

**Report of the Trustees  
and Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019  
for**

**RAINBOW CHORUS  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

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**for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

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**RAINBOW CHORUS**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charities SORP (FRS 102). The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Trustees**

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 April 2018 to the date of this report.

Ms Finola Brophy  
Mr David Cooper  
Mr Edwin Borgars  
Ms Beverley Morgan

**Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	The Chair of Committee and Treasurer are Ex-Officio Trustees. One further Trustee is selected from the elected Committee members and our previous Chair Finola was asked to remain as a Trustee as it was felt this would provide a better governance overview and also an independent party for any disputes between members and committee. We aim to appoint further external Trustees but have not yet found the time to start this process.

**Additional governance issues**

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with a copy of our policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, it is intended that the Chair of the Trustees will in future be an external Trustee who is not on the operating Committee. The new constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

We are working more closely with the 3 main LGBT choirs locally- Brighton Gay Men's Chorus, the Actually Gay Men's Chorus and Resound/Rebels. Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity. We again organised the World Aids Day joint concert last year and are planning the same this year. The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European network.

Rainbow Chorus belongs to Working to Connect (LGBT Small Groups Network) in Brighton & Hove and one of our Trustees is the chair of that group, with regular attendance by our committee members as appropriate.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

We also regularly attend meetings of the Brighton & Hove LGBT Community Safety Forum which helps to address issues around access and safety for the community. This helps us to ensure members are aware of any current issues and can take steps to ensure their safety. This organisation also helps to organise many LGBT+ community events that raise awareness of LGBT+ issues

and Rainbow Chorus are proud to support those events.

Financially the risks are that we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+; that a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances; that a concert might make a loss or that our membership numbers dwindle. We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers. On a day-to-day basis there are a number of risks that might face us as an organisation and our committee are working on a contingency planning document to help us cope with such situations.

### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBT community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community. Trans issues are clearly more prevalent in our area of the world but transphobia experienced by members and seen on social media as well as recent homophobic attacks shows there is always more to be done to raise awareness, help prevent discrimination and encourage inclusivity for all members of the LGBT+ community. Our positive approach to inclusivity and diversity helps to break down barriers and shows to our members, our audiences and the wider public that we stand together with all members of the community and provide a safe environment.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop

our work with the deaf community by expanding our sign supported English repertoire. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. We have retained a core deaf audience who return to every performance and enjoy Marco's expressive interpretation. Deaf people within the LGBT community are often the most isolated. This year we received a grant from The Rainbow Fund to help further outreach to this community. We commissioned Marco to create a video using BSL to encourage more Deaf people to come to our performances. The grant also enabled us to pay for BSL interpreting at our concerts.

RC+: Ongoing funding from the Rainbow Fund has enabled us to continue with RC+, a monthly workshop choir giving members of the LGBT+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space for less confident or isolated members of the LGBT community (some living outside Brighton and Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who wish to explore their vocal ability. Many members of the performing Rainbow Chorus continue to attend to improve their music skills. Although members of this group are not under pressure to perform, a few RC+ members chose to sing with us for one song in our Christmas concert. We also created some learning tracks for this group to sing along to at home, which has helped to increase confidence for many. We also signpost people to other LGBT services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

We reduced the number of performances this year but still reached an audience approaching 2500 people, including singing in the 4 yearly Various Voices Choral festival in Munich in May 2018. We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we have continued to hold down the price of our concessionary tickets, to help those on lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We have also provided a number of tickets free of charge to service users of local HIV/AIDS and LGBT+ mental health charities to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible. We perform at various community events for free where possible, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBT+ community. This year these events included:

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Day of Remembrance.
- World Aids Day, raising over 3000 for Lunch Positive, a local charity providing support to those living with or affected by HIV.
- Performance at the VIP opening ceremony for the B Right On Community Festival, which is organised to celebrate LGBT history month.

**Additional details of objectives and activities**

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5<sup>th</sup> section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Jane MacDonald with the support of Chris Cunningham.

The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who do a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities.

Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD and pianist invoice us for their time but also contribute a lot of their own time pro bono. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped to make this year a success for Rainbow Chorus, our members, the LGBT and wider community.

**Achievements and performance**

The following is a list of performances and events in which Rainbow Chorus has taken part during the year to 31st March 2019. In some way each of these events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

**April:**

**Saturday 21st - Cabaret Fundraiser at Knoyle Hall**

**May:**

**9th to 13th - Various Voices Munich**

**15th Golden Handbags Quiz** - RC wins & will have photo on front cover of Gscene in October.

**17th - IDAHOBIT**

**June:**

**23rd - Lucy Mallows Celebration of Life Memorial**

**30th - RC Grand Prize Draw winners announced**

**July:**

**1st - RC collect the Golden Handbag as winners of the GH Quiz** - other awards are voted for by members of the LGBT community.

**14th - RC summer concert '21'** included members' memories on the theme of 21 e.g. what your world was like at age 21 - some very

moving stories and led to one member being invited on to the local Latest TV to talk more about their life and how coming out had affected their family relationships.

**15th - Arthur Law Memorial**

Arthur sadly died on 17th May 2018. RC was honoured to be asked to perform at this memorial event. He was a key figure on the LGBT+ scene in Brighton for over 30 years. Amongst many things he worked at Spectrum, the main LGBT organisation here for many years, campaigning, raising issues, supporting individuals & groups and was key in the development of lots of the City's & Council's initiatives. He supported RC, came to our concerts and was an active volunteer in Brighton Voices in Exile (the Refugee project that RC worked in partnership with for one of our concerts) raising issues of LGBT+ refugees and stood at the front with us at the end of our concert with a 'refugees welcome' banner.

**16th - AGM**

**21st - Trans Pride** - Although not performing this year, many members and our MD took part in the march wearing Rainbow chorus T Shirts to show support as individuals and as part of RC in solidarity with our trans members and the wider trans community.

**August:**

**4th - Brighton Pride**

**October:**

Rainbow Chorus photo appears on front page of Gscene magazine.

**17th - National Hate Crime Week - Brighton Vigil -**

Although not performing, many RC members went along to show support for this event organised by The Brighton & Hove LGBT Community Safety Forum to mark The International Day of Hope and Remembrance and National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

The event hopes to raise awareness of what a hate crime is, how to respond to it, encourage reporting & promote local support services and resources. RC hopes to become more involved in this in future years.

**November:**

**18th - Trans Day of Remembrance**

**December:**

**1st - World Aids Day concert** - Jointly organised by RC with other local choirs Brighton GMC and Actually GMC including performances from 8 local choirs/music groups in support of Lunch Positive - a local HIV charity that provides support and sustenance to those living with or affected by HIV.

**15th - Winter concert cancelled due to Storm Deirdre.**

**22nd - Brighton Housing Trust** - singing to raise funds for the homeless at Christmas.

**January:**

**12th - Rescheduled winter concert - Les Mistletoe**

**February:**

**27th - BLAGSS LGBT+ bowling**

**March:**

**27th - LGBT B Right On Festival performance** - the event celebrates LGBT history, lives and culture.



As well as all the above, we ran 12 RC+ workshops. We continue to receive some of the most rewarding feedback from members of this group. For many of those members, this is the only contact they may have with the LGBT community and it is regularly recognised as a safe space where everyone is free to be themselves.

## **Financial review**

### **Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Rainbow Chorus held 2 fundraisers this year and our accounts include £3587 profits from a cabaret evening and a grand draw. This together with other reserves held and the systems in place should ensure the financial security of the charity for the foreseeable future.

We have again received increased funding for RC+, together with a grant to enable some outreach to the LGBT Deaf community.

Our fundraising team is well established and has started a relationship with Paul & Kathy Bott of Paul Bott & Co. (a local estate agent) which has supported subs payments for some of our RC & RC+ members. We continue to look for a major sponsor as this will enable us to work more freely to achieve the objectives set out in our constitution. We have worked with The Rainbow Fund to make an application to the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation with a view to find replacement funding for the projects currently financed by them. Membership has increased significantly during the year. With Gift Aid, this alone has increased our income by £2437.

This year we also had to cancel our Christmas concert with less than 2 hours to go due to a flood caused by Storm Deirdre. This concert contributes the most to our income and generally pays for our community events the following year. Our insurance cover proved to be at the correct level as our losses were covered by this. However for a few months until we knew the outcome of the claim and our rescheduled concert, there was concern that we may need to spend reserves to make up for the shortfall. We refunded over £630 on tickets for those unable to make the rescheduled date and our audience was about 100 below the usual figure. However with a very generous bucket collection and the insurance pay out, our profits were on a par with the previous year.

During the year our expenditure varies, with the requirement to make some large annual membership/website payments. We also need to purchase our music scores in advance and this work tends to take place in the first few months of our financial year. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure continues to ensure we are always aware of the true level of free reserves availability for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income does not cover the cost of that month's bills. We also have a membership that may change from month to month as people's circumstances change. For these reasons alone, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves. We also consider it prudent to hold some level of free reserves to

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cover a few months' running expenses in case of a sudden fall in membership or the need to cancel a concert as happened this year. The renewed funding for RC+ means the recognised risk of needing reserves for this project is diminished at the time of writing this report. However we do still need reserves for this project as the start of the Rainbow Fund financial year is half way through ours, so our budget is always set to assume grant funding will end in the knowledge that we would have reserves to fund the project for a period, during which time we would assess it's future viability.

**Details of any funds materially  
in deficit**

None

**Further financial review details**

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed income or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and have the flexibility to treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

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**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Membership subscriptions	22,399	-	22,399	21,007
Gift Aid	4,555	-	4,555	4,895
Grant Income	-	6,751	6,751	5,517
Concert Income	14,020	-	14,020	17,761
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	998	10	1,008	2,252
Sundry income and refunds	1,231	-	1,231	740
Uniforms	-	859	859	868
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	3,322	630	3,952	-
Special projects (Tours)	-	2,144	2,144	23,411
<i>Sub total</i>	46,525	10,394	56,919	76,451
<b>Asset and investment sales, etc</b>	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	<b>46,525</b>	<b>10,394</b>	<b>56,919</b>	<b>76,451</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Music director & Accompanist's fees	17,682	5,315	22,997	27,744
Other musician & professional fees	2,330	260	2,590	1,660
Regular rehearsal costs	1,823	474	2,297	2,782
Performance costs	2,206	-	2,206	3,104
Marketing & publicity	378	30	408	931
Website fees	1,023	249	1,272	1,056
Postage & stationery	676	53	729	1,154
Travel	1,056	5	1,061	1,025
Music purchases	1,695	50	1,745	1,147
Insurance	99	33	132	132
Storage	2,268	-	2,268	2,527
Uniforms	904	-	904	1,164
Special projects	-	2,824	2,824	16,400
Community events	1,240	-	1,240	1,055
Props, equipment & costumes	836	-	836	1,120
Accountancy	750	-	750	750
Training	-	-	-	31
Sundries	566	-	566	920
Bank charges	264	-	264	272
<i>Sub total</i>	35,795	9,293	45,088	64,974
<b>Asset and investment purchases, etc</b>	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	<b>35,795</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>45,088</b>	<b>64,974</b>
<b>Net of receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>10,730</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>11,831</b>	<b>11,477</b>
Transfers between funds	99 -	99	-	-
Cash funds last year end	6,674	12,553	19,227	7,750
Cash funds this year end	17,503	13,555	31,058	19,227

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**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Cash funds	17,503	13,555	31,058

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 July 2019 and were signed on it's behalf by:



E Borgars - Trustee

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).  
The Charities SORP (FRS 102).

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

**Incoming resources**

**Unrestricted funds**

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, and concert income.

**Restricted funds**

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

**Other incoming resources**

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

**Resources expended**

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

**2 PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:**

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £3,574 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2019. If these invoices had been paid prior to 31 March 2019, these would have been included in the payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a reduction in net receipts as well as cash funds.

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**Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of**  
**Rainbow Chorus**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2019, which are set out on pages 2 to 13.

**Respective responsibilities**

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 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities 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 report**

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 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, I confirm 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 by the Independent Examiner**



Lauren Newman MAAT  
Thomas Christopher & Co  
44 Orange Row  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 1UQ

Date: 15/07/19