

**WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

2018/2019

# WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

### Background History

The Wells Cathedral Oratorio society has been in existence for over a hundred years. Originally the Wells Music Association, it joined forces with the Street, Shepton Mallet, and Wedmore Musical Societies. Since 1947, the Society has performed major choral and other works in Wells Cathedral twice every year until the 2013/14 season when the Society moved to three concerts a year. The Society also sponsors a "Come and Sing" day in the summer.

The chorus numbers around 160 singers drawn from a wide area in Somerset and is one of the leading choral societies in the South West of England. Despite its name it has always been independent of Wells Cathedral and became a registered charity in its own right in 1988. Legal and administrative information may be found on page 9.

### Objects of the Society

- To educate the public in the art and knowledge of music, and in particular j choral music by the presentation of choral concerts and other related activities.
- To assist and further such charitable institutions and purposes as the Committee shall from time to time determine.

The charity's trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. Our Society contributes significantly to the cultural life of Wells and the surrounding area, and we are proud of our efforts to reach out to all music lovers through a wide choice of music, some of which is rarely heard. Our Come and Sing Day provides for those local and other singers from further afield to come and enjoy with us perhaps a new opportunity and experience in choral singing and is much appreciated.

### Management

The Committee of the Society undertake arrangements for concerts and other related events, management of the Society's affairs and the control of finance. The committee members are drawn from the membership of the Society and stand for re-election every year. The Committee members who served during the last year are listed on Page 9.

## Review of the year

Our concert season was varied and commenced with a commemorative programme in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the ending of the first world war. The concert held on 10th November, the vigil of Armistice day itself, featured Jonathan Dove's cantata "To an unknown Soldier" followed in the second half by the Faure Requiem. The composer Jonathan Dove attended and we were accompanied by the London Mozart Players. We continued with our now traditional offering of the Messiah at Christmas. A decision was taken after a review of revenue and cost to substitute Mendelssohn's Elijah for the more elaborate and expensive Elgar Apostles for our March concert.

A change of conductor from Matthew Owens for the final four rehearsals and performance of Messiah as well as the uncertainties surrounding his availability to conduct the spring concert was partly also responsible for this change of programme. Our thanks must go to Stuart Beer who returned at very short notice from Singapore to take over the final rehearsals and conductor's baton for Messiah.

In the event we were fortunate to secure Matthew for rehearsals of Elijah at St Thomas' Church as well as at the last minute to conduct the performance itself. These changes and uncertainties resulted in a loss of ticket sales for the final two concerts due to the disruption of the programme, and credit must be due to our chairman Robin Duys and your Committee for holding the concert season together during a difficult time. The Society was complemented on the quality of the seasons singing in various concert reviews.

## Our Future Plans

Our Come and Sing Day previewed the Morten Lauridsen choral work Lux Aeterna, rehearsed during the day and performed in the evening in Wells Methodist Church. This will form part of our concert on 16th November. The concert opens with Arvo Part's "Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten". This short piece for strings will be followed by Morten Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna". In the second half we will perform our Patron, John Rutter's Magnificat, with the soprano soloist Elisabeth Atherton, returning again after her outstanding performance in Elijah. We will be accompanied by the prestigious English Chamber Orchestra.

Our Christmas offering is Handel's Messiah, on 7th December. This is the sixth season we have performed Messiah and we will be accompanied by Music for Awhile on Baroque instruments with soloists Elizabeth Atherton, soprano, Tim Morgan, counter tenor, Peter Auty, tenor and Ben McAater, bass.

The spring concert on March 28th is an 18th century classical concert of music by Haydn and Mozart. We open the concert with a short choral motet "Insanae et vanae curae" by Haydn followed by his symphony no 104 in D major, (the London). After the interval we sing Mozart's Requiem in D minor K 626. For this concert we will be accompanied again by the English Symphony Orchestra, with soloists Alexandra Oomens, soprano, Helen Charleston, alto, James Oxley, tenor, and Grant Doyle, bass.

Much work has been done during the year by Matthew Owens and the Music Committee in preparing this programme, and we have been lucky to have the support of Matthew for the last 14 years. We wish him well in his new career in Belfast, and welcome our prospective new conductor for his year, Jeremy Cole. Our thanks also go to our Concert Manager Robin Walker who has secured the orchestras and soloists for this year's programme.

The preliminary budget for 2018/9 anticipated an overall loss of over £13,000 by reducing reserves to just over £25000, but we have been able to cut this to just over £7000 through stringent cost control and the change of programme. We were helped by much better than anticipated ticket sales for the Dove/Faure thanks partly to publicity from SSAFA who made a substantial collection at the door. Our Messiah ticket sales were however well below that of 2017 (which was a sell out) and sales for Elijah were also much lower than anticipated. Through last-minute marketing and publicity we managed to secure something of a recovery in ticket sales for Elijah and the last minute availability of Matthew as our conductor also helped. Our projections and budget for this coming season show a recovery with a small surplus but as ever these projections will need a strong marketing and publicity plan to enable them to be achieved. We have an exciting and well thought out programme of oratorio music this year in the best traditions of our long history. As this is the last year of our chairman's tenure of office the Trustees would like to express their deep appreciation for his untiring work behind the scenes as well as his management of a difficult 2018/9 season.

For and on behalf of the trustees

Robin Duys Chairman

# WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2019

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>		<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>			
Legacies		0	0
Donations	Note 1	903	919
		903	919
<b>Investment Income</b>			
Bank Interest	Note 2	31	75
Income from Charitable Activities			
Concerts and Events		39,041	39,708
Members subscriptions		17,759	18,656
Friends subscriptions		1,060	2,185
Gift Aid tax refund	Note 3	3,300	3,652
Members' Music Hire		0	0
Fundraising		135	49
Miscellaneous		512	40
		61,806	64,290
<b>Total Income &amp; Endowments</b>		<b>62,740</b>	<b>65,284</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Expenditure on charitable activities

Concerts and Events - current year		66,402	59,541
Concerts and Events - prior year	Note 4	1,078	0
Making Music sub & insurance		613	598
Office Expenses		515	200
Members' Music Hire		0	70
Re-audition Costs		77	103
Miscellaneous costs		287	150
		<b>68,973</b>	<b>60 662</b>
<b>Net income/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>(6,232)</b>	<b>4,622</b>

*Reconciliation of Funds*

Total funds brought forward		37,527	32,905
Total funds carried forward		<b>31,295</b>	<b>37,527</b>

## WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2019

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>DEBTORS &amp; PREPAYMENTS</b>		
Outstanding monthly subscriptions	0	0
Outstanding income - Gift Aid	7,072	3,772
Payments re future concerts	0	0
	<b>7,072</b>	<b>3,772</b>
<b>CASH</b>		
Cash in hand	0	0
Current account	1,562	1,018
Savings account	1,839	14,072
COIF account	24,228	24,203
	<b>27,630</b>	<b>39,293</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Performing rights	(650)	(1,502)
Ticket income received in advance	(2,656)	(4,036)
Venue hire (Come and Sing)	(100)	0
	<b>(3,406)</b>	<b>(5,538)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>31,295</b>	<b>37,527</b>

***Representing:***

General, unrestricted reserve	<b>31,295</b>	<b>37,527</b>
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APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON .....

.....	.....	.....
Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer



**WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 Jun 2019**  
**PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

INCOME	Current Year					Previous Year		Bernstein/		C&S	Total
	Dove/Faure	Messiah	Elgar	C&S	Total	Bach/Vivaldi	Messiah	Rutter			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Ticket Sales (Gross)	15,626	11,430	8,535	982	36,574	10,095	16,079	10,219	989	39,708	
Programme Sales	900	819	628	0	2,347	529	576	622		1,727	
Programme adverts	0	0	120	0	120	300	300	0		600	
Sponsors/donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>16,526</b>	<b>12,249</b>	<b>9,283</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>39,041</b>	<b>10,924</b>	<b>16,955</b>	<b>10,840</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>39,708</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>											
Ticket Sales Commission	815	960	524	0	2,299	1,082	1,858	1,009	0	3,949	
Programme Print	310	279	217	0	806	345	384	244	0	973	
Ticket Print	105	105	105	0	315	105	105	232	0	442	
Orchestra	10,742	7,750	11,000	0	29,492	8,000	7,500	10,726	0	26,226	
Soloists	1,500	2,660	3,200	0	7,360	2,600	2,600	405	0	5,605	
Conductor	1,089	1,089	1,089	475	3,742	1,054	1,054	2,938	0	5,046	
Organist	250	0	0	200	450	158	158	0	0	316	
Additional chorus/choristers 710		1,040	420	0	2,170	651	627	606	0	1,884	
Performing Right fee	654	624	650	0	1,928	0	926	589	0	1,515	
Rehearsal costs	3,335	1,168	4,157	256	8,917	2,952	1,628	1,336	80	5,996	
Cathedral / Venue charges	2,616	1,896	1,943	100	6,555	1,842	1,842	2,049	100	5,833	
Publicity	243	252	641	99	1,235	339	284	305	0	928	
Net Vocal score hire cost	285	0	421	0	706	43	0	197	0	240	
Miscellaneous expenses	87	230	135	0	452	260	83	247	0	590	
	<b>22,740</b>	<b>18,053</b>	<b>24,503</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>64,273</b>	<b>19,431</b>	<b>19,049</b>	<b>20,881</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>59,541</b>	
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(6,214)</b>	<b>(5,804)</b>	<b>(15,220)</b>	<b>( 148)</b>	<b>(27,362)</b>	<b>(8,507)</b>	<b>(2,094)</b>				

## **Notes to the accounts.**

### **Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the accruals basis which ensures that income and costs from events falling within the accounting period are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income received or costs expended which relate to future period are not disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities but form part of the Balance Sheet. This is consistent with the accounting policy used in previous years.

### **Note 1 Donations**

Donations from members, friends and others total £903. No single donation exceeded £250.

### **Note 2 Bank Interest**

Earned on the Societies COIF and Lloyds deposit accounts

### **Note 3 Gift Aid tax refund**

Gift aid has been applied for but remains outstanding as at year end.

### **Note 4 Concerts and Events Prior Year**

Late invoices in respect of the year ending 30 June 2018 and not provided for in the previous year's accounts total £1,078

### **Reserves Policy**

All activities and income are considered to be within a general, unrestricted fund. The Society takes the view that the level of reserves need

(a) to provide a short-term cash flow buffer for the Spring concert in each season. The treasurer's assessment of the maximum required for this is £12,500.

(b) to provide for an uninsurable loss on concerts greater than forecast, for example catastrophic ticket sales. The trustee's assessment of the maximum risk is £12,500.

Our base level of required reserves to cover (a) and (b) is £25,000

Our concert planning and budgeting process aims to deliver an annual result between a deficit and a surplus of £10,000. Since in the long run we will neither accumulate or deplete reserves, it is expected that will accumulate cash in some years to provide funds for concerts demanding large resources up to £17,500.

### **Current reserves**

Our current reserves are £31,295.

## Legal and Administrative Information

Name of Charity Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society

Legal Status Unincorporated Trust

Governing Document Constitution

Charity Registration Number 800481

Trustees	Name	Role
	Neil Bonham	Newsletter & Programmes
	Helen Bonham	Secretary
	Ben Clay	Webmaster
	Robin Duys	Chairman
	Chris Jenkins	Subscriptions
	Della Menday	Publicity
	John Morton	Treasurer
	Pamela Pye	Membership
	Marion Robinson	Friends
	Sue Stoughton-Harris	Librarian
	Robin Walker	Concert Management

Address of the Charity  
Helen Bonham  
Hon Secretary  
Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society  
Avon, Frome Road, East Horrington,  
Somerset BA5 3DT

Bankers

Lloyds

24/26 High Street

Wells BA5 2SJ

Independent Examiner

Simon Bruce

Chartered Accountant

Wester House

Station Road

Westbury-sub-Mendip BA5 1EY

## **Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society**

I report on the accounts of Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society for the year ended 30 June 2019

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act
- 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 you as trustees concerning 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 below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

1. to keep records in accordance with section 130 of the Act;

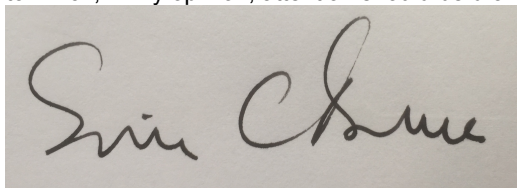
and

2. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the Act,

have not been met;

or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Simon Bruce'.

Simon Bruce

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW) Westbury Sub Mendip

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

