



BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration No. 260887

Trustees report and Unaudited Financial Statements for year
ending 31st August 2020

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020.

Charity Name: Brighton Orpheus Choir

Charity registration number: 260887

**Registered Office
and operational
address:**

33 Montacute Rd
Lewes
BN7 1EP

Trustees:

Linda Newsom-Ray - Chair
Richard Jayawant -Secretary
Elizabeth Hughes - Treasurer
Sarah Saward (to 2020)
Vicki Lywood Last (to 2020)
Peter Wells (to 2021)
Caroline Price (to 2021)
David McCormick (to 2022)
Rachel Goode (to 2022)
Murray Park (co-opted)

**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 (Chair, 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

During the 2019 Autumn term, our concert in St John's Church was titled "Gloria". We began with the ever-popular Vivaldi setting and enjoyed the experience of learning Rutter's Gloria, a work of beauty and surprising complexity. We were glad to be joined again by the Musicians of All Saints and wish them well in their present professional circumstances. Stella Hull (our Director of Music) reported what a joy it was for her that the choir to had as our soloists her daughters the soprano Shona Knight and mezzo Corinne Hull.

The retiring collection at this concert raised £432 in aid of the Clock Tower Sanctuary who we were once again supporting.

This concert marked Stella's twenty years as musical director of the Orpheus. This milestone was further celebrated with a celebration at Brighton Côte which was superbly organised by Elizabeth Hughes.

The next week saw us singing carols on Brighton station and opinion was that this was musically the best we have sung in that setting. The passing public seemed to agree and we were able to raise £608 for Shelter. It was good to have been joined by some enthusiastic members of the Orpheus Young Singers, ever eager to sing with us.

The Open evenings held during the 2019 Autumn term 2020 Spring term were both successful, with further new (younger) members joining.

During the spring term, we were rehearsing Haydn's Creation with a view to a concert in All Saints's Church. However, the week before our concert, COVID-19 related restrictions were brought in and the committee decided that we needed to cancel the concert.

Similarly, the OYS met until March, with cheerful and infectious musicality. They had held a Cameo concert in November and were all set for another in the spring before, as with BOC, OYS came to an abrupt halt. The committee has decided that OYS will not meet for this coming academic year. We hope that the developing singers who over the last 5 years have had contact with OYS will retain an affinity for good singing which will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

There were no Choir activities during the summer term due to COVID-19 restrictions, however our Music Director continued to keep us engaged with a weekly e-mail choir update.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 related risks and restrictions, the committee has decided to similarly suspend the Autumn 2020 term.

Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted fund were £19,138 and are detailed in the financial statements.

Total payments on the unrestricted fund were £15,357 and are detailed in the financial statements.

The total balance on the general fund is £27,334.

Total receipts on the OYS restricted fund were £720 and are detailed in the financial statements.

Total payments on the OYS restricted fund were £1848 and are detailed in the financial statements.

The total balance on the OYS restricted fund is £141.

It is noted that the reserves are above the value defined in the reserves policy and have increased since August 2019, We expect to see a significant drop in the reserves by the end of the 2020-21 financial year due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

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 restricted funds as detailed above.

Financial and other Impacts of COVID-19

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the committee decided to cancel the Spring 2020 concert. This resulted in a saving on the normal loss associated with major concerts. The majority of normal concert expenses were avoided with the exception of:

- Music hire
- Soloists fees.
- Programme and publicity printing costs.

However, against this, there was no income from ticket sales.

The additional cancellation of the summer term resulted in reduced costs due to a reduction in venue hire costs, however we continued to pay staff retainer fees to our Music Director and Accompanist broadly in line with the government furlough scheme.

This reduction in costs is offset by a committee decision to offer choir members a refund of £40 each, in recognition of the cancelled spring concert and the cancelled summer term. This refund will take the form of reduced fees for the next term where we operate normally (with an option for an immediate refund being taken up by 3 members). We expect this to significantly impact membership fees in the 2020-21 financial year.

The further decision to cancel the Autumn term will further impact our finances. The committee has decided to continue paying the staff retainer fees at the same level for the Autumn 2020 term. The committee has not made any decision regarding membership fees for 2020-21 (ignoring the refund of 2019-20 fees), however, giving the elimination of the Winter 2020 concert some further reduction in fees is likely.

We are fortunate that our reserves are healthy and despite all the gloom noted above, the committee still considers the choir a going concern and viable for restarting of normal activities once the COVID-19 situation is resolved.

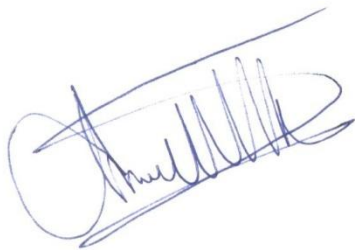
The AGM will be deferred until the spring term (assuming the choir re-starts in spring 2021) and in the meantime we thank the current committee for continuing in post.

Prepared by

Richard Jayawant - Secretary

Approved by the trustees at their meeting on 26-Oct-2020.

Linda Newsom-Ray - Chair



Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Brighton Orpheus Choir

Accounts year ended 31st August 2020

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: 3.9.2020

BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR
Income Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st August 2020

	2020	2019
INCOME		
<i>OYS - restricted funds</i>		
OYS subscriptions / ticket sales	720	1,450
OYS donations / grants	0	373
	720	1,823
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>		
Member subscriptions	12,885	14,127
Income tax recovered	2,925	2,754
Concert income	2,364	5,421
	18,174	22,302
<i>Voluntary sources</i>		
Friends	160	260
Donations	310	200
	470	460
<i>Income from fund-raising activities</i>		
Rehearsal activities	284	661
Hiring out staging	0	0
Hiring out music	120	0
	404	661
<i>City charity concert</i>	0	600
<i>Other income</i>	20	265
<i>Deposits for folders etc.</i>	70	185
Total Income	19,858	26,296
EXPENDITURE		
<i>OYS -restricted funds</i>	1,848	3,324
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
OYS subsidy	0	0
Concert costs	7,163	13,853
Conductor	3,034	4,122
Accompanist	1,724	2,082
Rehearsal rent	1,492	2,398
Making Music & Insurance	407	407
Administration & general marketing	139	154
Music purchase	0	610
Folder & bow tie purchase	660	0
City Charity Christmas concert	0	507
	14,619	24,133
<i>Fund-raising costs</i>		
Rehearsal activities	23	53
<i>Other expenditure</i>	715	436
Total expenditure	17,205	27,947
Net income (expenditure) for the year	2,653	-1,651
Balance of funds at 31st August 2019(18)	24,822	26,473
Balance of funds at 31st August 2020(19)	27,475	24,822

Brighton Orpheus Choir

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st August 2020

	31.08.20	31.08.19
Assets		
HSBC Current Account	27,513	24,841
Less unrepresented cheques	37	639
	<u>27,476</u>	<u>24,202</u>
Prepayments	0	620
	<u>27,476</u>	<u>24,822</u>

Breakdown of Funds

Restricted Funds	141	1,269
Free Reserves	27,371	23,933
	<u>27,512</u>	<u>25,202</u>

Movement in Funds	Balance 1.9.19	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31.8.20
Restricted Funds (OYS)	1,269	720	1,848	141
Unrestricted Funds	23,553	19,138	15,357	27,334
	<u>24,822</u>	<u>19,858</u>	<u>17,205</u>	<u>27,475</u>

Signed by one or two Trustees on behalf of all members

1. Signed

Date

06 September 2020



Name (printed) Elizabeth Hughes
(Treasurer)

2. Signed

Date

21 September 2020



Name (printed) Richard Jayawant
(Secretary)