.11
Printing	100.00	54.78		194.00	458.00		806.78
Social					2,436.00		2,436.00
Totals	1,572.25	54.78	1,489.60	2,059.08	20,162.13	1,499.67	26,837.51
INCOME							
Ticket sales			# See note	3,295.00	10,203.00	# See note	13,498.00
Programmes					784.00		784.00
Sale/hire music	582.40	545.00				245.00	1,372.40
Social					1,085.00		1,085.00
Donations					2,420.00		2,420.00
Totals	582.40	545.00	0.00	3,295.00	14,492.00	245.00	19,159.40
Income - Expenditure	-989.85	490.22	-1,489.60	1,235.92	-5,670.13	-1,254.67	-7,678.11

Note: City Hall has yet to send ticket sale figures for these two concerts

CHARITY 1175185 BALANCE SHEET: SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS 2021-22 01/08/2021 to 31/07/2022						
	Balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balances carried forward
Fund Accounts	£	£	£	£	£	£
Co-operative Bank Account	0.00	56,116.39	-33,185.34	7,738.78		30,669.83
General HSBC Bank Account	4,541.64	21,564.60	-16,948.33	-9,157.91		0.00
Concert Account	2,681.21	17.26	-5.00	-2,693.47		0.00
Savings Account	15,119.66	2,691.17		-		0.00
Friends of SPC	1,693.50	480.00	-30.00	17,810.83		0.00
Friends of SPC Savings	933.01	0.06		-2,143.50		0.00
COIF Deposit Account	46,000.00			-933.07		0.00
				25,000.00		71,000.00
Balances Total	70,969.02	80,869.48	-50,168.67	0.00	0.00	101,669.83
Gift Aid due	2,668.84					4,986.98
Total Funds	73,637.86					106,656.81

CHARITY 1175185 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2021-22 01/08/2021 to 31/07/2022				
	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)	Previous year funds (£)
INCOME FROM				
Voluntary income				
Members subscriptions	20,629.68		20,629.68	12,122.70
Friends and supporters	585.00		585.00	620.00
Gift Aid received from HMRC	2,690.57		2,690.57	25,048.40
Donations	36,050.00	2,420.00	38,470.00	
Social donations	954.00	1,085.00	2,039.00	
Fundraising income				
Folders and scarves	310.00		310.00	35.00
Book sales etc	0.00		0.00	22.50
CD sales	276.45		276.45	127.63
Amazon sales	31.22		31.22	28.59
Easyfundraising income	64.89		64.89	
Investment income				
Investment and interest	55.48		55.48	13.03
Charitable activities income				
Sale and hire of music	1,372.40		1,372.40	
Event inc – St Marks July 2021				100.00
Event inc – Vespers Mar22	3,295.00		3,295.00	
Event inc – Messiah Apr 22	10,987.00		10,987.00	
Other income	62.79		62.79	
Totals	77,364.48	3,505.00	80,869.48	38,117.85
Gift Aid tax income due	4,986.98		4,986.98	2,668.84

CHARITY 1175185 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2021-22 01/08/2021 to 31/07/2022				
	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)	Previous year funds (£)
EXPENDITURE ON				
Fundraising costs				
Folders and Scarves	918.00		918.00	
CDs - D Battiwalla	30.00		30.00	
Charitable Activities Costs			0.00	
Social	1,417.50		1,417.50	152.77
Chorus Master miscellaneous	2,388.00		2,388.00	3,431.50
Accompanist miscellaneous	1,044.00		1,044.00	1,519.75
Voice Coach	2,004.00		2,004.00	2,765.00
Event costs – Messiah 2020	40.00		40.00	80.00
Event costs – Verdi Req May 2020	0.00		0.00	71.94
Event costs – Christmas 2020	0.00		0.00	6,331.45
Event costs – Brahms Jan 21	0.00		0.00	651.75
Event costs – Vespers May 21	0.00		0.00	4,897.15
Event costs – Faure Jun 21	0.00		0.00	728.75
Event costs – St Marks Jul 21	335.00		335.00	2,409.00
Event costs – Shef Fest Sep21	180.00		180.00	
Event costs – After hrs Nov21	3,147.25		3,147.25	
Event costs – Christmas 2021	1,293.78		1,293.78	-
Event costs – FaureJan22	3,659.60		3,659.60	
Event costs – VespersMar22	5,427.08		5,427.08	
Event costs – Messiah Apr 22	19,214.13	2,436.00	21,650.13	1,328.75
Event costs – BelshazzarJun22	4,198.17		4,198.17	
Event costs – St Marks Nov22	78.33		78.33	
Classical Sheffield	150.00		150.00	125.00
Insurance & PRS performing rights	637.26		637.26	537.96
Publicity/PR			0.00	-
Room hire	525.00		525.00	20.00
Admin and IT costs	970.08		970.08	2,442.68
Governance costs			0.00	
Bank charges	75.49		75.49	
Totals	47,732.67	2,436.00	50,168.67	27,493.45
Net income/(expenditure)	29,610.08	1,069.00	30,679.08	4,280.56
+ Gift Aid from previous years	21.73		21.73	9,012.68

Independent Examiner's report

Please note that the Independent Examiner's duty is to report to trustees; a copy of his report follows. Thanks are due to Richard Pike for providing the Independent Examiner function in a thorough and professional manner.

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 July 2021.

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 all 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 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.

Signed:

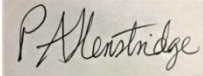



Richard Pike, 16 October 2022

195A Springvale Road, Sheffield, S6 3NT

Trustee Declaration

On behalf of the SPC trustees, we declare that we have approved this Annual Trustees' Report.

Signed by the Chair:	
Date:	10 October 2022
Signed by the Finance Officer:	
Date:	12 October 2022

APPENDIX: Membership Report

The 2021 - 2022 season was closer to a normal season than the previous one, with all rehearsals held in person, but membership was still subject to pandemic disruption as some members chose to continue to stay away from rehearsals and concerts, and several of our concerts were hit by members contracting Covid.

In September 2022 there were 148 singing members of the Chorus, down from 158 at the beginning of the previous season. There were an additional 9 people on Leave of Absence.

There were 14 resignations, one death of a current member, and several others removed from the active list at the end of the season due to non-attendance. The Soprano section has had the highest net loss.

Membership	S	A	T	B	Total
2021-22	55	49	14	30	148
2020-21	65	48	15	30	158
2019-20	67	55	19	36	177
2018-19	69	54	21	35	179
2017-18	71	53	25	36	185

Concert attendance

We held 6 performances during the season. Concert attendance averaged 100 (67%), a substantial improvement on last season, in spite of significant Covid absences at 3 of them (Christmas, Rachmaninov and Belshazzar.)

Average concert attendance	S	A	T	B	Total
(last season in brackets)	36	31	10	23	100
	66% (46%)	63% (40%)	71% (47%)	75% (47%)	67% (44%)

Rehearsal attendance

The average attendance at rehearsals was 105, 71% of the membership, again an improvement on last season when the average was 60%. The Bass section were the most regular attenders.

Average rehearsal attendance	S	A	T	B	Total
	68%	70%	67%	79%	71%

New Members

This was the first season when entry auditions didn't require sight reading; the applicant could sing a piece of their own choice and the Chorus Vocal Coach was involved.

There was a surge of enthusiastic requests to try us out as Covid restrictions relaxed. About 63 people contacted the New Members Officer, though not all of these appeared by any means. Some tried us for a bit but finally we auditioned 30 people, with 23 successful passes, 6 men (including a tenor!) and 17 women, although one of each has since left. 6 women joined the sopranos, and 10 joined the altos.

Season	Whole-year enquiries	New Members	Conversion Rate
2017-18	23	9	39%
2018-19	32	13	41%
2019-20	40	16	40%
2020-21*	* 11	*3	*27%
2021-22	63	22	27%

**figures affected by the Covid-19 pandemic*