



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**To be presented at the Annual General Meeting  
14 November 2019**

St Michael and All Angels' 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>	Iain McLean (Chair) Kirsten Smith (Treasurer) Alison Jones (Secretary) Andre Rimmer (Webmaster) Jackie Weaver (Membership Secretary) Nicky Boughton (Concert Co-ordinator) Vreni Booth (Social Secretary) Marie Bridge (Front of House/Publicity) 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>	Jacqueline Bowman 2B Sandfield Road Headington Oxford OX3 7RG

## *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

### Summertown Choral Society Annual Report for the year 2018-2019

#### Treasurer's Report

As in the previous year, the finances of Summertown Choral Society remain extremely healthy. As always, we try to maintain a healthy reserve fund of at least £12,000 to allow for special contingencies and we anticipated that the cost of a commission (the Ives folk song arrangement) would deplete the reserve. It has not done so, largely due to the revenue from the hugely successful and profitable concert in February featuring the crowd-puller, Monteverdi, which balanced out the loss on the second summer concert. We are left with a reserve of £13,616.49, just £2,200 short of the £15,882.87 of last year. This is in reality a virtually identical figure as we are still awaiting the Gift Aid payment. This is due to the Inland Revenue failing to action the notification of change of treasurer (no surprise there) but hopefully it will be in the bank shortly.

Membership figures were higher in 2018-19 than in the previous year, perhaps attracted by the programme for the winter. The prices of tickets, programmes and the request for donations for refreshments appears to be pitched at a good level and does not need revisiting. The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice no separate entry for receipts from programme sales for Term 2....mea culpa, it got incorporated into ticket sales.

This year, we are using some of the reserves to update the website and move to a new platform which should improve our communications. We also anticipate high expenditure on the February concert of Bach's B minor Mass, with a large orchestra and soloists, but hopefully mitigated by high audience numbers.

I would like to thank Andy Rimmer, outgoing web master, for his invaluable help in dealing with the Gift Aid application and trying to help a computer illiterate grapple with Excel. I put a heartfelt request out to anyone in the choir who could help me sometime in setting up a precedent for what should be a relatively easy task, but has proved not to be! I would also like to thank our external examiner, Jacqueline Bowman, for again auditing our accounts this year.

Kirsten Smith. October 2019

# SUMMERTOWN CHORAL SOCIETY

## Summary accounts 2018-2019

SUMMERTOWN CHORAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018-2019

	2018-2019		2017-18		2018-2019		2017-2018		2018-2019		2017-2018	
	TERM 1		TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 2		TOTALS		TOTALS	
Receipts												
Subscriptions	£	13,120.00	£	11,301.00	£	2,955.00	£	2,370.00	£	16,075.00	£	13,671.00
Concert Tickets	£	3,762.14	£	3,650.48	£	1,894.56	£	1,679.00	£	5,656.70	£	5,329.48
Gift Aid								2683.96				£2,683.96
Events and workshops												
Donations (for rehearsal refreshments)												
Concert Refreshments	£	289.90	£	290.49	£	219.00	£	112.52	£	508.90	£	403.01
Programme Sales	£	301.80	£	149.31				£146.00	£	301.80		295.31
CD Sales and Music Hire												
Bank Interest	£	41.16	£	17.25	£	49.82	£	27.47	£	90.98	£	44.72
Advertising												
Misc.	£	10.00			£	5.00			£	15.00		
Total Receipts	£	17,525.00	£	15,408.53	£	5,095.62	£	7,018.95	£	22,620.62	£	22,427.48
Payments												
Rehearsal:												
Professional Fees	£	3,996.42	£	4,130.00	£	3,284.67	£	3,077.00	£	7,281.09	£	7,207.00
Hire of Hall	£	560.00	£	660.00	£	525.00	£	562.50	£	1,085.00	£	1,222.50
Music Purchase/Hire/Printing	£	526.00	£	487.75	£	943.02	£	559.50	£	1,469.02	£	1,047.25
Total Rehearsal:	£	5,082.42	£	5,277.75	£	4,752.69	£	4,199.00	£	9,835.11	£	9,476.75
Concerts:												
Soloists and Instrumentalists	£	6,033.95	£	8,432.90	£	2,610.00	£	5,076.80	£	8,643.95	£	13,509.70
Hall and Staging	£	923.16	£	523.51	£	548.16	£	908.16	£	1,471.32	£	1,431.67
Refreshments, Gifts for soloists	£	311.64	£	379.15	£	182.82	£	319.56	£	494.46	£	698.71
Commissioning Music	£	1,000.00			£	1,000.00			£	2,000.00		
Printing for publicity	£	884.66	£	680.12	£	715.31	£	680.12	£	1,599.97	£	1,460.32
Total Concert:	£	9,153.41	£	10,015.68	£	5,056.29	£	£6,984.64	£	14,209.70	£	£17,100.40
Capital Purchases:												
Events and Workshops:												
Professional Fees												
Hall hire and other costs												
Total Events and Workshops:												
Administration:												
Stationary, postage, photocopying	£	108.33	£	169.29				15.95	£	108.33	£	185.24
Additional/replacement music					£	19.90		19.9	£	19.90	£	19.90
Social	£	205.42	£	161.36	£	29.30			£	234.72	£	161.36
Independent Examination												
Subscription: Making Music	£	407.00	£	412.00					£	407.00	£	412.00
Sundry/Subs refunds					£	100.00			£	100.00		
Total Administration:	£	720.75	£	742.65	£	149.20	£	35.85	£	869.95	£	778.50
Total Payments:	£	14,956.58	£	16,036.08	£	9,958.18	£	11,219.49	£	24,914.76	£	27,355.65
Net	£	2,568.42	-£	627.55	-£	4,862.56	(£4,200.54)	-£	2,294.14			(£4,928.17)
Cash Funds brought forward		£13,616.49		£20,811.04								
Surplus/Net		(£2,294.14)		(£4,928.17)								
Cash funds brought forward		£11,322.35		£15,882.87								

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities July 31st 2018-30th July 2019

#### Cash funds

CCLA Account	£10,124.85	£12,033.87
NatWest Account	£3,491.64	£3,849
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£13,616.49</b>	<b>15882.87</b>

Debtors	0	
Uncashed cheques	0	

**Available Assets** £13616.49\*

\* Gift aid of approximately £2200 expected in addition



## **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 2019

#### **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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- \*examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- \* to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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**

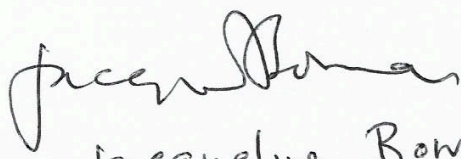
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- \*to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - \*to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 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

  
Jacqueline Bowman

2B Sandfield Rd  
OX3 7RG.

### 3. Report from the Chair

It has been another remarkable season – our 58<sup>th</sup> – with enviable continuity at the top, in contrast to many other choirs near and far. Duncan Sanderson (conductor) and Julian Littlewood (repetiteur) work extremely well as a team, having been together for 20+ years now. They do lots of extras for us: for example, Duncan as leader of the Summertown Singers (see below) and Julian as our poster designer and frequent concert keyboard player. Membership numbers have remained strong. We had 139 singers in Autumn 2018, including 14 new members. In Spring 2019, these numbers were 125 and 5.

In 2018-19, we again gave two concerts in St. Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford. We value our collaboration with St Andrews, who offer us helpful and efficient colleagues, a warm church, enough toilets, and basement space to store our staging. The first of these might be said of many other venues; the second, third, and fourth are special to St Andrews. In the winter concert on 9 February, we performed Monteverdi's great Vespers of 1610 with our regular period-instrument orchestra (when we can afford it), Instruments of Time and Truth. Audience reaction was very gratifying: 'A wonderful sound from both orchestra and choir, and the soloists' voices blended beautifully'; "It was awe-inspiring to hear the Vespers sung by such a huge choir"; "The most spectacularly successful SCS event I've been to." That a non-auditioned community choir can pull off such a fearsome chorus as the 10-part *Nisi Dominus*, with wildly syncopated parts in canon half a beat apart, is a rare tribute to everyone who reads this. Another highlight was the sublime motet *Ave Maris Stella*.

Our summer concert was held on 15 June 2019, and featured the world premiere of Grayson (Bill) Ives' *One Morning in Spring: three folksongs from Oxfordshire*. They were a huge hit. The choir loved singing them; the composer and audience loved hearing them; and Valerie Worth's programme notes illuminated them. We also tackled Schubert's last and greatest Mass, which like all his Masses omits the words 'and I expect the resurrection of the dead'. Some songs and motets, including Schubert's *An die Musik* and Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, rounded off the programme. Having been struck down by a dreaded lurgi, I was reduced to reading the fire exit notice, but at least got the chance to hear the performance from the gallery.

In August the Summertown Singers, our *a cappella* chamber choir, travelled to Jerez in Spain. A full report will appear on our website. In a pattern that is now well established, 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.

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. My thanks to all the trustees and officers listed on the front of the Annual Report.

In addition, many members volunteer their time and effort, especially at concert times, notably Philip Booth, who handles the staging, Tom Kempton (St Andrew's), and Keith Skerrett, (sound and lighting). Marie Bridge continues to liaise with John Fletcher, whose practice site supports many members' homework on the Choir's repertoire. For each concert, the huge jobs of setting up and dismantling the staging, reinstating the church furniture after the concert, serving interval drinks during the concerts... the list goes on ... just get done, quickly and efficiently. A squad of people in dinner-jackets and black dresses putting away staging at 11 pm in the rain is something special. It helps cement our relations with St Andrews, who have been happy with the way we have returned the church to service order only a few hours before their main Sunday service. Equally, our relations with the team at St Michaels matter a great deal to us, and we hope to them. A community choir in the heart of its community: that is what we hope to be and remain.

I will step down from the role of Chair at this AGM, but not as a baritenor in the choir. It continues to help my musical education, as I am going through a round of grade exams and singing diplomas in my old age. You are a very special bunch of people and I am confident that our choir will continue to thrive.

Iain McLean