

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2017

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Background History

The Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society has been in existence for over 100 years. Originally the Wells Music Association, it joined forces after World War 1 with the Street, Shepton Mallet and Wedmore Musical Societies. Since 1947 the Society has performed major choral works in Wells Cathedral twice every year until the 2013-2014 season when the Society moved to three concerts a year.

The Chorus numbers around 170 singers drawn from a wide area in Somerset. It 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 in Annex A.

Objects of the Society

- To educate the public in the art and knowledge of music, and in particular of 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. We provide opportunities for all the community locally and far afield to Come and Sing some music with us creating a new experience for some once a year, which is appreciated and enjoyed.

Management

The Officers and Committee of the Society, which has no employees, undertake arrangements for concerts and other related events, management of the Society's affairs and the control of finance.

Officers and committee members are drawn from the membership of the society and stand for re-election every year at the Annual General Meeting. The committee members who served during the past year are listed on Page 9

Review of the year

Our 2016/17 season started in November with a 'safe' choice of Mozart's Vespers K339 and Haydn's Nelson Mass in D minor. This concert was well received, with a satisfactory audience. Our orchestra once again was Music for a While, led by Maggie Faultless, and was superb.

Hard on the heels of this concert, we used the same band for our always-popular annual Messiah, which was a sell-out. Our choir, under Matthew Owens, works well with Music for a While. A great way to start the Christmas season.

Towards the end of March, we chose a completely different concert of twentieth century music. Holst's 'The Planets' was performed in the first half, with the ethereal voices of our sopranos and altos fading away at the end of the Neptune movement. Just very special. After the interval we performed for only the second time in WCOS history, Walton's Belshazzar's Feast, which is a truly stunning piece. An almost full house raved about the concert, which had all of us on our mettle, it not being an easy piece to sing! Southern Symphonia accompanied us with an enormous orchestra. I am sure the combination of Choir and orchestra shook the cathedral's foundations!

Our Come and Sing Day in May was, as ever, well supported with singers from far and near - Australia to Wales. This fun day with a serious purpose helps us to have a taste of what is to come for the start of the next season, to encourage new voices to join the choir and to make a modest profit of £573 for Choir funds. Our Musical Director ensured the day went well and was a success.

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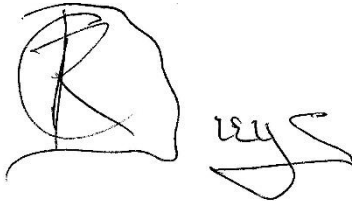
At the season's end our reserves stood at just under thirty three thousand pounds, down approximately £5,000 from last year.

Future Plans

We shall start our new season with Bach's Magnificat and Vivaldi's Gloria which we hope will be popular, followed by Messiah in December - perhaps another sell-out! In the spring of 2018 we plan to sing Rutter's Gloria, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, with the orchestra playing two Copeland items and Barber's Adagio for strings. A season of music to cover all tastes.

Looking to the future, our costs mostly increase at least at the RPI rate of inflation and we have limited ability to raise additional income through increased ticket prices. Therefore, on our current pattern of performances, our net cost (and therefore the amount we need to raise from subscriptions and donations) is likely to increase year on year by more than the rate of inflation. We will therefore be reviewing the level of subscriptions this year as well as conducting a full review of all aspects of our programming.

For and on behalf of the trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by the name 'Duys' in a cursive script.

Robin Duys
Chairman

Date: 17 July 2017

**WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	This Year £	Last Year £
Donations and Legacies		
Legacies	0	3,020
Donations	Note 1 1,097	787
	1,097	3,807
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	98	126
Income from Charitable Activities		
Members subscriptions	17,380	18,155
Friends subscriptions	1,485	1,633
Gift Aid tax refund	3,935	4,279
Members' Music Hire		321
Fundraising	183	230
Miscellaneous		24
	22,983	24,642
	24,178	28,575
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Net cost of Concerts (details on Page 6)	26,121	18,602
Making Music sub & insurance	594	585
Office Expenses	506	634
Members' Music Hire	Note 2 60	
Re-audition Costs	368	360
Miscellaneous costs	Note 3 1,556	292
	29,205	20,473
	(5,027)	8,102
Net income / (deficit) for the year		
<i>Reconciliation of Funds</i>		
Total funds brought forward	37,932	29,830
Total funds carried forward	32,905	37,932

Note 1: Donations

Sponsors	250	500
Battens Charitable Trust	500	
Members and Friends	347	287
	1,097	787

Note 2: Members' Music Hire

Income and costs relating to specific current year concerts are now included in the Concert and Event Accounts. The current year cost of £60 above, relates to charges for lost and damaged music in the previous season.

Note 3: Miscellaneous Costs

The current year cost of £1,556 is for additional stage seating. In line with previous policy, the chairs are under the control of the cathedral and are available for use by other organisations as well as WCOS.

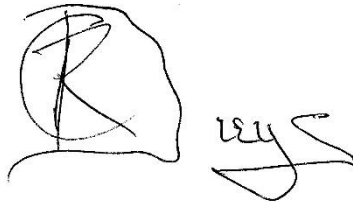
Note 4: All activities are considered to be within a general, unrestricted fund

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS		
Outstanding income	159	4,291
Payments re future concerts	446	134
	<u>605</u>	<u>4,425</u>
CASH		
Current account	976	955
Savings account	12,758	2,241
COIF account	19,135	31,041
	<u>32,869</u>	<u>34,237</u>
CREDITORS	<u>(569)</u>	<u>(730)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>32,905</u>	<u>37,932</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
General, unrestricted reserve	<u>32,905</u>	<u>37,932</u>

Approved by the Committee on: 17 July 2017



Robin Duys
Chairman



David Flinders
Treasurer



Barbara Leuwer Riches
Secretary

Notes

1. Outstanding Income

On-line ticket sales for Come & Sing Day 159

2. Payments re future concerts

Advance payments relating to the November 2017 concert.

3. Creditors

This is the amount payable for Performing Rights for the Walton / Holst concert

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4a. Reserves Policy

The society needs to maintain reserves:-

- a) To provide a short-term cash flow buffer for the Spring concert in each season. The treasurer's assessment of the maximum amount required for this is £10,000.
- b) To provide for an uninsurable loss on concerts greater than forecast, for example catastrophic ticket sales. The trustees' assessment of the maximum risk is £10,000.
- c) To enable funds to be accumulated in some years for delivery of particularly resource-intensive and therefore expensive concerts in later years.

Our base level of required reserves to cover a) and b) is £20,000.

Our concert planning and budgeting process aims to deliver an overall annual result ranging between a deficit or surplus of £7,500. Whilst in the long run we will neither accumulate nor deplete reserves, we will accumulate cash in some years in order to provide funds for concerts demanding large resources, up to £15,000.

4b. Current Reserves

Current reserves are £32,905, which is approximately the level forecast in last year's annual report and is within the range required by our reserves policy.

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CONCERT AND EVENT ACCOUNTS

INCOME	This Year					Last Year				
	Haydn / Mozart	Messiah	Belshazzar	C&S	Total	Bach Masses	Messiah	GBC	C&S	Total
Ticket Sales (Gross)	7,940	14,727	9,970	1,452	34,089	7,005	12,802	11,810	1,570	33,187
Programme Sales	408	546	440		1,394	413	582	701		1,696
Programme adverts	240	240	240		720	240	240	240		720
Sponsors/donations										
	8,588	15,513	10,650	1,452	36,203	7,658	13,624	12,751	1,570	35,603
EXPENDITURE										
Ticket Sales Commission	1,116	2,137	1,379		4,632	652	1,460	1,636		3,748
Programme Print	299	313	276		888	268	358	313		939
Ticket Print	65	65	65		195	86	86	121		293
Orchestra	8,750	7,250	11,974		27,974	6,000	7,900	9,500	0	23,400
Soloists	3,000	2,600	1,000		6,600	2,419	2,200	0	0	4,619
Conductor	1,027	1,027	1,027	450	3,531	1,010	1,010	1,010	450	3,480
Organist	50	154	154	140	498	151	151	151	140	593
Additional chorus & choristers	216	478	917		1,611	552	445	1,095		2,092
Performing Right fee	0	847	569		1,416	0	736	680		1,416
Rehearsal costs	2,820	902	3,983		7,705	2,875	1,260	2,896		7,031
Cathedral / Venue charges	1,596	1,752	2,040	100	5,488	1,712	1,712	1,788	215	5,428
Publicity	440	386	462	60	1,348	212	158	279	10	659
Net Music Hire cost / (income)	(131)		24	129	22					
Miscellaneous expenses	194	112	110		416	118	98	84	206	507
	19,442	18,023	23,980	879	62,324	15,404	16,115	19,553	1,021	54,205
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(10,854)	(2,510)	(13,330)	573	(26,121)	(8,398)	(3,951)	(6,802)	549	(18,602)

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**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 2017

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



Simon Bruce

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

Westbury Sub Mendip

Date: 24th August 2017

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ANNEX: LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity: Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society

Legal Status: Unincorporated Trust

Governing Document: Constitution

Charity Registration No: 800481

Trustees	Name	Role
	Neill Bonham	Newsletter & Programmes
	Ben Clay	Webmaster
	Robin Duys	Chairman
	David Flinders	Treasurer
	Chris Jenkins	Subscriptions
	Barbara Leuwer Riches	Secretary
	Nancy McGiveron	Come & Sing
	Della Menday	Publicity
	Pamela Pye	Membership
	Frances Rowe	Friends
	Sue Stoughton-Harris	Librarian
	Robin Walker	Concert Management

Address of the Charity: Barbara Leuwer
Hon. Secretary
Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society
Grey Close, Top Road, Shipham
BS25 1TB

Bankers: Lloyds
24/26 High Street
Wells, BA5 2SJ

Independent Examiner: Simon Bruce
Chartered Accountant
Wester House
Station Road
Westbury sub Mendip
BA5 1EY