



Annual Reports & Accounts

For the year ended 31st May 2023

Sussex Chorus
Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2023

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Director of Music's Reports

I am delighted with the overall growth in numbers, enthusiasm, and musical attainment this season.

We began with a gala to celebrate the centenary of the choir and it was an enormous success. Opera choruses and favourites were presented. I was delighted with the way the choir tackled this notoriously tricky repertoire. The soloists and orchestra added to this unique event.

The next concert was a double bill of Haydn and Hamilton. The idea of doing a new *Requiem* by Timothy Hamilton was always going to be bold; new works are often a risk financially. However, pairing it with Haydn's *Nelson Mass* helped to make it a popular concert. The choir and the audience were equally moved and impressed with this beautiful 21st century work and the composer, Timothy Hamilton, was in the audience. The Rosenau Sinfonia, who had played on the Naxos recording, were the orchestra and showed their skill in the variety of style required for both classical and modern repertoire.

Christmas provided another opportunity for Sussex Chorus to perform carols in a beautiful concert at Sheffield Park. Sadly, despite noble efforts, the weather got the better of the first of the two concerts, but despite the snow, the second concert was an enormous success. This could become a welcome annual fixture for the choir.

In the spring, and with Easter in mind, the choir presented another work that was previously unknown to them, the *Stabat Mater* by Antonin Dvorak. This extremely beautiful work quickly worked its way into the hearts of the choir and some of the best singing during my time as musical director was heard. The excellent soloists and a return of the marvellous Kent Sinfonia helped to make this concert one of the most memorable events of the Sussex musical calendar.

The choir goes from strength to strength and I feel that we are finally out of the slump that was caused by the pandemic. We are now ready to embrace the challenging works planned for next season.

Stephen Anthony Brown

Director of Music

07 July 2023

Chairman's Report

The year opened with our much anticipated and delayed Centenary Opera Gala Concert. Hon. Secretary Gill West-Eacott worked tirelessly in making arrangements for the Concert and, in particular, sending invitations to a number of VIP's including our Member of Parliament, Chairman of the District Council, the Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath Town Mayors. Past President Howard Blake was also invited and enjoyed the day enormously, so much so, that he graciously accepted our offer of the position of Vice President, a role vacant since the death of Sir David Willcocks.

The Centenary Opera Gala Concert was a tremendous success and we were able to post FULL HOUSE signs. The audience response was rapturous and we were very fortunate to have Zita Syme and Charne Rochford as our soloists.

At the AGM, Gill West-Eacott stood down after seven years as Hon. Secretary. We owe her a great debt of gratitude, particularly for navigating through the lockdown and its aftermath. However, we were very fortunate that Hazel Furber volunteered for the role and was able to shadow Gill during the last months of her tenure. We were also very fortunate that the members of the Committee all continued in their roles giving much-needed stability and support to a new Hon. Secretary. We also held Open Evenings which had some success in recruiting new members which was very gratifying, and our numbers have also increased as a result of the return of a number of existing members who delayed their return post-pandemic.

Our November concert was a mix of old and new with the Haydn Nelson Mass paired with Timothy Hamilton's Requiem and we were led brilliantly by Stephen Brown with Jeremy Weaver at the organ giving support to the superb players of the Rosenau Sinfonia.

Our return to Sheffield Park Garden was somewhat thwarted by heavy snow, as was the end-of-term carol party. However, the second performance at SPG went ahead as planned to great acclaim by a full house audience.

Our final concert of the year was Dvorak's Stabat Mater, a work not known to many in the choir but one that revealed Dvorak's brilliance as a choral composer. Profound and ultimately joyful, it was much appreciated by a good audience.

Our policy of pursuing adventurous programming has raised our profile as a choir, though we have had to find ways of financing concerts. As in the previous year, we have had considerable success in this area with awards from both Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath Town Councils and Gatwick Airport Community Trust, together with a significant donation from the Adelphi Group. Once again, we had a successful tabletop Sale and secured matched funding from Barclay's Bank, and not forgetting Helen Cooper's delicious marmalade.

The choir is in good heart. We are superbly served by Stephen Brown and Jeremy Weaver, our finances are in good shape and ably managed by Jez Jalie. Recruitment has been encouraging, though more members are required in all voice parts to give us the ability to take on the largest works and be more financially self-sufficient. Our Youth Choral Scholarship has yet to yield fruit, but we have a very attractive scheme that is promoted on our website and we trust we shall find suitable candidates in the forthcoming season.

In conclusion, I must thank my fellow officers and committee for all the work they do in supporting the choir, as well as the many other members who give help in so many ways.

John Welch

Chairman

07 July 2023

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2023

Sussex Chorus

Registered charity (in England & Wales) no: 271678

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Helen Cooper

Hazel Furber

Jeremy Jalie

Richard Moon

Neil Peskett

Margaret Rea

Paul Seddon

David Tettersell

John Welch

Christine Wilson

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Principal Office

c/o 5 St John's Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8HJ

Independent Examiner

Mr S. Brentnall

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd. - 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Trustees Report for the Year ended 31st May 2023

The Trustees present their Report for the year ended 31st May 2023.

Object of the Charity

The Charity's object is to provide, improve, develop, and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects.

Review of Activities

Sussex Chorus undertook three (3) concerts during the financial year. In June 2022 we undertook a Centenary Opera Gala at St Andrew's, Burgess Hill, performing to a sell-out crowd and several notable supporters including Howard Blake, who after the concert agreed to become an Honorary Vice-President of Sussex Chorus. In November 2022 we performed Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Timothy Hamilton's *Requiem*, again at St Andrew's, Burgess Hill. It was a great pleasure to be joined by Timothy Hamilton in person who reported being very moved by the performance. In March 2023 we performed Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, again to a full house. Throughout the year we have been joined by excellent orchestras and soloists recruited by our Music Director, Stephen Brown. Several of our members were also able to sing Christmas Carols at the National Trust's Sheffield Park Gardens in December 2022. The choir has continued to be supported through grants and donations from local organisations totalling ~£5,800, including generous gifts from Adelphi Holdings, Burgess Hill Town Council, and Haywards Heath Town Council. Several choir members also undertook specific fundraising initiatives to support the choir including making marmalade, selling cards, and organising a table-top sale.

Trustees and Management

During the year, the Charity was managed by Trustees listed below:

Helen Cooper	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Hazel Furber – Hon. Secretary	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Jeremy Jalie – Hon. Treasurer	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Richard Moon	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Neil Peskett	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Margaret Rea	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
Paul Seddon	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
David Tettersell	<i>Appointed 19 September 2022</i>
John Welch - Chairman	
Gill West-Eacott – Hon. Secretary	<i>Resigned 19 September 2022</i>
Christine Wilson – Vice Chairman	

Public Benefit

The Charity operates for the benefit of the public by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals and by any other ways as far as the Society thinks fit.

Financial Review

The financial activities are detailed in the Accounts on page 8 and 9. Receipts for the year were £29,678 (FYE 2022: £25,465) and payments were £29,615 (FYE 2021: £19,142) generating a surplus of £63 (FYE 2022: £6,323). The charity's policy is to maintain cash reserves of at least £10,000 to cover the cost of mounting at least one concert in the following season (normally a summer concert in June). The choir's funds at 31st May 2023 amounted to £15,491 (FYE 2022: £15,428). Overall this reflects an excellent year where Sussex Chorus increases its income and scale whilst managing to maintain its expenditure in line with its growth. The choir's committee continually monitors the financial health of the choir and undertakes careful budgeting to ensure the financial position remains secure. It is grateful to the Music Director who also supports endeavours to keep concert costs tightly controlled.



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John Welch – Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Sussex Chorus
07 July 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
of SUSSEX CHORUS [Registered Charity No. 271678]**

I report on the accounts of Sussex Chorus for the year ended 31st May 2023 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I 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.


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Steve Brentnall FCIE
1 Meadow View Cottages
Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

..... 17th July 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31st May 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
INCOME RECEIPTS				
Receipts from Charitable Activities				
Concert receipts	8,602	-	8,602	4,701
Subscriptions	11,802	-	11,802	9,723
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid	2,229	-	2,229	2,243
Fundraising income	5,532	-	5,532	7,103
Music hire and sales	731	-	731	968
Friends	675	-	675	725
Investment Income				
Bank interest	108	-	108	2
Total receipts	29,678		29,678	25,465
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE				
Concert expenses	17,160	-	17,160	(7,956)
Rehearsal fees – accompanist and conductor	5,748	-	5,748	(4,270)
Rehearsal fees – room hire	1,987	-	1,987	(1,590)
Publicity	2,710	-	2,710	(3,268)
Music purchase/hire	316	-	316	(42)
Administration and retirement gifts	697	-	697	(524)
Sundry costs	453	-	453	(960)
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Making music subscription and other subscriptions	544	-	544	(532)
Total payments	29,615		29,615	(19,142)
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR	63		63	6,323
Bank balances at 1 st June			15,428	9,105
Bank balances at 31st May			15,491	15,428

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At 31st May 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
MONETARY ASSETS				
Bank balances:				
CAF Cash account	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
CAF Gold account	14,491	-	14,491	14,428
Bank balances	15,491	-	15,491	15,428

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
2. There are no staff employed by Sussex Chorus.
3. Restricted Funds – Sussex Chorus received no restricted donations or held any restricted funds in FYE 31st May 23

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



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John Welch – Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Sussex Chorus
07 July 2023