



BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration No. 260887

Trustees report and Unaudited Financial Statements for year
ending 31st August 2017

INDEX TO TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Page No

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 3 | Reference and Administrative Information |
| 4 - 6 | Report of the Trustees |
| 7 | Report of the Independent Examiner |
| 8 | Statement of Financial Activities |
| 9 | Balance Sheet |

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017.

Charity Name: Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration number: 260887

**Registered Office
and operational
address:**

33 Montacute Rd
Lewes
BN7 1EP

Trustees:

Robert Eastwood - Chairman
Richard Jayawant -Secretary
Elizabeth Hughes - Treasurer
Naomi Sack (to 2017)
Rachel Goode (to 2017)
Sylvia Reed (to 2018)
Sarah Saward (to 2018)
Avril Oulton (to 2019)
Emma Evans (to 2019)

**Independent
Examiner:**

Reg Squire
14 Windmill Close
Hove
BN3 7LJ

Choir web site - www.brightonorpheus.org

E-mail - secretary@brightonorpheus.org

Charity Structure, Governance and Management

The choir is run in accordance with the constitution (lodged with the charity commission) adopted at the AGM 7th November 2012.

The managing committee are the trustees of the charity.

This provides for 3 officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) to be appointed for 1 year at the AGM. Two additional committee members are appointed at the AGM on a rolling 3 year basis. Additional committee members may be appointed on an ex-officio basis by the committee.

All committee members (with the exception of the Musical Director and the Accompanist) must be members of the choir. Nominations to the committee are actively sought by the committee and where more nominations than vacancies are received, an election will be held at the AGM.

Membership of the choir is open to all who are able to pass an audition. The choir seeks to support those with special needs, to allow them to take an active part in the choir.

Activities and Objectives

The objects of the Choir shall be:

- a) to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by the performance of sacred and secular music and by any other means the Trustees see fit, and
- b) to assist charitable institutions.

The choir achieves the first object through:

- a) Maintaining an active rehearsal programme that seeks to develop the musical ability and knowledge of all choir members.
- b) Public performance of musical works to both increase the musical ability of the members and the musical knowledge of the general public.
- c) Running Choral workshops, which are open to the general public to increase the musical ability and knowledge of both choir members and the general public.
- d) Running a children's choir known as Orpheus Young Singers.

The choir achieves the second object through:

- a) Making retiring collections for other charities at the public concerts put on by the choir.
- b) Running fund raising events (such as carol singing) for other charities.
- c) Participating in fund raising events organised by other charities (such as the city charity concert).

The trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the choir should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

We continued to run the Orpheus Young Singers (OYS) under the direction of Stella Hull and Shona Knight. This youth choir (which is subsidised by the choir) was running with approximately 10 members for most of the year.

The OYS joined us in our joyful Gloria concert featuring Puccini's beautiful Messa di Gloria with stunning soloists tenor Paul Curievici and baritone Matthew Sprange. The choir captured well the work's emotional lyricism and intricate contrapuntal complexities. The second half of the programme opened with the beginning of Vivaldi's Gloria and concluded with the Gloria by John Rutter. This work posed a challenge with its more aggressive sound world compared with the familiar sweetness of the Angels' Carol in which BOC was joined by the Orpheus Young Singers. OYS' performance of Walking in the Air from Howard Blakes' The Snowman and Chilcott's This Joy delighted the audience as they

had done when joining the adult choir for the honour of leading the annual City Charity Christmas Concert. Enthusiastically supported as we were by the mayor and Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, we have been invited to return to lead the concert again this year.

We continued our charitable fund raising however, due to a rail strike the location had to be changed from Brighton Station to Churchill Square, consequently the funds raised for Shelter were reduced to £351.66.

In the spring term the male sections were in sufficiently good voice to allow the choir to tackle Dvorak's Requiem. This little performed work has rich sonorities and subtleties, closely integrated forces and all-pervasive chromatic motif. The men did us proud. Instrumentalists and soloists were most impressed by all those anxious moments when the orchestra re-enter, relieved to find that we were all still in the same key! The performance had an electric atmosphere – the work was new to us all - choir, conductor, orchestra (all but a couple of players) and wonderful soloists Emily Blanch soprano, Kate Symonds-Joy contralto, Nicholas Warden bass and especially the replacement tenor Graham Neal who incredibly had only seen the music the day before. It was good to be joined by other choral singers for the Dvorak, most of whom we're pleased to say have decided to continue with us as regular members.

How can I keep from Singing? seemed an appropriate title for our summer concert, containing as it did a song of that name and so many other pieces about the joy of song. From early madrigals Sing we and chant it and the cheeky Il est bel et bon to Mascagni's operatic Easter Hymn, Whitacre's Seal Lullaby and Chilcott's highly syncopated arrangement of Every time I feel the Spirit, it was an uplifting concert for audience and choir alike. The Orpheus Young Singers had given three cameo concerts during the year and they joined the adults for this final concert of the season, singing many items including Frank's Panis angelicus to a rousing Russian Kalinka and foot-tapping Gonna rise up singing! Both choirs combined for Rutter's Gift of Music and the ever popular Do you hear the people sing? Several songs had been previewed the week before in a memorable and lively half-hour performance by invitation of the Blaker's Park Picnic event. In glorious sunshine the choirs shone musically and we have put ourselves firmly on the map in the area and hopefully will have encouraged others to join their local choir.

Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted fund were £21,732 and are detailed in the financial statements.

Total payments on the unrestricted fund were £28,728 and are detailed in the financial statements.

The total balance on the general fund is £15,892.

It is noted that the reserves are above the value defined in the reserves policy although it can be seen the subsidising of the OYS has reduced the reserves from the level at August 2016. The committee plan to continue to run a subsidised children's choir for at least the winter term of 2017 and this is expected to continue to reduce the reserves.

Reserves Policy

It is the committees policy to try to maintain sufficient reserves in the general fund to cover the expected deficit at any forthcoming public concerts for the current financial year, together with 12 months of salary and rehearsal venue costs as contingency against unforeseen situations. This is £9000 which we do have.

It should be noted that selection of the works to be performed takes into account the current reserves and membership numbers.

There are no restricted funds.

Prepared by

Richard Jayawant - Secretary

Approved by the trustees at their meeting on 26-Sept-2017.

Robert Eastwood - Chair

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Brighton Orpheus Choir

Accounts year ended 31st August 2017

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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 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 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 Examiners Report

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirement:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr. R. Squire
14 Windmill Close
Hove

Signed



Date: 12th Sept 2017