

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2017

This report meets the requirements of our own constitution (dated 21st October 2015) to report to the Annual General Meeting and the legal requirements upon charities to produce and make available a Trustees' Annual report.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

The charity's name and registration number are set out at the head of this report.

The contact address ('principal office') of the charity is the home of the Chairperson, namely 9 Ovington Terrace, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 1GF.

The Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th October 2016, are as follows:

- Chairperson: Steve Bowkett
- Vice-Chairperson: Richard Tebboth
- Treasurer: Lorraine Rees
- Secretary: Anna Brazier
- One other person: Margot Henery.

Lorraine Rees has announced her intention to stand down from the role of Treasurer following the Annual General Meeting to be held on 18th October 2017. A nomination or nominations to replace her as Treasurer and Trustee are sought for election at the Annual General Meeting. All other Trustees have declared their willingness to remain in post, subject to election at the Annual General Meeting.

Structure, governance and management

The governing document of the Choir is the constitution approved at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2015.

The management of Canton Chorus ("the Choir") is in the hands of the Trustees, who are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees are assisted by an Advisory Committee, currently comprising the Musical Director - John Abraham, a representative of each of the four voice parts - Janet Daly (soprano), Gabrielle Kirov (alto), Margot Henery (tenor - who is also a Trustee in her own right) and John Lawson (bass) - and the Librarian - Glyn Parry.

Joint meetings of the Trustees and Advisory Committee have been held on the following dates:

- 28th September 2016
- 7th December 2016
- 10th May 2017
- 20th September 2017

Minutes of the meetings are available on request.

The membership of the Choir currently stands at 68. Membership is open to any person interested in furthering the objects of the Choir, without audition or other musical test.

Financial review

The accounts for the year ended 31st August are available as separate documents in two formats, as an itemised spreadsheet and in a simplified format approved for submission to the Charity Commission. The latter will be subject to independent examination following approval by the Annual General Meeting.

The accounts show that our total income for the year, including the balance brought forward, was £13,776. We rely on members' subscriptions for 70% of our annual income. Income was slightly (4%) down on the previous year, when we received a £1000 legacy, which was used this year to commission a piece of music (see below). A grant of £500 was received from Ty Cerdd towards the cost of the winter concert.

Expenditure this year was £12,357, compared to £11,429 last year. The largest costs are associated with our concert expenditure, which was £8,487 (£8,020 last year). The largest single item was the hire of an orchestra for the winter concert (£5,207). The cost of hiring scores (£608) was almost double the previous year.

During the year, the Trustees were faced with cash flow problems and a potential deficit arising from increased costs of concerts and score hire. Three members made interest-free loans to help cover concert expenditure. Of the loans made in the previous year £400 was generously turned into donations, so the amount we need to repay has been reduced to £520.

The Trustees decided to deal with this by raising subscriptions from 1st September 2017 and by introducing systems of stricter control over concert budgets. Expenditure on the winter concert in 2018 will be greatly reduced in order to build up our funds.

The Choir does not hold any funds as custodian trustee on behalf of any other body.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Choir are as follows:

1. to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing and associated musical activity, through any means the Trustees see fit, including the provision of rehearsals under skilled guidance and public performance;
2. to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in relation to the practice of choral singing.

The activities undertaken in pursuance of those objects include the following:

Rehearsals

The Choir has continued its programme of regular weekly rehearsals held during normal school term times, with additional rehearsals arranged immediately before concerts. Rehearsals are directed by the Musical Director and, in his absence, by the Deputy Musical Director or suitable substitute.

Concerts

Two concerts have been held during the year, both at St John's Church, Canton. On 28th January 2017 the Choir performed *Elijah* by Mendelssohn. On 1st July the Choir performed a specially commissioned setting by local composer Andrew Wilson Dixon of poems by Gerald Manley Hopkins, in memory of former choir member Carolyn Seymour, together with a Palestrina Mass and a selection of madrigals and other works.

Christmas singing

As in previous years, members of the choir visited the Day Centre at St David's Hospital, Canton, to present a programme of carols and other Christmas songs for the elderly people with mental infirmities who attend there.

Swansea City Opera

Canton Chorus members were invited to join a Swansea City Opera production of *Lakmé* by Delibes. About fifteen members participated in productions in Cardiff, Abergavenny and Maesteg. The Choir organised some preparatory rehearsals, in addition to those organised by Swansea Opera.

Funeral singing

In response to a request from a local family, the choir provided singers for a funeral service. The family made an unsolicited donation of £240 to the choir.

Publicity

The Choir's activities are publicised by word of mouth, through its website (www.canton-chorus.org), Facebook page and Streetlife, and by distribution of fliers advertising concerts.

Commission

During the previous year the Choir received a bequest from the estate of a former Choir member, the late Carolyn Seymour. The Trustees decided to use this to commission, from a local composer, a new work in her memory, comprising a setting of three poems which she particularly liked. As reported above, the Choir performed this work in its concert in summer 2017.

Future plans

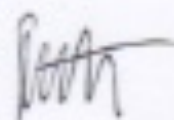
The Choir plans to perform works by Duruflé, Finzi and Handel for its winter concert, to be held on 27th January 2018. The summer concert is likely to feature Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*. We expect as usual to offer a performance of Christmas songs at the St David's Hospital Day Centre. We have once again been invited to participate in a Swansea City Opera production.

Achievements and performance

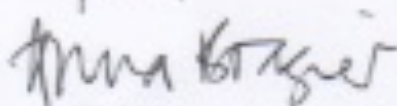
In the opinion of the Trustees, the Choir has successfully carried out its activities in pursuance of its objects. The standards of performance have been high, despite challenging programmes. We have maintained the principle of a choir open to all, enabling people from the Canton district of Cardiff and surrounding areas to enjoy and appreciate good quality choral music at modest or in some cases no cost.

Signed by the Trustees:

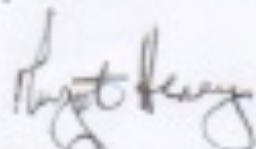
Steve Bowkett



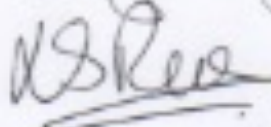
Anna Brazier



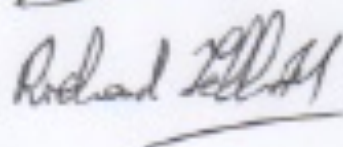
Margot Henery



Lorraine Rees



Richard Tebboth



Date: 27th September 2017