



ANNUAL REPORT

**To be presented at the Annual General Meeting
2 November 2017**

St Michael and All Angel's Church, Summertown, Oxford.

1. Legal and Administrative Information

<i>Registered charity number</i>	900317
<i>Principal address</i>	6 Rogers Street Oxford OX2 7JS
<i>Trustees and Officers</i>	Victoria Alexander (Chair) Diana Chandler (Treasurer) Alison Jones (Secretary) Gillian Beattie (Webmaster) Jackie Weaver (Front of House/Publicity) Nicky Boughton (Concert Co-ordinator) Vreni Booth (Social Secretary) Debbie Hamilton (Membership Secretary) Simon Wratten (Librarian)
<i>Music Director</i>	Duncan Saunderson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Julian Littlewood
<i>Governing document</i>	The Constitution of Summertown Choral Society 2016
<i>Bankers</i>	Nat West Bank, Oxford COIF Charities Deposit Fund 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
<i>Independent examiner</i>	James Rowland 108 Southfield Road, Oxford OX4 1PA

Objectives (from clause 2 of the Constitution)

The aims of the Society shall be to educate the public in the Art and Science of Music by the rehearsal of choral music, the presentation of public concerts and other charitable activities.

2. Report from the Treasurer, Accounts and Examiner's Report

Report from the Treasurer

As for last year, the finances of Summertown Choral Society remain very healthy. At the end of the last financial year, we aimed to arrive at a net balance of zero, which we largely achieved (net of £190), meaning that our income is meeting our expenditure and vice versa. For the last year the subscription price of £120 (with reductions as needed) has covered the workshop and social drinks as well as the usual rehearsals, concerts and music, which has been popular. This year, membership has been good although slightly lower than last year, mainly because the rate of refunds has been higher – it seems to have been a year of illness and fractures which we hope will decrease in coming years. Concerts continue to be well attended, and instituting charges for programmes and drinks appears to be well accepted.

Our reserve continues to be around £8,000 higher than our agreed reserve of £12,000, but we are working on greater expenditure. This year will be more expensive, with a large orchestra for our February concert, a second orchestral concert in the summer, and a commission as agreed last year.

Our aims this year are as for last year - to continue to use our finances to promote musical excellence and availability to all. Subscriptions will remain at £120 per year; £65 per term; reductions as required, which includes all the goodies outlined above.

I would like to thank our external examiner, James Rowland, for auditing our accounts again this year.

Diana Chandler, October 2017

Summertown Choral Society
Annual Accounts
2016-2017

	Total 2016-17	Total 2015-16	TERM 1 2017	2016	TERM 1 2015-2016	Term 2 2016-2017	TERM 2 2015-2016
Receipts							
Subscriptions	£ 14,668.00	£ 15,257.01	£ 12,075.00	£ 12,662.01	£ 2,593.00	£ 2,595.00	£ 2,595.00
Concert Tickets	£ 5,443.45	£ 5,595.84	£ 3,248.75	£ 3,509.04	£ 2,194.70	£ 2,086.80	£ 2,086.80
Gift Aid	£ 2,856.68	£ 3,016.77	£ -	£ -	£ 2,856.68	£ 3,016.77	£ 3,016.77
Events and workshops	£ -	£ 744.00	£ -	£ 744.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Donations (for rehearsal refreshments)	£ 29.58	£ 164.75	£ 29.58	£ 152.25	£ -	£ 12.50	£ 12.50
Concert Refreshments	£ 506.67	£ 535.00	£ 278.67	£ 304.00	£ 228.00	£ 231.00	£ 231.00
Programme Sales	£ 239.10	£ 248.01	£ 140.10	£ 154.00	£ 99.00	£ 94.01	£ 94.01
CD Sales and Music Hire	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 57.83	£ 77.48	£ 33.92	£ 36.81	£ 23.91	£ 40.67	£ 40.67
Total Receipts	£ 23,801.31	£ 25,638.86	£ 15,806.02	£ 17,562.11	£ 7,995.29	£ 8,076.75	£ 8,076.75
Payments							
Rehearsal:							
Professional Fees	£ 7,320.00	£ 6,180.73	£ 3,770.00	£ 3,373.61	£ 3,550.00	£ 2,807.12	£ 2,807.12
Hire of Hall	£ 1,225.00	£ 1,120.00	£ 665.00	£ 490.00	£ 560.00	£ 630.00	£ 630.00
Music Purchase/Hire/Printing	£ 1,004.00	£ 1,075.00	£ 644.00	£ 693.75	£ 360.00	£ 381.25	£ 381.25
Total Rehearsal:	£ 9,549.00	£ 8,375.73	£ 5,079.00	£ 4,557.36	£ 4,470.00	£ 3,818.37	£ 3,818.37
Concerts:							
Soloists and Instrumentalists	£ 9,014.00	£ 7,766.00	£ 7,064.00	£ 5,906.00	£ 1,950.00	£ 1,860.00	£ 1,860.00
Hall and Staging	£ 960.52	£ 2,019.95	£ 471.41	£ 1,163.65	£ 489.11	£ 856.30	£ 856.30
Refreshments, Gifts for soloists	£ 701.01	£ 573.68	£ 379.62	£ 263.77	£ 321.39	£ 309.91	£ 309.91
Commissioning Music	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Printing for publicity	£ 1,566.94	£ 1,561.94	£ 746.47	£ 866.47	£ 746.47	£ 695.47	£ 695.47
Total Concert:	£ 12,242.47	£ 11,921.57	£ 8,661.50	£ 8,199.89	£ 3,506.97	£ 3,721.68	£ 3,721.68
Capital Purchases:							
Events and Workshops:							
Professional Fees	£ 440.00	£ 424.84	£ 440.00	£ 424.84	£ -	£ -	£ -
Hall hire and other costs	£ 125.00	£ 134.93	£ 125.00	£ 134.93	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total Events and Workshops:	£ 565.00	£ 559.77	£ 565.00	£ 559.77	£ -	£ -	£ -
Administration:							
Stationary, postage, photocopying	£ 235.95	£ 612.35	£ 157.27	£ 554.00	£ 78.68	£ 58.35	£ 58.35
Additional/replacement music	£ 27.43	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 27.43	£ -	£ -
Social	£ 600.63	£ 511.68	£ 294.44	£ 220.19	£ 306.19	£ 291.49	£ 291.49
Independent Examination	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Subscription: Making Music	£ 390.00	£ 385.00	£ 390.00	£ 385.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Sundry	£ -	£ 268.31	£ -	£ 158.31	£ -	£ 110.00	£ 110.00
Total Administration:	£ 1,254.01	£ 1,777.34	£ 841.71	£ 1,317.50	£ 412.30	£ 459.84	£ 459.84
Total Payments:	£ 23,610.48	£ 22,634.41	£ 15,147.21	£ 14,634.52	£ 8,389.27	£ 7,999.89	£ 7,999.89
Net	£ 190.83	£ 3,004.45	£ 658.81	£ 2,927.59	-£ 393.98	£ 76.86	£ 76.86
Cash Funds brought forward	£ 20,620.21	£ 17,615.76					
Surplus/Net	£ 190.83	£ 3,004.45					
Cash Funds Carried Forward	£ 20,811.04	£ 20,620.21					

Summertown Choral Society
Annual Accounts
2016-2017

Statement of Assets and Liabilities July 31st 2016- July 30th 2017

		2015-2016	
Cash Funds:			
CLLA Account	£	13,989.15	£ 14,435.41
NatWest Account	£	6,932.28	£ 3,168.03
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	£	20,921.43	£ 17,603.44
 <u>Debtors:</u>			
Uncashed Cheques:	£	110.39	£ 3,016.77
<u>AVAILABLE ASSETS</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>20,811.04</u>	<u>£ 20,620.21</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Summertown Choral Society

I report on the accounts of the Summertown Choral Society for the year ended 31 July 2017.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (amended 2015) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 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 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 examiner's statement

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 requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

(signed)

Name

JAMES ROLLAND

Address

108 Southfield Road
Oxford

Date

4/10/2017

3. Report from the Choir

Summertown Choral Society is now in its 56th season! It has been a very steady ship: for more than 20 years SCS has flourished under the baton of Duncan Sanderson and the accompaniment of Julian Littlewood. The membership has also been robust. We had 128 singers in Autumn 2016, 10 of whom were new. In Spring 2017, 112 members rehearsed with the choir, 9 of whom were new members. These figures are comparable to recent years. Membership is the lifeblood of the Choir; indeed, the membership *is* the Choir.

In 2016-17, SCS gave two concerts, both in St. Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford. In the winter concert on 4 February 2017, we performed to a (very nearly) full house. The programme opened with Buxtehude's *Ad Ubera Portabimini* (from cantata II 'Ad Genua' of *Membra Jesu Nostri*). Our featured piece was J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, parts 4-6, and the concert wrapped up with Bach's *Lobet den Herren, alle Heiden* (Motet BWV230). We were delighted to have five accomplished soloists, Louise Wayman (soprano), Jennifer Attia (soprano), Alexander Chance (countertenor), Hugo Hymas (tenor), and Brian McAlea (bass), and to be accompanied by the baroque ensemble, Instruments of Time and Truth. The beautiful programme was designed by the multi-talented Julian Littlewood, and the programme notes were provided by choir soprano Julia Wigg.

Our summer concert was held on 10 June 2017, and as is traditional, was a somewhat smaller concert with fewer singers and no orchestra, but inspiring and enjoyable nonetheless. Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* was our headline piece, part of a programme of pieces by operatic composers. A first for the Choir was singing in Welsh (Joseph Parry's 'Cychod Ar Yr Afon'). Indeed, this concert was linguistically diverse, as in addition to Welsh, we sang in Latin (Puccini's Mass and Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' from *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, K339), Italian (Verdi: 'Va Pensiero' from *Nabucco*, and Mozart: 'Voyagers' Chorus' from *Idomeneo*), German (Wagner: 'Bridal Chorus' from *Lohengrin*), French (Berlioz: 'The Shepherd's Farewell' from *L'enfance du Christ*), and English (Purcell: 'With Drooping Wings' from *Dido and Aeneas*, which followed our soprano soloist's 'Dido's Lament'). We were joined by three soloists, Louise Wayman (soprano), Ben Alden (tenor) and Daniel Tate (baritone), with Julian Littlewood on piano. Julian also designed the programme, and the programme notes were kindly written by SCS supporter John Clarke, who was inexplicably not credited for his labours in the programme.

The Choir continues to benefit from the leadership of our Music Director, Duncan Sanderson. Duncan selects a compelling repertoire, affording the membership with a musical education through singing a combination of well-known, 'big' masses and oratorios, often coupled with less-known works. Duncan pulls amazing performances from our non-auditioned choir, even on the most challenging pieces.

The 2016-17 season also marked 20 years of association of Julian Littlewood with SCS. In addition to accompanying us in rehearsals, occasionally taking rehearsals and designing programmes, he also designs our posters and publicity material. The Choir honoured Julian's contributions in an after-rehearsal celebration on 1 June 2017, when Julian was toasted and presented with a framed print, *The Concerto*, by Cyril Power.

The Choir held a vocal workshop on Saturday, 14 January 2017, attended by about 55 members. The workshop this year was a 'double-bill' and we practiced vocal technique and

German pronunciation with workshop leaders, Rebecca Mosley-Morgan and Alastair Thompson.

In August the Summertown Singers, an a cappella chamber choir (most of whom are members of SCS) travelled to Haro in Rioja, Spain, for a week of rehearsing, culminating in a performance before some 500 people in the Church of Santo Tomás. Two rarely performed pieces by Spanish composers, *Missa in Exitu Israel de Egypto* by Diego de Pontac and *Hoc Corpus* by Melchor Robledo, were integrated into the Saturday evening Mass. After the service, Summertown Singers performed additional pieces in a secular mini-concert. Music Director Duncan Sanderson leads the musical aspects of the summer ‘choir holiday’ and singers arrange their own travel and accommodation; there is plenty of time during the week for socialising, relaxation, and touring. Diane Benfield also contributed to the arrangements for the summer holiday, including organising a visit to the López de Heredia Bodega, where Summertown Singers had performed in a charity concert in years past. In 2017 Summertown Singers included both new and returning members.

The choir is very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of many of its members. Thanks go especially to the Committee, who volunteer their time to keep the Choir running and to ensure that concerts go smoothly. This year’s Committee includes (in alphabetical order): Gillian Beattie (Webmaster), Vreni Booth (Social Secretary), Nicky Boughton (Concert Co-ordinator, and also host of this year’s summer party), Diana Chandler (Treasurer), Debbie Hamilton (Membership Secretary), Alison Jones (Secretary), and Jackie Weaver (Front of House/Publicity). Mary Alexander served as Librarian for part of 2016-17 but had to stand down for personal reasons. We are grateful for her contribution as well as that of Simon Wratten, who stepped up mid-year when we needed him. Jane Amies covered Front of House while Jackie Weaver was away.

In addition, many members volunteer their time and effort, especially around the concert, notably Philip Booth, who handles the staging, Tom Kempston, who liaises with St Andrew’s, and Keith Young, who works with our lighting. Catrin Roberts was invaluable in supporting the Choir’s pronunciation of Welsh, both in choir and through the practice recordings she created. Marie Bridge liaises with John Fletcher, whose practice site supports many members’ homework on the Choir’s repertoire. Many volunteers also help with such tasks as setting up and dismantling the staging, working in the front-of-house, reinstating the church furniture after the concert, serving drinks during the concerts, the pre-concert rehearsals, workshops, and/or social events—and cleaning up afterwards, as well as working on the registration desk at the beginning of each term. In some cases, these volunteers are non-Choir member friends or family.

On your behalf, it is my pleasure to record our thanks to all those named in the course of this report, as well as to all members of SCS who have helped the Committee, especially at our concerts, in a variety of ways. Moreover, I wish to thank all of you, the members of SCS. As I said, *you* are the Summertown Choral Society; SCS would not exist without you. Your Committee thanks you, and for my part, I am grateful for the opportunity to rehearse beside you each week!

Victoria Alexander
Chair, Summertown Choral Society
15 October 2017