

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2017/2018

**WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

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 8.

Objects of the Society

- To educate the public in the art and knowledge of music, and in particular 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, with a traditional baroque programme in November, our customary Christmas offering of Handel's Messiah, and the March concert celebrating Bernstein's 100th anniversary with a programme of music from 20th century American composers.

The November concert opened with a performance of Vivaldi's violin concerto for two violins in A minor, and this was followed by the Vivaldi Gloria sung by the society. In the second half we sang the Bach Magnificat in D. In this programme we were fortunate to be accompanied by Music for Awhile, led by the internationally acclaimed Maggie Faultless.

Music for Awhile also accompanied our Christmas offering of the Messiah, with a selection of "home grown" Wells soloists drawn from the wealth of musical talent within the city's musical environment as one of the four centres of musical excellence in the country.

Our spring concert combined the orchestral works of Copeland's Appalachian Spring Orchestral Suite and his Fanfare for the Common Man with Rutter's Gloria in the full orchestral version sung by the Society. We ended with Barbers Adagio for Strings and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. This concert had all of us on our mettle, particularly the singing of the Bernstein in Hebrew, and was particularly well received, with a standing ovation for all the participants including the Southern Symphonia orchestra.

These three concerts were well attended, and the Messiah was a sell-out.

Our future plans

Our Come and Sing Day previewed the Faure Requiem, rehearsed during the day and sung in the evening; this will form a part of our commemorative concert for the 100th anniversary of the end of the first world war.

This concert will take place on Saturday 10th November, on the vigil of Armistice day itself, Sunday 11th and will feature Jonathan Dove's cantata "The Unknown Soldier", accompanied by the London Mozart Players. We are hopeful that the composer himself will attend, and we have agreed to work with SSAFA who have agreed to support the concert with national publicity. Jonathan Doves work incorporates eight poems from first world war poets; it evokes the tomb of the unknown soldier at the entrance of Westminster cathedral in an attempt to give a degree of comfort to the families of over a half million of commonwealth soldiers missing with no known grave during this terrible conflict.

The 2018/19 season will continue with The Messiah at Christmas, and Elgar's masterpiece "The Apostles" in the Spring when we will be accompanied by the English Symphony Orchestra.

Much work was done during the 2017/18 year in laying the foundations for this ambitious and challenging programme. The society has been fortunate with the leadership of Matthew Owen, our musical Director, the support of his team, and the Cathedral staff throughout this busy year.

The preliminary budget for the 2018/19 season shows that we will need to dip into reserves to complete this ambitious programme, but the effect of this can be mitigated by full houses for all concerts. As always it is the level of ticket sales which will determine the extent of the subsidy needed from reserves during this next year. We will be reviewing ticket prices for the 2019/20 season, in the spring against the background of experience of this concert programme; the expectation is that people will always be prepared to come and listen to concerts combining programmes of real interest, backed by the highest possible quality and standards of musical performance.

For and on behalf of the Trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duys', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Robin Duys
Chairman.

22-10-18

Date

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2018

BALANCE SHEET

	2018 £	2017 £
DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS		
Outstanding monthly subscriptions	0	
Outstanding income - Gift Aid	3,772	159
Payments re future concerts	0	447
	<u>3,772</u>	<u>606</u>
CASH		
Cash in hand	0	
Current account	1,018	976
Savings account	14,072	12,758
COIF account	24,203	19,135
	<u>39,293</u>	<u>32,869</u>
CREDITORS		
Performing rights	(1,501)	(570)
Ticket income received in advance	(4,036)	0
	<u>(5,537)</u>	<u>(570)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>37,528</u>	<u>32,905</u>
Representing:		
General, unrestricted reserve	<u>37,528</u>	<u>32,905</u>

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON.....

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 Chairman

.....

 Secretary

.....

 Treasurer

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		This Year	Last Year
		£	£
Donations and Legacies			
Legacies		0	0
Donations	Note 1	919	1,097
		919	1,097
Investment Income			
Bank Interest	Note 2	31	98
Income from Charitable Activities			
Concerts and Events		39,708	36,203
Members subscriptions	Note 3	18,656	17,380
Friends subscriptions		2,185	1,485
Gift Aid tax refund	Note 4	3,652	3,935
Members' Music Hire		0	0
Fundraising		49	183
Miscellaneous		40	0
		64,290	59,186
Total Income & Endowments		65,241	60,381
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Concerts and Events		59,541	62,324
Making Music sub & insurance		598	594
Office Expenses		200	506
Members' Music Hire	Note 5	70	60
Re-audition Costs		103	369
Miscellaneous costs		150	1,556
		60,662	65,408
Net income for the year		4,579	(5,027)
<i>Reconciliation of Funds</i>			
Total funds brought forward		32,905	37,932
Total funds carried forward		37,484	32,905

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORATORIO SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30 Jun 2018

**PERFORMANCE
SUMMARY**

	This Year					Last Year				
	Bach / Vivaldi	Messiah	Bern-stein / Rutter	C&S	Total	Haydn / Mozart	Messiah	Walton	C&S	Total
INCOME										
Ticket Sales (Gross)	10,095	16,079	10,219	989	37,382	7,940	14,727	9,971	1,452	34,090
Programme Sales	529	576	622		1,727	408	546	440		1,394
Programme adverts	300	300	0		600	240	240	240		720
Sponsors/donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10,924	16,955	10,840	989	39,708	8,588	15,513	10,651	1,452	36,203
EXPENDITURE										
Ticket Sales Commission	1,082	1,858	1,009	0	3,949	1,116	2,137	1,379	0	4,632
Programme Print	345	384	244	0	973	299	313	276		888
Ticket Print	105	105	232	0	442	65	65	65		196
Orchestra	8,000	7,500	10,726	0	26,226	8,750	7,250	11,974	0	27,974
Soloists	2,600	2,600	405	0	5,605	3,000	2,600	1,000	0	6,600
Conductor	1,054	1,054	2,938	0	5,046	1,027	1,027	1,027	450	3,531
Organist	158	158	0	0	316	50	154	154	140	498
Additional chorus & choristers	651	627	606	0	1,884	216	478	917		1,611
Performing Right fee	0	926	589	0	1,515	0	847	569		1,416
Rehearsal costs	2,952	1,628	1,336	80	5,996	2,820	902	3,983		7,705
Cathedral / Venue charges	1,842	1,842	2,049	100	5,833	1,596	1,752	2,040	100	5,488
Publicity	339	284	305	0	928	440	386	462	60	1,347
Net Vocal score hire cost / (income)	43		197	0	240	(131)		24	129	22
Miscellaneous expenses	260	83	247	0	590	194	112	110	0	416
	19,431	19,049	20,881	180	59,541	19,442	18,023	23,980	879	62,324
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(8,507)	(2,094)	(10,041)	809	(19,833)	(10,854)	(2,510)	(13,329)	573	(26,121)

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

Martha Veancombe's funeral fund	£632.50
Members and friends	£276.50

Note 2 Bank Interest

Earned on the Societies COIF and Lloyds deposit accounts

Note 3 Members Subscriptions

These reflect the increase of £10 per member, offset by a small reduction in numbers.

Note 4

Gift aid is applied for but remains outstanding as at year end due to the need for re-registration.

Note 5 Members Music Hire

Reflects the charges for lost and damaged music in the previous season

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. While in the long run we will neither accumulate or deplete reserves, we will accumulate cash in some years to provide funds for concerts demanding large resources up to £17,500.

Current reserves

Our current reserves are £37,527.

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
	Nancy McGiveron	Come and Sing
	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 Bowen
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 2018

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

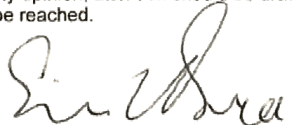
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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:

~~8th October 2018~~ ^{SeB}
22nd October 2018